




Sociology, BA or BS; Community Health Concentration

2020-2021 Program Form: Undergraduate New

General Catalog Information

** Read before you begin **

1. **TURN ON** help text before starting this proposal by clicking  in the top right corner of the heading.
2. **DO NOT** type any changes before launching the proposal. Required fields are marked with an *. The form cannot be launched without filling those in.
3. If changes will occur in a required field, launch the proposal with existing attributes -- in other words, proposed changes should not be made prior to launching the proposal. If the required field will be empty, type a period in the field prior to launch.
4. **LAUNCH** proposal by clicking  in the top left corner. **DO NOT** make proposed changes before launching proposal. Changes will only be tracked after proposal is launched.
5. **GO TO** discussion  in the right panel, and change "Show current" to "Show current with markup" to track changes.
6. **MAKE CHANGES** to the proposal so they can be tracked. Attach any needed documents and approve the proposal to go to the next step.

For a new degree program, in addition to EPC program and course forms you must complete all procedures and forms found in the "[SCHEV Proposal Guidelines](#)."

Catalog Year of Implementation *

2020-2021

2020-2021

Hierarchy Owner*

Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice Studies

Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice Studies

PROPOSED PROGRAM INFORMATION

Degree Type*

Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science

Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science

- Type of Program***
- Major .
- Minor
- Endorsement
- Certificate .
- Concentration.

Title* Sociology, BA or BS; Community Health Concentration

Is this an Interdisciplinary program?* Yes No

List the Total Credits for the program. If this is a major, list Total Credits for the entire degree, not just the total for the major.

Total Credits* 120

PROPOSED CATALOG DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM

Program Catalog Description*

The objective of the sociology major is to prepare students for occupations in business, industry, government, and human service. The major is appropriate preparation for graduate study in the social sciences and law. The focus of sociology is on social forces, institutions, organizations, and how individuals interface with society. The student's personal growth can be achieved through understanding of the rich diversity of the modern world.


Skills can be developed in oral and written communication, critical thinking, scientific research methods, statistics and computerized data analysis.

The Sociology/Community Health concentration is designed to give students a competitive edge in pursuing careers working in community health such as patient access coordinator, human services program specialist, medical outreach assistant, and community health worker . Community health focuses on understanding social determinants of health and improving the health status of communities and population groups instead of focusing on individuals.



Current Longwood students with a GPA below 2.00 will not be accepted as Sociology majors. Students may reapply after their GPA has increased to 2.00.

Follow these steps to propose (changes to) the program curriculum:

Step 1 Add all courses to be used in program.

Start in  "View Curriculum Courses." There are two options to add courses for proposed changes: "Add Course" and "Import Course." For courses already in the catalog, click on "Import Course" and find the courses needed. For new classes going through a Curriculog Approval Process click on "Add Course"-- a box will open asking you for the Prefix, Course Number and Course Title.


Step 2 Set up program requirements.

Click on  "View Curriculum Schema." and select the core header of the program where you would like to add/remove courses to expand the section. Click on "Add Courses" to bring up the list of courses available from Step 1. Select the courses you wish to add. If you mistakenly added a course and need to remove it, click on the  and proceed.

Step 3 Review full program structure.

Click on  to view the full program.

Step 4 Track changes made

Go to discussion  in the right panel and select "Show current with markup". Click the core header of the program to expand the section and track changes.

**Program
Curriculum***

**Course(s) to be
added [including
new courses]:***

SOCL 326 Sexuality and Society and CRIM 260 Crime, Criminal Justice, and Mental Health are new courses being added to the curriculum this fall. Course proposals already have been launched.

The remaining classes in the proposed curriculum already exist within the sociology major. The following courses within the concentration are required of all sociology majors, regardless of concentration:

- SOCL 105 Sociology in Practice
- SOCL 233 Introduction to Social Inequality and Difference
- SOCL 345 Social Research and Program Evaluation
- SOCL 346 Statistics for the Social Sciences
- SOCL 401 Sociological Theory
- SOCL 461 Senior Seminar in Sociology
- and SOCL 492 Internship, or the equivalent SOCL 490 Directed Independent Study and SOCL 498 Honors Research in Sociology

The remaining required or major electives classes in the community health concentration already exist for general sociology majors to take as electives or are required or elective major requirements for the family studies concentration:

- SOCL 275 Sociology of the Welfare State and Social Policy
- SOCL 355 Community
- SOCL 370 Medical Sociology
- SOCL 306 Stress and Crisis in Families
- SOCL 326 Sexuality and Society
- SOCL 331 Aging and the Life Course
- SOCL 351 Sociology of Family Violence
- SOCL 377 Sociology of Sport

All of the courses in the proposed community health concentration are offered on a regular rotation.

RATIONALE FOR PROGRAM

Enter the rationale for the program, including a statement about how the program aligns with Longwood's mission.*

Concept: The Community Health concentration is designed to give sociology majors the option to focus on understanding the social contexts of health, illness, and health care. This concentration is designed to promote applied research techniques to health-related issues through a sociological lens.

Focus: Forty percent of health outcomes are influenced by social and economic factors, compared to only 30% for health status and behavior, 20% for clinical care, and 10% for the physical environment. Social and economic factors include education, employment and income, family and social support, and community safety (Centra 2016). The Community Health concentration incorporates course work that teaches students to consider sociological principles, theories, and methodologies as they relate to the economic and social factors that affect social dimensions of health, illness, and health care. Central topics include the subjective experience of health and illness; political, economic, and environmental circumstances that threaten health; and societal forces that impact on the medical care system and on people's responses to illness.

Justification: Preventable health conditions and poor health protection cost individuals and governments billions of dollars a year. Sociologists have found that an active life style, good nutritional practices and being involved in the community (socialization) are the leading factors predicting successful aging (aging without a disease) (Rowe and Kahn 1997). However, large health disparities persist across populations. Literature suggests that health factors are influenced by social and cultural capital as well as community planning and research. Therefore, to increase positive health outcomes and reduce health disparities, health must be understood through both collective and contextual lenses. This is especially clear when examining health disparities in disadvantaged communities or developing countries. Specifically, rural, poor, and majority minority communities have higher rates of poor health outcomes because of limited educational and economic opportunity (Probst et al. 2004), a limited access to health care resources (Strasser, 2003), inequitable distributions of environmental burdens or exposure to environmental contamination (Hilmers et al. 2012), lack of recreational facilities, poor living and working conditions and even exposure to violence (Bethea et al. 2016). Therefore, sociology majors who focus on community health will be poised to understand and address individual, community, and population level influences related to health, illness, and health care. Beyond the need to address health from sociological perspective, students who participate in the Community Health Concentration will have increased opportunities in the job market and in graduate school options. For example, a recent search of "sociology" on indeed.com for Farmville, VA produced 4 search results while a search for "community health" produced 63 results. Students interested in graduate school will be better positioned to apply graduate programs in public health, health care administration, biostatistics, emergency management, demography, and epidemiology.

Additionally, program assessment data suggest that sociology students struggle

to see how disciplinary content is relevant and can be applied in a career context. The Community Health concentration demonstrates how sociological knowledge and insights can be applied in communities and provides a path to contemporary, relevant, high-demand jobs. Furthermore, an important Sociology program goal is to increase enrollment in the major. The addition of this concentration with an applied focus on community health is designed to aid in recruiting students to the major.

Overarching Goals: The Community Health concentration is designed to:

- Prepare students for careers focused on decreasing health disparities in communities and populations by teaching students about the social determinates of health.

- Use sociological research and its implications for public policy and practice to assist community partners in researching and addressing issues related to health, illness, and health care.

Program Specific Goals: The Community Health concentration program goals are to:

- Give students the opportunity to apply sociological concepts, methods, and theory to issues related to health, illness, and health care.

- Give students a broader application for their sociology undergraduate degrees, including pursuing advanced degrees and careers in the public/community health field.

- Promote community health through research and service in the Farmville area.

Works cited

Bethea, T. N., Palmer, J. R., Rosenberg, L., & Cozier, Y. C. (2016). Neighborhood Socioeconomic Status in Relation to All-Cause, Cancer, and Cardiovascular Mortality in the Black Women's Health Study. *Ethnicity & Disease, 26*(2), 157–164. <http://doi.org/10.18865/ed.26.2.157>

Centra: Southside Community Hospital (2016). 2017-2019 Community Health Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan. Centrahealth.com/Community-Health.

Hilmers, A., Hilmers, D. C., & Dave, J. (2012). Neighborhood Disparities in Access to Healthy Foods and Their Effects on Environmental Justice. *American Journal of Public Health, 102*(9), 1644–1654. <http://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2012.300865>

Probst, J. C., Moore, C. G., Glover, S. H., & Samuels, M. E. (2004). Person and Place: The Compounding Effects of Race/Ethnicity and Rurality on Health. *American Journal of Public Health, 94*(10), 1695–1703.

Rowe, J., and R.L. Kahn (1997). Successful Aging. *Gerontologist, 37* (4): 433-440. doi: 10.1093/geront/37.4.433

Strasser, R. (2003). Rural health around the world: challenges and

solutions. *Family Practice*, 20 (4): 457-463. doi: 10.1093/fampra/cm422

Enter the anticipated enrollment in the program after five years.*

While it is difficult to anticipate how many students will decide to pursue the Community Health concentration, some data are available to provide a rough estimate of enrollment in the first 5 years.


Currently, 25% of sociology majors (27/106) are pursuing the existing, well-established Family Studies concentration. Assuming that the Family Studies concentration students are evenly distributed across first-year through senior year classes, approximately 7 students are in each cohort.

Faculty teaching SOCL 105: Sociology in Practice courses took a poll of non-sociology major students enrolled in the class this semester (fall 2019) asking how many would be interested in the community health concentration if it were an option and found that 12.3% (8/65) said they would be interested. Many others said they were "unsure," but were interested in learning more about such an option.

Based on existing family studies concentration enrollment patterns and survey responses, we believe that with adequate marketing we will have approximately 20 students in the community health concentration after 5 years.

AFFECTED DEPARTMENTS OR PROGRAMS

IF the proposal could have an impact on other departments or programs, the appropriate affected department chairs or program coordinators should be notified. Where teaching licensure may be affected, the proposal will go through the Professional Education Council.

To notify the appropriate department chairs or program coordinators, request a custom route. To do so: navigate to the Proposal Toolbox and select Custom Route under the Decisions icon (). Once you make your decision the system will allow you to set up the requested ad-hoc step. The name of the route should be: Chair/Coordinator Notification. The participants should be the relevant affected chairs or coordinators. You can also select rules, decisions, and deadlines/reminders.

A System Administrator will need to review and approve your request before it can proceed.

List other departments / programs that might be affected.*

N/A

List individuals contacted and date of custom route submission.

Does this program lead to teaching licensure, or will it affect an existing program's licensure?*

Yes No

RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

Describe anticipated changes in staffing for this program.*

No additional resources are required for the Community Health concentration. All of the courses within the concentration are offered on a regular rotation with the existing faculty.

Estimate and itemize the cost of new equipment, library resources, technology, and/or other resources required to carry out this program proposal.*

N/A

ATTACHMENT LIST

Please attach any required files by navigating to the Proposal Toolbox and clicking  in the top right corner.

Attach (for Majors, Certificates, Substantively Different Concentrations) Academic Initiative Planning Checklist

Attach Fee Recommendation Worksheet

All curriculum proposals/changes are processed in the date order received.

Course changes intended to go into effect for the following summer or fall must reach EPC by November 1. All other curriculum proposals to be implemented in the following summer or fall (including program changes and new courses) must reach EPC by December 15.

Curriculum proposals intended to go into effect the following intersession or spring, and proposals related to academic policy must reach EPC by March 1.

Submission within the deadlines does not guarantee processing in time for the next academic year's catalog.

For the Curriculum Development Handbook, see <http://blogs.longwood.edu/curriculum/>.

REGISTRAR ONLY

Program OID

Program Type

Degree Type

Status Active-Visible Inactive-Hidden