

Proposal to a Program of Study University of Alaska

UAF		Sociology	
		Sociology BA	
Undergraduate Certificate	Associate	Baccalaureate	
Master's	Doctorate	Post-Baccalaureate Certificate	
	Discontinue		
Implementation Semester:	Fall	Year: 2020	
Program Affected		Anticipated Effect	
none			
Page number of attached summary	uwhere effects on other prog	rams are discussed:	
None		Core theme Educate	
110.10			
		Page in attached summary where align discussed:	mentis
n/a	Program	has been suspended since 09/26/2016.	
<u> </u>			
Submitted by:	icellor/Provost	Date: 3	3/31/2020
		Date. C	0/01/2020
Consensus support of AC	Not supported by AC		
Recommend by VPASR		Date:	
Recommend by VPASR		Date:	

Revised: 11/11/2019

Degree Program Name	Sociology BA
	92
PROGRAM DEMOGRAPHICS	
FY19 Majors	0
FY19 Graduates	0
FY19 SCH from degree program	1110 all SOC (GER course can continue to be offered)
FY19 UGF allocated to the program	\$133,200
FY19 total program budget	\$135,700
UGF/Major or SCH 	\$121/SCH
STAFFING	
Tenure-track FTE faculty impacted by program deletion	1
Non-tenure track FTE faculty impacted by program deletion	0.3
staff impacted by program deletion	0
for each of these describe reduction phase-in during	
teachout	one year
PROGRAM IMPACTS	
Potential for the program to obtain external funding	n/a program already suspended
Impacts on meeting state or workforce needs	n/a program already suspended
PROGRAM UNIQUENESS AND TEACH-OUT PLAN	
Is this program unique in the UA system? If no, describe	
duplicate or similar programs	No
Are there other majors to which the students may transfer	HAA C. I.I. DA
(at MAU and at other MAUs)?	UAA Sociology BA
What reasonable options within your university do students have?	interdisciplinary BA degree
What reasonable options do students have across the UA	interdisapinary by degree
System?	UAA Sociology BA
What reasonable options do students have for transfer to	<u> </u>
another university?	most universities have a Sociology major
What are the on-line options within UA for completion?	none
PROGRAM REDUCTION SAVINGS	
Total UGF savings following teachout	\$133,200
Timeline for cost savings and faculty/staff reductions	one year
	Silve year

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March 23, 2020

TO James R. Johnsen, President, University of Alaska

10.06.10.C.2, UAF followed the following process for expedited, exceptional Program Review eline are

incl

https://uaf.edu/assessment-review/expedited-review.php).

The effort began last October and we are now nearing the final stages of the process. Remaining steps are as follows with this step constituting step number 1, below:

- 1. Monday, March 23 by 5pm Chancellor recommendations will be sent to the UA President and VP of Academic, Students, and Research.
- 2. April 1, 2020 ons go to the SW Academic Council
- 3. April 9, 2020 BOR Public Testimony
- 4. April 13-14, 2020 BOR Academic and Student Affairs committee meets to discuss recommendations
- 5. June 4-5, 2020 Board of Regents meets to vote on any program changes, including eliminations.

My program review recommendations are

input, budget considerations, and our need to make vertical cuts rather than ongoing horizontal cuts. I did not ask the program review committee to reach a specific budget target because I wanted to make sure that the review committee members were given the latitude to evaluate all of the aspects of the programs and not pit programs against one another. As a result, and not surprisingly, very few program reductions were recommended by the committee. I think that is a reasonable result of the process to date. While it is true that all of our programs have value, history, and students, it is also true that some prog

UAF Expedited Program Review Page 2

edges of our mission, and reducing footprint. And we will continue to identify what work we can simply stop doing.

I concur with

except in the following where I have recommended a different path:

- 1. <u>Atmospheric science</u> delete with opportunities for students in existing departments in similar areas (e.g., physics, chemistry, engineering) including possible alternative appointments at UAF for research intensive faculty
- 2. BA Earth Science delete

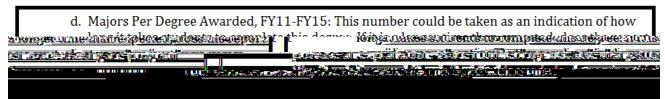
3.

FACULTY COMMITTEE EVALUATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Sociology, College of Liberal Arts

PROGRAM:

BA... by only one tenured faculty member and a handful of adjunct instructors with insufficient academic background in the discipline."



The committee feels that due to the inconsistent nature of the data in the PAIR data and reports that there is not enough clear information to address this question.



Costs of the program are around \$400,000 per year and estimated revenue from student credit hours is around \$300,000. Further, from the report:

"The loss of tuition revenue due to the Department's inability to offer a full complement of upper division electives will be even worse in FY17 because of the loss of faculty."

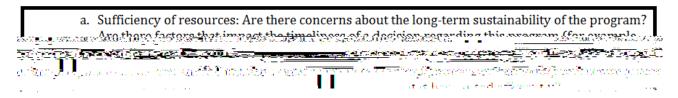
In light of this erosion of revenue, it appears not only that the program faculty cannot fulfill the requirements for their own major, but also that despite their service activities this program is running in the red.



No, FTEs are currently changing to 1 full time faculty and several adjuncts, which is not the appropriate faculty/adjunct ratio to sustain the needs of this current program. Indeed, reliance upon an ever-shifting pool of itinerant part-time instructors is unsustainable over the long-term.

2) Place of program within department mission and budget: How does this program complement other

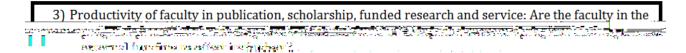
The SOC BA is currently the main program for the Sociology department; with a BS that has been suspended since 2014. They offer a minor in Sociology as well. Service teaching is high due to the enrollment in SOC 100X Individual, Culture, and Society. The BA accounts for the majority of the costs associated with this department.



There is a legitimate concern about the sustainability of this program. The current budget is extremely low in comparison to current needs (i.e., two plus faculty hires needed). Currently enrolled students in the SOC BA might not be able to graduate on time due to the lack of faculty to

teach upper division courses. Per the report:

"Upper division SCHs dropped 60% from FY15 to FY16 because of the loss of the three faculty; upper division courses cannot legitimately be taught by instructors who do not hold advanced degrees in Sociology or a closely related discipline."



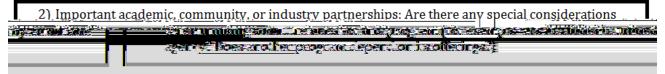
While the Sociology program does not have specific unit criteria, the 2014 program review noted that overall, scholarly activity at the program level appears to be very low. That was with 3 additional tenured/tenure track faculty working in the department. Productivity in this area, with one faculty member remaining in 2016 and teaching up to 12 courses during the current academic year (reported by program representative), is likely to remain at best minimal.

Although some internal funding has been acquired by this program over the last several years, external funds seem non-existent. Therefore, it is determined that the publication, scholarship, and fund research and service to be very poor.

II. NEED FOR PROGRAM

1) Centrality to UAF mission & Core Themes: Does the report adequately link the program to the

Yes, it does link to multiple Core Themes. As it stands, UAF will be able to fulfill their mission without this program being held in house. For additional information about linkage to UA's mission, see item 3 below.

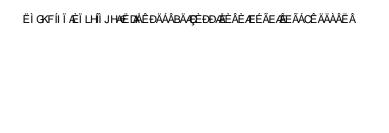


Community partnerships: nothing significant or that stands out in the report. Some SOC courses are used to fulfill requirements in other programs.



There is duplication in the system with UAA offering a BA and BS in Sociology, as well as a Sociology minor. Further, UAS offers a BA in Social Sciences with a concentration in Sociology.

The committee feels that the UAF program is not a higher quality program than the one offered at UAA. Indeed, with the erosion of the program due to faculty departures, a case could be made that the sociology program at UAA is superior. For instance, at UAA the program has five full-time faculty, all tenured, active researchers with 67 student majors registered. Further, according to the



ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE EVALUATION SHEET		
DEPARTMENT:	Sociology, College of Liberal Arts	
PROGRAM:	Sociology	
DEGREE:	BA	

1.

As self-reported the Sociology program is not sustainable the way it is currently configured. The program currently has just one full time faculty member and three adjunct faculty. The number of

the BA Sociology have been suspended. The Sociology program reports that it needs an additional two faculty members to keep the program active at an incremental cost of \$220,000. With budgets set to shrink further, and Strategic Pathways that focuses on consolidating duplicate programs, the administrative committee does not feel that additional investment into Sociology to be a responsible use of funds especially as additional investment would likely be reallocated from other more successful CLA or UAF programs.

2.

Sociology is a basic University discipline. However, a degree need not exist to continue to offer valued service courses for other programs. Additionally, UAA offers an undergraduate Sociology degree and its program has five full-time faculty members, 67 majors and their students scored at 97th percentile on ETS Sociology field exam.

3.

Again, a larger Sociology degree is offered at UAA and UAF can still offer sociology service courses to fulfil mission without a major. It is unfortunate that budget pressures necessitate that difficult decisions be made.

In closing, and in regard to mission fulfillment, the Sociology Program suggested three alternatives to maintaining its Baccalaureate degree being

Eliminate B.A. and just have minor (reported savings \$300,000)

Joint degree with UAA (Our recommendation that this program, *if* a feasible option, be considered as a collaborative program, NOT joint)

Create new Social science degree with History, Arctic and Northern Studies, Political Science, Women, gender and sexuality studies, economics, cultural geography, NRM. Offer BS and BA.

(This alternative requires considerable research to determine its viability)

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DEPARTMENT: Sociology, College of Liberal Arts

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DEPARTMENT: Sociology, College of Liberal Arts

PROGRAM: Sociology

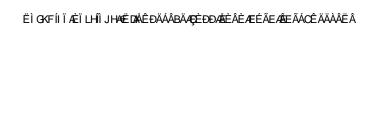
DEGREE: BA

I. PROGRAM PRODUCTIVITY AND EFFICIENCY

a. Total SCH

The PAIR data provided do not include courses that are cross-listed with other programs but that are taught by Sociology faculty. The table and graph below includes those courses.

SCH FY12-16 in Sociology, including cross-listed courses				
	lower	upper	outside	total
FY12	1485	396	555	2436
FY13	1208	633	564	2405
FY14	1494	624		

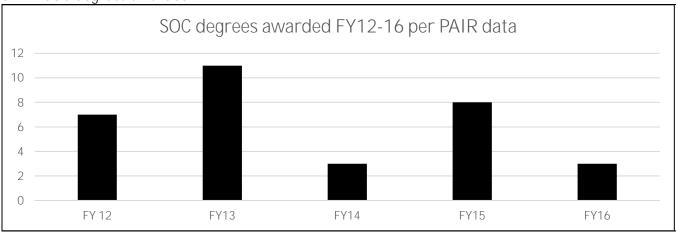


DEPARTMENT: Sociology, College of Liberal Arts

PROGRAM: Sociology

DEGREE: BA

c. SOC degrees awarded



PAIR data indicate that the Department graduated an average of 5.9 students annually during the period FY12-16.

d. Time to degree

The Department does not have current data to document time to degree.

e. Department budget

Most of our departmental expenditures are for faculty salaries. Historically, we have employed an average of 4.5 FTE faculty and .5 FTE staff. Until Fall 2016, we have not hired a significant number of adjunct faculty.

The table below illustrates our actual expenditures for FY12-FY14. We were not provided data for FY15 or FY16. Data for FY12-FY14 were pulled from our 2014-15 Program Review report. Personnel expenses for FY15 and FY16 are projected to be much less than FY14 due to the loss of faculty.

Actual Expenditures for Sociology, FY12-14				
	FY12	FY13	FY14	
instructional personnel services	379,539	358,000	384,601	
administrative staff services	25,223	25,685	26,388	
other expenditures	9,433	11,078	6,443	
TOTAL expenditures	\$414,195	\$394,763	\$417,135	

DEPARTMENT: Sociology, College of Liberal Arts

PROGRAM: Sociology

DEGREE: BA

In Fall 2016, the Department of Sociology employed one tenured professor and four adjunct instructors. The adjunct instructors are each teaching one course, with enrollment ranging from a low of 25 in SOC 201 Social Problems to 60+/- in three sections of SOC 100X Individual, Culture, and Society, our primary revenue-generating course.

The tenured faculty is the only one who holds a PhD in Sociology, and thus is the only faculty member qualified to teach upper division courses. The 5% drop from FY15 to FY16 is due to upper division courses that were cancelled due to faculty departures.

In spite of the loss of faculty late in 2016, enrollment in SOC 100X

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PROGRAM: Sociology DEGREE: BA

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PROGRAM: Sociology

DEGREE: BA

instructional work during the period of review, e.g. URSA (\$11,926), Provost's Instructional Technology Grants (\$27,000), and statewide Strategic Initiatives (\$25,000).

II. NFFD FOR PROGRAM



The Sociology department's stated mission is "to contribute to the broader intellectual mission of the university by sharing the sociological perspective through teaching and research on social issues, especially those concerning social justice and pertaining to the North and its diverse peoples." The emphasis on the North and its diverse peoples is parallel to the University's mission statement, which uses similar language. The Department of Sociology is thus critical to fulfilling the mission of UAF through our focus on social issues. Historically, UAF Sociology faculty excel at integrating research with teaching and service, which is key to the mission of UAF. One of the hallmarks of our department has been our focus on issues related to social justice and inequalities. All of the tenure-track faculty in our department studied and published on these topics, and integrate research findings into their course materials. To make course material applicable to our students, most of whom are Alaskan, we provide plentiful examples relate to the circumpolar North and its diverse peoples. Sociology prepares students to become lifelong learners through teaching critical thinking and inspiring a thirst for sociological understanding. The critical thinking skills that Sociology teaches, including how to test assumptions empirically, to evaluate evidence, to reason effectively, and to present arguments well both orally and in writing are central to a liberal arts education that prepares students for a range of work and career opportunities. Over the years, many students have commented through form and informal assessment tools about how our department's courses and the mentoring they received from our faculty have transformed the way they think about society and social issues.

EDUCATE: We offer a BA in Sociology as well as a minor. We also make a substantial contribution to the core curriculum by teaching up to 10 sections of SOC 100X Individual, Society and Culture annually in multiple modalities. Some of these class sections are large, while some have been small to accommodate Honors program students or sections with a specific content focus. Educating students in the craft of Sociology is central to our Department's mission and made up the majority of the work of our faculty.

RESEARCH: Historically, all tenure track faculty in our department have been active in research and producing scholarly works. Dr. Titus (retired) specialized in social land

DEPARTMENT: Sociology, College of Liberal Arts

PROGRAM: Sociology

DEGREE: BA

legal conceptions of childhood. Dr.

DEPARTMENT: Sociology, College of Liberal Arts

PROGRAM: Sociology

DEGREE: BA

data for analysis, conference papers, and publications. Outside of academic/research partnerships, the Sociology Department has had partnerships with Fairbanks-based organizations that have allowed students to get hands on experience. Andrea Greenberg (transferred) facilitated student support for the Interior Alaska Center for Nonviolent Living's Take Back the Night program. Faculty have also worked with the Food Bank, Rescue Mission, Fairbanks Native Association Head Start, Literacy Council, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Fairbanks Folk Festival, and Immaculate Conception Soup Kitchen to allow students to explore how sociological concepts of poverty, race, class, gender, culture and educational inequality affect real lives. These partnerships provide extremely valuable experience to students.

UAA offers a BA and BS in Sociology, as well as a minor. They currently have five full-time faculty, all tenured, active researchers. All of the faculty hold PhDs in Sociology. Until the recent budget cuts, they normally had two to three adjunct faculty members who taught specialty courses. UAA has approximately 67 majors. As part of their outcomes assessment process, UAA Sociology requires students in the capstone course to take the ETS™ Sociology Major Field Exam. In 2016, their students scored in the 97th percentile overall. On specialty exams, student scores ranged from the 84th to the 98th percentile.

UAS has an integrated social science degree, offering a minor in Sociology, but not a BA or BS. The program has historically had two sociology tenure-track professors, but currently has only one.

This past year, as Strategic Pathways has been unveiled, Dr. Anahita worked to establish a collaborative relationship with UAA's Sociology program. In September, she had brief conversations with the UAS Provost, Karen Carey, and the UAS Dean of the School of Arts at Sciences, Karen Schmitt about the possibilities of a UAF-UAS collaboration. UAF Sociology has historically offered more online courses than UAA and UAS. We have continued to expand our online course options, which will expand possibilities for all UA students to take Sociology courses. In Summer 2016, Dr. Anahita prepared course change paperwork to align UAF Sociology courses more closely with those offered at UAA so that students can seamlessly transfer Sociology credits across campuses, and to facilitate cross-campus cooperation. Additionally, Dr. Anahita has recently been appointed to a statewide committee that will align social science courses across the UA system.

DEPARTMENT: Sociology, College of Liberal Arts

PROGRAM: Sociology

DEGREE: BA

2013 Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Summary Submitted by: J.J. Titus Contact Information: 474-5387 Date: 05.17.13

1. Assessment information collected

Competency in sociological core concepts

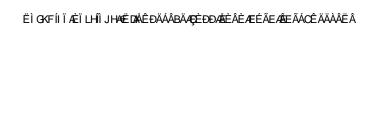
(i) Test instrument ("Social Facts or Fallacies?") was administered by instructors of four sections of SOC 100X (Individual, Culture & Society) in fall 2011 (n = 178), and three sections of SOC 100X in spring 2013 (n

DEPARTMENT: Sociology, College of Liberal Arts

PROGRAM: Sociology

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instrument was originally created in 2003 as part of a proposed student learning outcomes assessment plan. Given the turn-over in faculty, changes in our curriculum over the last 10 years, and a new student learning outcomes assessment plan (implemented 5.18.12), sociology faculty determined that a critical examination of this test instrument was in order. After identifying specific areas contained within our



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