

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
NEW DOCTORAL DEGREE PROPOSAL STAFF ANALYSIS**

Program: Ph.D. in Sociology

CIP Code: 45.1101

Institution: University of South Florida

Proposed Implementation Date: Fall 2008

Staffed By: L. Page & D. Duffourc

Initial Review Date: 10/10/07 **Last Update:** 10/06/08

Estimated Costs:

	Total	% & \$ Current Reallocated	% & \$ New Recurring	% & \$ New Non- Recurring	% & \$ C&G	Cost per FTE	SUS 06-07 Average Cost per FTE
Year 1	\$162,342	100% \$162,342	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$36,076	\$29,244 for 45 CIP
Year 5	\$294,579	74% \$218,134	\$0	\$0	26% \$76,445	\$11,634	

Projected FTE and Headcount are:

	Student Headcount	Student FTE
First Year	6	4.5
Second Year	10	7.5
Third Year	15	11.25
Fourth Year	20	15.0
Fifth Year	25	18.75

On March 29, 2007, the Florida Board of Governors approved BOG Regulation 8.011, which sets forth criteria for implementation and authorization of new doctorates by the Board of Governors, as well as criteria for implementation and authorization of Bachelor's, Master's and Specialist degrees by Boards of Trustees. The following staff analysis is an assessment of how well the university meets BOG Accountability and Readiness criteria for implementation of this degree program.

Proposal Page Numbers:

INTRODUCTION		ACCOUNTABILITY		READINESS				
Program Description	System Analysis	Overall	Budget	Mission and Strength	Program Quality	Curriculum	Faculty	Resources
2	5	9	16	20	27	29	41	48

A. Program Description:

The University of South Florida proposes to offer a Ph.D. in Sociology that is multi-disciplinary in nature and designed to provide research, teaching, and scholarship related specifically to the study of sustainability in urban communities. The proposed doctorate is one of three new humanities doctorates put forth by the university as part of the *Sustainable Healthy Communities: A Global Challenge* research initiative, along with the History and Government programs.

The Ph.D. in Sociology will require 60 credit hours beyond the masters level, including dissertation credit. This includes an interdisciplinary professional seminar, an interdisciplinary capstone seminar, eighteen hours of disciplinary requirements, twelve elective hours in linked programs, and twenty-four hours of dissertation work. Specialized areas of study can include urban development, urban culture, disability in urban society, social problems of urban communities, immigration and migration, education and inequality, community health, and communities and the environment. The university currently offers baccalaureate and master-level degree programs in Sociology.

The university is currently working towards membership in the Association of American Universities (AAU) and believes these interdisciplinary Ph.D. programs to be key in reaching this goal. The program expects to attract students internally from existing Bachelor and Master programs in Sociology, as well as students throughout the country.

B. System-Level Analysis and Evaluation in accordance with BOG Regulation 8.011:

The proposal states that the doctorate in sociology adheres to the State University System (SUS) strategic plan by increasing access to and production of degrees, meeting statewide professional and workforce needs, building world-class academic programs and research capacity, and meeting community needs and fulfilling unique institutional responsibilities. If implemented, this program would be one of five (5) sociology doctorates in the SUS, with the other four (4) offered at FIU, FSU, UCF and UF. Still, USF has written in their program summary that this program is not duplicative of the others because of the emphasis placed on sustainability and globalization. The enrollment projections and hours to degree for USF's program are consistent with these other programs.

Need and demand are based upon trend data from the American Sociological Association (ASA) showing an increase in applications in Ph.D. programs, and a low unemployment rate of less than 1%. Local demand for the program is shown by a survey of community health and government agencies. Fourteen respondents indicated that Ph.D. graduates could potentially bring skills that would be useful to the agencies. To demonstrate student demand, the university surveyed master-level sociology alumni and found that all 11 respondents would have been interested in the doctoral program had it been offered at the time that they graduated and 50% of them would have an interest in applying if a Ph.D. program in sociology is offered in the future. The Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) in Florida indicates that there were 124 persons employed with the job title of sociologist in 2006 in the state. Those numbers are projected to rise by 1.01% in 2014 to 134 employees.

Although the SUS Strategic Plan is currently oriented towards increasing emerging technology programs, the Board of Governors reviewed the Areas of Strategic Emphasis in June 2008. One of the proposed revisions is creation of a new area of strategic emphasis titled *Economic development: globalization*. If the Board approves this as an area of emphasis, the focus on globalization found across these three programs would make each of them a good fit for this category.

With regard to institutional strengths, the baccalaureate and master-level sociology programs at USF underwent external review in 1999 and 2005. Recommendations included shifting faculty to more upper division and graduate level courses, sharing resources with other departments in order to allow faculty to teach new courses, adding senior faculty lines, and continued development and focus on the topic of community studies. The department has since placed emphasis on hiring faculty who specialize in urban and community issues, and the implementation of a Ph.D. program in sociology will allow the department to utilize doctoral students in the teaching of lower division courses.

An external review was conducted on the Global Sustainable Healthy Communities Doctoral Education and Research Initiative in the spring of 2007. The proposals in Government & International Affairs, History, and Sociology were reviewed at this time. The team consisted of Dr. Heinz Bulmahn, Vice Provost for Research and Dean of the Graduate College at Bowling Green State University; Dr. Farhad Kazemi, Professor within the Department of Politics at New York University; Dr. Robert Benford, Professor within the Department of Sociology at Southern Illinois University; and Dr. Clifford Kuhn, Professor and Distinguished Lecturer with the Department of History at Georgia State University. The review team endorsed the institutional effort to integrate the three proposed doctoral programs within the institutional focus area of Global Sustainable Healthy Communities.

C. Assessment of the University Review Process in accordance with BOG Regulation 8.011:

Due to the system of stair step accountability set in place by the Board of Governors in Regulation 8.011, it is now incumbent upon University Board of Trustees to verify that all doctoral programs coming before the Board of Governors have met the requirements of the regulation. The following is an assessment of the university review process to ensure that all criteria set forth have been considered by the university prior to submission to the Board of Governors office.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Check 'yes' or 'no' box, and make comments beneath criterion as appropriate.

1. Overall - *The proposal is in the correct format, includes all necessary signatures, and contains complete and accurate tables for enrollment projections, faculty effort, and the proposed budget.*

YES NO

The proposal has been approved by the university board of trustees and includes all required signatures.

- The university has provided a proposal written in the standard SUS format which addresses new academic program approval criteria outlined in BOG Regulation 8.011.**
- The university has provided complete and accurate projected enrollment, faculty effort, and budget tables that are in alignment with each other.**
- The university has included a statement in the proposal signed by the equity officer as to how this proposal will meet the goals of the university's equity accountability plan.**

*2. **Budget** – The proposal presents a complete and realistic budget for the program consistent with university and BOG policy, and shows that any redirection of funding will not have an unjustified negative impact on other needed programs.*

YES NO

- The University Board of Trustees has approved the most recent budget for this proposal.** Chair Law has signed off on the updated proposal, although the budget had not changed from prior submission.
- The university has reviewed the budget for the program to ensure that it is complete and reasonable, and the budget appears in alignment with expenditures by similar programs at other SUS institutions.**
- In the event that resources within the institution are redirected to support the new program, the university has identified this redirection and determined that it will not have a negative impact on undergraduate education, or the university has provided a reasonable explanation for any impact of this redirection.** Funding will come from the College of Arts & Sciences Unallocated Reserve.

READINESS

Check 'yes' or 'no' box, and make comments beneath criterion as appropriate.

*3. **Program Quality** – The proposal provides evidence that the university planning activities have been sufficient and responses to any recommendations to program reviews or accreditation activities in the discipline pertinent to the proposed program have been addressed.*

YES NO

- The university has followed a collaborative planning process for the proposed program in accordance with policies and procedures adopted by the University Board of Trustees.**

- An external consultant has reviewed the proposal and supports the department's capability of successfully implementing this new program.**
- The university has found the level of progress that the department has made in implementing the recommendations from program reviews or accreditation activities in the discipline pertinent to the proposed program to be satisfactory.**
- The university has analyzed the feasibility of providing all or a portion of the proposed program through distance learning.** The proposed program will be delivered traditionally, but will use Blackboard technology to enhance instruction.
- If necessary, the university has made allowances for licensure and legislative approval to be obtained in a timely manner.** Not applicable.

4. Curriculum - The proposal provides evidence that the university has evaluated the proposed curriculum and found that it describes an appropriate and sequenced course of study, and that the university has evaluated the appropriateness of specialized accreditation for the program.

YES NO

- The university has reviewed the curriculum and found that the course of study presented is appropriate to meet specific learning outcomes and industry driven competencies discussed in the proposal.** The curriculum has been reviewed favorably by an external review team and the hours to degree are consistent with other sociology doctorates in the SUS.
- The university anticipates seeking accreditation for the proposed doctoral program, or provides a reasonable explanation as to why accreditation is not being sought.** There are no agencies or organizations that currently accredit doctoral programs in Sociology.

5. Faculty - The proposal provides evidence that the university is prepared to ensure a critical mass of faculty will be available to initiate the program based on estimated enrollments, and that faculty in the aggregate have the necessary experience and research activity to sustain a doctoral program.

YES NO

- The university has reviewed the evidence provided and found that there is a critical mass of faculty available to initiate the program based on estimated enrollments.** There are 14 faculty members listed as dedicating some portion of their time to this program.

- The university has reviewed the evidence provided and found that the faculty in aggregate has the necessary experience and research activity to sustain the program.** These faculty members have expertise in Sociology specialty fields including Culture, Community, Disabilities, Medical, Urban, Race, Statistics, or Immigration/Migration.
- The university has reviewed the evidence provided and found the academic unit(s) associated with this new degree to be productive in teaching, research, and service.** Sociology department faculty have a record of peer reviewed publications, and participation in master's and doctoral committees.
- If appropriate, the university has committed to hiring additional faculty in later years, based on estimated enrollments.** The university anticipates hiring three (3) new faculty – one per year in 2009, 2010, and 2011.

6. Resources – The proposal provides evidence that the university has ensured the available library volumes and serials; classroom, teaching laboratory, research laboratory, office space, equipment, clinical and internship sites, fellowships, scholarships, and graduate assistantships will be sufficient to initiate the program, and that if applicable, funding has been secured to make more resources available as students proceed through the program..

YES NO

- The university has provided a signed statement from the Library Director verifying that the library volumes and serials available are sufficient to initiate the program.** Derrie Perez, the USF Tampa Library Director, has signed off on this proposal.
- The university has ensured that the physical space necessary for the proposed program, including classrooms, laboratories and office space, is sufficient to initiate the program.** Space is available in the College of Arts & Sciences and in the Sociology department.
- The university has ensured that necessary equipment is available to initiate the program.** The university does not anticipate needing new equipment prior to implementation of this program.
- The university has ensured that fellowships, scholarships, and graduate assistantships are sufficient to initiate the program.**
- If applicable, the university has ensured that the department has arranged a suitable number of clinical and internship sites.**