

Department of Sociology 2024-2025 Curriculum Review

General Faculties Council Teaching & Learning Committee

15 April 2025

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Curriculum Review Committee Members: Michael Adorjan (Chair); Anjali Choudary (undergraduate student representative), Brandon Eby (undergraduate student representative), Milana Leskovac (graduate student representative), Qian Liu (faculty representative), Annette Tezli (faculty representative)

Review Team: Faculty members of the Department of Sociology

Guiding Questions

1. What are the core strengths of our program, including strengths related to faculty members' areas of expertise in teaching and research?
2. What are areas we need to strengthen in terms of expertise in teaching and research, in relation to our PLOs, and in relation to current trends/developments in the field of Sociology?
3. How can we optimally structure the curriculum to serve majors while still meeting our service function to the Faculty of Arts?
4. What changes can be made under the current constraints to better enable TA support for our courses?
5. How are program learning outcomes addressed in specific courses in the program?
6. What changes need to be made, current constraints notwithstanding, that would better allow us to meet the program learning outcomes?
7. How can we continue to provide teaching quality and the development of skills, especially revolving around writing and speaking, with large class sizes?
8. How well does our curriculum address equity, diversity, inclusion, accessibility and decolonization? What steps do we need to take to continue to develop in this capacity

Our curriculum review was informed by

1. Special departmental meetings to discuss how best the review process could help answer key questions about our processes and practices, which formed our guiding questions
2. Data drawn from
 - Office of Institutional Analysis

- National Survey of Student Engagement
- survey of 107 sociology students
- environmental scan of other programs

Context

Sociology combines the rigour of a scientific discipline with a concern for social relevance. It emerged in the nineteenth century as an attempt to understand the transition from traditional to modern society. Contemporary sociologists study the ways in which social structures, social processes and cultural products constrain and enable human activity, using a range of empirical methods (including ethnographic observation, in-depth interviews, surveys, statistical analysis, and analysis of cultural products). Sociologists ask how class, gender, race, ethnicity, age and geographic region shape people's lives and affect access to scarce resources like wealth, power and prestige as they explore the nature and operation of the social institutions that constitute Canadian and other societies. Sociologists study international processes, like migration and international development, and examine the linkages between global and local levels.

The undergraduate Sociology program at the University of Calgary strives to cultivate students' sociological imaginations by offering a range of opportunities to think sociologically and to use different theoretical approaches, research methods and data-analysis techniques. Our program provides a strong foundation in sociological theory and research methods and invites students to explore diverse approaches and topic areas within the field of sociology. Our courses promote co-learning, critical thinking, effective communication, team skills and adaptability; assets that many potential employers look for in graduates. Our graduates often gain careers in policy work, education, academia (i.e., graduate school, and faculty positions as instructors and researchers), law, and journalism, among other areas. We emphasize community engagement and global citizenship.

ACTION PLAN 2023-2028

The following recommendations are based on the feedback and analysis above, and drawing from the various data sources informing this curriculum review.

Recommendation	Action Items	Responsible	Time Frame/Target Date
1. Explore options for creating advanced courses in statistics & quantitative methods	Hold discussions in working group meetings and in consultation with the department	Stats Working Group Department Head	1 year
2. Course modifications (e.g., title change for SOCI345) and eliminations (i.e., for courses not taught since 2010)	CARC submission in consultation with the department	UPD	December 2023
3. Remove SOCI315 as a requirement for sociology majors	CARC submission	UPD	December 2023
4. Explore option of reallocating TA resources to more courses with majority majors enrolled (Soci 331, 333; 400-level)	Hold discussions in working group meetings and in consultation with the department	Theory Working Group Department Head Graduate Program Director	6 months to 1 year
5. Continued discussion regarding SOCI313 (e.g., should this course require mandatory ethics training, a lab component?)	Hold discussions in working group meetings and in consultation with the department	Methods Working Group Department Head	6 months to 1 year