



UNIVERSITY SENATE

**UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

Introduced by: Undergraduate and Graduate Academic Councils

Date: April 2006

**PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A COMBINED BA/MA DEGREE PROGRAM
IN SOCIOLOGY / PUBLIC AFFAIRS & POLICY**

IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:

1. That the University Senate approve the attached proposal to establish a combined BA/MA program in Sociology / Public Affairs & Policy as approved by the Undergraduate and Graduate Academic Councils.
2. That this proposal be forwarded to the President for approval.

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A COMBINED DEGREE INVOLVING THE BA IN SOCIOLOGY AND THE MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND POLICY (MA)

The Department of Sociology, College of Arts and Sciences, and Department of Public Administration and Policy, Rockefeller College, propose a new degree program that would combine the B.A. in Sociology with the M.A. in Public Affairs and Policy. This program will allow a student to earn a B.A. in Sociology and an M.A. in Public Affairs and Policy in approximately one less semester than otherwise would be required.

The proposed program would join a growing list of programs that combine UAlbany undergraduate degrees with Rockefeller College master's degrees. Combined B.A. or B.S./MPA programs already exist for majors in Economics, Sociology, and Political Science. A combined B.A./M.A. in Public Affairs and Policy with Political Science was introduced in September 2004. This proposal would create UAlbany's second combined degree program leading to an M.A. in Public Affairs and Policy and would afford undergraduate majors in Sociology the option of combined degree programs leading either to an MPA or to an M.A. in Public Affairs and Policy. Several students have already expressed interest in such a program, suggesting that some level of demand for the program exists; it is estimated that initially there are likely to be one or two matriculants to the program annually.

In order to complete the combined degree program, students would need to meet all the requirements for the B.A. in Sociology, including all major requirements, a minor requirement, the minimum liberal arts and sciences graduation credit requirement, the residency requirement and the general education requirements. Students could take up to 12 graduate credits during the senior year which would be applied toward the credits required for the B.A. in Sociology, as well as to the minimum 44 credits required for the M.A. degree. Finally, students would need to meet the requirements for the M.A. (An attachment lists all requirements for both degrees.) Applicants to the program would need to have a 3.2 GPA and, as in the case of the other programs, the GRE would be waived.

**COMBINED PROGRAM WITH THE B.A. IN SOCIOLOGY
AND THE MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY**

1. Program Title and suggested HEGIS code for the multi-award program

Program Title: BA Sociology/MA Public Affairs and Policy
Suggested HEGIS code: 2208/2102

2. Titles and SED program code numbers of the currently registered programs to be combined:

Program Title 1: BA Sociology
SED Prog. CODE: 03073

Program Title 2: MA Public Affairs and Policy
SED Prog. CODE: 03040

3. Clear Tabular Display of the Separate Existing Programs Juxtaposed with the Combined Program:

The relationship between the existing programs and the proposed combined program is displayed in the Table 1:

Table 1. Relationship between the existing programs and the proposed B.A. Sociology/M.A. Public Affairs and Policy

BA IN SOCIOLOGY	MA IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND POLICY	COMBINED BA IN SOCIOLOGY AND MA IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND POLICY
<i>General Bachelor of Arts Requirements:</i>		<i>General Bachelor of Arts Requirements</i>
A minimum of 120 credits		A minimum of 120 credits
At least 90 credits in the liberal arts and sciences		At least 90 credits in the liberal arts and sciences. (Up to 12 credits from three graduate courses from the Public Policy curriculum may be applied toward satisfying this requirement.)
Completion of the general education requirements. [Specific general education requirements are determined by the student's matriculation date and basis of admission to the University as described in the General Education		Completion of the general education requirements. [Specific general education requirements are determined by the student's matriculation date and basis of admission to the University as described in the General Education

BA IN SOCIOLOGY	MA IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND POLICY	COMBINED BA IN SOCIOLOGY AND MA IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND POLICY
section of the UAlbany Undergraduate Bulletin]		section of the UAlbany Undergraduate Bulletin]
The completion of a writing requirement whereby students must satisfactorily complete with grades of C or higher [for students matriculating Fall 1997 or thereafter; otherwise C- or higher], or S, two writing intensive courses, including at least one at or above the 300 level (courses meeting this requirement as identified in the course description)		The completion of a writing requirement whereby students must satisfactorily complete with grades of C or higher [for students matriculating Fall 1997 or thereafter; otherwise C- or higher], or S, two writing intensive courses, including at least one at or above the 300 level (courses meeting this requirement as identified in the course description)
30–36 credits in a major that has been registered with the education department of the state of New York		30–36 credits in a major that has been registered with the education department of the state of New York
The completion of a minor consisting of 18–24 graduation credits which must include a minimum of 9 graduation credits in course work requiring one or more prerequisite courses or courses at or above the 300 level. The minor requirements may be combined with the major requirements but the total may not exceed 60 graduation credits.		The completion of a minor consisting of 18–24 graduation credits which must include a minimum of 9 graduation credits in course work requiring one or more prerequisite courses or courses at or above the 300 level. The minor requirements may be combined with the major requirements but the total may not exceed 60 graduation credits. (Up to 12 credits from three graduate courses from the Public Policy curriculum may be applied toward satisfying this requirement.)
<i>Program Requirement for the Bachelor of Arts in Sociology</i>		<i>Program Requirement for the Bachelor of Arts in Sociology</i>
36 credits in Sociology, including the required courses listed below and 21 additional credits of		36 credits in Sociology, including the required courses listed below and 21 additional credits of

BA IN SOCIOLOGY	MA IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND POLICY	COMBINED BA IN SOCIOLOGY AND MA IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND POLICY
sociology as advised.		sociology as advised.
A Soc 115M (3)		A Soc 115M (3)
A Soc 220 (3)		A Soc 220 (3)
A Soc 221 (3)		A Soc 221 (3)
A Soc 235 (3)		A Soc 235 (3)
A Soc 4____ (400 level seminar - WI)		A Soc 4____ (400 level seminar - WI)
Upper level (300 or above) Electives 9 credits		Upper level (300 or above) Electives 9 credits. (Up to 9 credits from three graduate courses in Sociology may be applied toward satisfying this requirement plus the Open Electives requirement, below.)
Open Electives 12 credits, unless waiver of ASoc 221 received; then 15 credits of electives needed.		Open Electives 12 credits, unless waiver of ASoc 221 received; then 15 credits of electives needed. (Up to 9 credits from three graduate courses in Sociology may be applied toward satisfying this requirement plus the Upper level requirement, above.)
Of the required 36 credits in sociology, a minimum of 12 credits must be at the 300 level or above. Note: the 400 level seminar counts toward the 12 credit minimum		Of the required 36 credits in sociology, a minimum of 12 credits must be at the 300 level or above. Note: the 400 level seminar counts toward the 12 credit minimum
	44 graduate credits minimum	44 graduate credits minimum
	PUB 504 Data, Models, and Decisions I (4)	PUB 504 Data, Models, and Decisions I (4)
	PUB 505 Data, Models, and Decisions II (4)	PUB 505 Data, Models, and Decisions II (4)
	PUB 506 Implementation and Impact (4)	PUB 506 Implementation and Impact (4)
	PUB 522 Politics and Policy (4)	PUB 522 Politics and Policy (4)
	PUB 503 Public Economics and Finance I (4)	PUB 503 Public Economics and Finance I (4)
	PUB 514 Economic Analysis for Public Affairs II (4)	PUB 514 Economic Analysis for Public Affairs II (4)
	PUB 507 Professional	PUB 507 Professional

BA IN SOCIOLOGY	MA IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND POLICY	COMBINED BA IN SOCIOLOGY AND MA IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND POLICY
	Applications (2)	Applications (2)
	PUB 508 Current Research Topics in Public Policy (2)	PUB 508 Current Research Topics in Public Policy (2)
	PUB 529 Law and Policy (4) OR PUB 502 Philosophical and Ethical Issues in Public Policy (3)	PUB 529 Law and Policy (4) OR PUB 502 Philosophical and Ethical Issues in Public Policy (3)
	A minimum of three courses in a Public Policy Field	A minimum of three courses in a Public Policy Field (With approval by the advisor, graduate courses from Sociology may be used to satisfy this requirement.)
	PUB 698 Master's Essay (4)	PUB 698 Master's Essay (4)
	Internship	Internship

4. General Requirements for Program Completion:

The key elements of the proposed new program are as follows:

- a. Students must meet the requirements for the undergraduate major in Sociology and all of the requirements for the M.A. degree.
- b. In qualifying for the undergraduate degree in Sociology, students must meet all the University and College requirements for the BA majoring in Sociology. These include a minor requirement, the minimum liberal arts and sciences graduation credit requirement, the residency requirement and the general education requirements, as detailed in the above table.
- c. In qualifying for the M.A. degree, students must meet all University and College requirements as outlined in the Graduate Bulletin, including completion of the minimum 44 graduate credit requirement, core and specialty courses, the internship experience, and master's essay, as detailed in the above table.
- d. A maximum of twelve graduate credits may count toward the credit hour requirements of both the B.A. and the MA. These may be either (a) graduate courses in Sociology that count both as electives toward the undergraduate major for a BA in Sociology and as courses satisfying the Policy Specialty requirement for the MA in Public Affairs and Policy or (b) graduate courses in Public Policy that count both as required courses or courses satisfying the Policy Specialty requirement for the MA in Public Affairs and Policy and as courses counting toward satisfying the requirement for upper level or open electives or the minor for the BA.
- e. A list of graduate courses that might count toward the credit hour requirements for both the B.A. and the M.A. include the following:

From Sociology (potentially counting toward both the B.A. upper level or open electives and the M.A. specialty courses):

SOC 509 – Research Methods

SOC 522 – Intermediate Statistics for Sociologists

SOC 535 – Qualitative Research Techniques

SOC 540 – Urban Policy in the U.S.
 SOC 550 – Demography
 SOC 553 – Social Stratification
 SOC 560 – Families
 SOC 575 – Ethnicity and Race
 SOC 601 – Social Deviance
 SOC 609 – Multivariate Statistics
 SOC 627 – Urbanization
 SOC 642 – Sociology of Work
 SOC 645 – Selected Topics Gender Research
 SOC 661 – Political Sociology
 SOC 665 – Selected Topics in Demography
 SOC 654 – Complex Organizations
 Others, as approved by both BA and MA advisors

From Public Administration and Policy (potentially counting toward both M.A. core or specialty courses and the general B.A. electives):

PUB 504 – Data, Decisions, and Models I
 PUB 505 – Data, Decisions, and Models II
 PUB 506 – Implementation and Impact
 PUB 509 – Citizen Participation and Public Policy
 PUB 510 – Minorities and the Politico-Legal System
 PUB 520 – Welfare Policy and Management
 PUB 528 – U.S. Housing Policy
 PUB 555 – Disaster, Crisis and Emergency Management and Policy
 PUB 606 – Social Capital and Public Policy
 PUB 612 – Nonprofits and Public Policy
 Others, as approved by both BA and MA advisors

- f. A sample program is attached as Appendix 1.

5. Specific Program Requirements:

- a. Describe limitations imposed on admission to restrict to students with exceptional academic records; include admission requirements and administrative process for making admissions decisions.**

Students may be admitted to a combined degree program at the beginning of their junior year and after successful completion of 56 credits. A GPA of 3.2 or higher, three supportive letters of recommendation, and a written personal statement and supporting information are required. The GRE examination will not be required for BA/MA applicants.

The Master's Admission Committee of the Department of Public Administration and Policy reviews all applications individually.

- b. List all required courses, indicating whether graduate or undergraduate, how many credits, and when and how often offered.**

All required undergraduate and graduate courses are identified in Table 1. All required courses are typically offered at least once annually. Most required undergraduate courses and core graduate courses are offered every semester.

- c. Indicate the number of undergraduate (if applicable) and graduate elective credits required.**

The requirements for the B.A. in Sociology include a minimum of 120 credit hours; at least 36 credits in Sociology are required in accordance with the

policies described in Table 1. A minimum of 44 credit hours is required for the M.A. in Public Affairs and Policy; a minimum of 35 credit hours will be from required courses.

d. Indicate the number of semesters of full-time study required for program completion at the undergraduate (if applicable) and graduate levels.

In the combined program, the requirements for both the undergraduate and graduate degrees can typically be satisfied in slightly more than 11 semesters of full-time study (defined as 15 credit hours for undergraduates and 12 credit hours for graduates). Of these, approximately seven semesters will be required for undergraduate course work. Approximately four semesters will be required for graduate course work.

e. State all other program requirements such as thesis, comprehensive examination, field experience, project, and residence.

The full requirements are detailed in Table 1; they include a special project culminating in a master's essay plus an internship.

f. Describe the means by which program quality is assured given the time-shortened aspect of the program.

Program quality is assured because at the graduate level all requirements for the degree are maintained, while at the undergraduate level more advanced graduate-level work is substituted for undergraduate coursework.

APPENDIX 1

Sample Program

For purposes of illustration, a sample program is given below. This is simply an example of a program that meets all the requirements. Students and faculty have a great deal of flexibility to design a program that fits the student's interests and meets both sets of degree requirements.

First Year

SOC 115 – Introduction to Sociology*

SOC 220 – Introduction to Social Research*

Second Year

SOC 235 – Sociological Theory*

SOC 221 – Statistics for Sociologists*

Third Year

Three Sociology Electives such as:

SOC 180 – Social Problems

SOC 200 – Political Sociology

SOC 341 – Social Inequality

SOC 342 – Organizations in Society

SOC 350 – Social Movements

SOC 357 – Sociology of Work

SOC 362 – Sociology of Sexualities

SOC 370 – Social Demography

SOC 373 – Community and Urban Sociology

SOC 375 – U. S. Urban Neighborhoods

AND, if available

One Sociology 400 level writing intensive seminar*

Fourth Year

Two – Four Graduate Sociology Courses such as:

SOC 540 – Urban Policy in the United States

SOC 551 – Demography

SOC 560 – Families

SOC 575 – Ethnicity and Race

SOC 665 – Selected Topics in Demography

Plus at least one core requirement such as:

PUB 506 – Implementation and Impact*

PUB 522 – Policy and Politics*

Plus, if not already taken:

One Sociology 400 level writing intensive seminar*

Fifth and Sixth Years

The remaining public affairs and policy core courses (or where eligible, waive and substitute with electives), plus any additional classes needed to fulfill the selected (or designed) concentration. During the sixth year, complete a semester-length internship.

Core Courses

PUB 503 – Public Economics and Finance I*

PUB 504 – Data, Models and Decisions I*

PUB 505 – Data, Models and Decisions II*

PUB 506 – Implementation and Impact *

PUB 507 – Professional Applications I*

PUB508 – Current Research Topics in Public Policy *

PUB 514 – Economic Analysis for Public Affairs II*

PUB 522 – Policy and Politics*

PUB 698 – Master's Essay*

Either PUB 502 – Philosophical and Ethical Issues in Public Policy* or PUB 529

– Law and Policy*

***Required courses**