

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 1018F
Date of Senate Approval 12/06/18

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 6 (SOC): **Add new course, SOC 405, Sociology Internship Project, making it an option for the Sociology major capstone/ competency requirement**

Effective Date: Fall 2019

1. Add: On page 288, new course **SOC 405, Sociology Internship Project:**

405 Sociology Internship Project (4)

Students complete an internship in participating agencies and organizations. Weekly seminar meetings focus on the acquisition of professional skills and understanding organizational structures, processes, and practices. Students also complete a research project associated with their internship setting, such as a program evaluation, needs-assessment or other project which may benefit the organization. Prerequisites: ANTH 336 or SOC 338 and permission of instructor. Spring.

2. Delete: On page 280, items I and III under both **Major in Sociology** and **Sociology with Teacher Licensure:**

- I. Required courses in the major—36 hours including: SOC 100, 225, 338, 464; 20 additional hours in Sociology or Anthropology, at least 8 of which must be in Sociology. Twelve of the 20 hours must be at the 300-400 level.
- III. Other departmental requirements—Major competency is demonstrated in SOC 464. The course must be completed with a grade of C or higher.

Add: On page 280, in place of deleted entry:

- I. Required courses in the major—36 hours including: SOC 100, 225, 338, and either 405 or 464; 20 additional hours in Sociology or Anthropology, at least 8 of which must be in Sociology. Twelve of the 20 hours must be at the 300-400 level.
- III. Other departmental requirements—Major competency is demonstrated in SOC 405 or SOC 464. The course must be completed with a grade of C or higher.

Impact Statement: There is no impact on staffing or student requirements in adding this course to our curriculum. An internship course (SOC 305) is already offered every Spring. SOC 405 would be concurrently offered at the same time as much of the course parallels the existing course focusing on the internship experience. SOC 405 only differs with the addition of some advising of research projects associated with the internship. As such, no additional staffing is required. Further, SOC 305 has had limited enrollment, sometimes bordering on insufficient enrollment to run the course. The number of students who would potentially enroll in 405 is estimated to be 6-8 (as per pilot study conducted in Spring

2018), making the total dual enrollment 12-20. SOC 405 is an option for the completion of the major and does not add any required hours, thus there is no impact on students, only the benefit of having this possibility to better suit their learning and professional needs.

Rationale: As part of a capstone experience, seniors in Sociology have been required to complete an individual research project. The existing Senior Seminar course (SOC 464) serves well the students interested in attending graduate school. For students interested in the work of non-profits, community organizations or other professional venues related to Sociology, a project associated with an internship is more purposeful. It also helps better prepare our students for the workforce in gaining experience conducting research in the context of social service organizations. The addition of this course enables this option to fulfill the major competency requirement and serve as a capstone experience. Other departments (e.g. Psychology) with majors seeking professional development opportunities have used this model successfully as a senior capstone course option.

As mentioned in the impact statement, SOC 405 and SOC 305 offer students an internship experience with 405 including a research project associated with the internship. We have been offering SOC 305 for 4 credits (though it can be 1-4 credits), and SOC 405 is a 4-credit course. The “additional” workload in 405 is reflected in the course level (400) and will, in other ways, be comparable to 305 in that the research project is associated with, if not embedded in, the internship work itself. So it is not as much internship “plus” project as it is internship “with” project.

Further, students may earn credit for both SOC 305 and 405. At this stage, we think it is unlikely students will take both classes. In the rare cases where they might, it would most likely come out of wanting to continue an internship project that is appropriate to their capstone research as well as experience in the organization. Additionally, we are not disallowing students to take 405 and 464 (the “other” senior research course) as it is highly unlikely any students would want to complete two senior research capstone projects/courses. In the very rare case they did, it would be an exceptional student who had multiple research interests which could be served by taking both courses.