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**[ ] Undergraduate Curriculum Council**

**[X] Graduate Council**

Signed paper copies of proposals submitted for consideration are no longer required. Please type approver name and enter date of approval.

Email completed proposals to [curriculum@astate.edu](mailto:curriculum@astate.edu) for inclusion in curriculum committee agenda.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | Matthew Costello | 2/24/2017 |   **Department Curriculum Committee Chair** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Enter date |   **COPE Chair (if applicable)** |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | Veena S. Kulkarni | 2/24/2017 |   **Department Chair:** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Enter date |   **Head of Unit (If applicable)** |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | Warren Johnson | 3/14/2017 |   **College Curriculum Committee Chair** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Enter date |   **Undergraduate Curriculum Council Chair** |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | Dr. Deborah Chappel Traylor | 3/15/2017 |   **College Dean** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | Joseph Rukus | 2/6/2017 |   **Graduate Curriculum Committee Chair** |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Enter date |   **General Education Committee Chair (If applicable)** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Enter date |   **Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs** |

**1.Contact Person** (Name, Email Address, Phone Number)

**Joseph Rukus, Dept. of Criminology, Sociology, and Geography,** [**jrukus@aastate.edu**](mailto:jrukus@aastate.edu)**, 870-972-2288**

**2.Proposed Change**

**1. Change capstone project in the MA Criminology program from research paper to a choice of thesis or comprehensive exam. 2. With the increased rigor of the capstone project, we want to reduce the number of credit hours from 33 to 30 to match our MA in Sociology.**

**3. Finally, we would like to make SOC 6343 Methods of Social Research (to be changed to CRIM 6343 per another request) and SOC 6383 (to be changed to CRIM 6383 per another request) Advanced Data Analysis required courses for the MA Criminology program**

**3.Effective Date**

**Fall 2017**

**4.Justification –** *Please provide details as to why this change is necessary.*

**Similar to university trends, we are enrolling a higher caliber student in our MA Criminal Justice program. In response, we would like to increase the rigor of program to better match it with student ability and better prepare students for PhD studies or for career advancement. Hence, we propose to replace the current research paper with a choice of thesis or comprehensive exam. Either choice will involve student selecting a committee to guide the project. For the thesis, students will conduct their own research. For the comprehensive exam, student will work with committee to create a compressive reading list which will be used as source material for the comprehensive exam.**

**Currently, our MA Sociology program requires 30 credit hours and our MA Criminal Justice requires 33 credit hours. Our justification for the extra hours in the MA Criminology has been that the capstone project required less work than the MA Sociology. With the proposed changes, this will no longer be the case. Thus, in the nature of fairness, we propose to decrease the credit hours in MA Criminal Justice to 30 hours. NOTE: A course addition request for the thesis course has been added under separate cover.**

**Lastly, we propose to make both SOC 6343 Methods of Social Research (to be changed to CRIM 6343 per another request) and SOC 6383 (to be changed to CRIM 6383 per another request) Advanced Data Analysis required courses for the MA Criminology. Currently, students are only required to take a methods course of which SOC 6343 Methods of Social Research (to be changed to CRIM 6343 per another request) and SOC 6383 (to be changed to CRIM 6383 per another request) Advanced Data Analysis are one of a number of options. With the increased importance of research studies and quantitative analysis, and our desire to increased program rigor, we feel students are better served by making these courses mandatory.**

**Bulletin Changes**

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| **Instructions** |
| **Please visit** [**http://www.astate.edu/a/registrar/students/bulletins/index.dot**](http://www.astate.edu/a/registrar/students/bulletins/index.dot) **and select the most recent version of the bulletin. Copy and paste all bulletin pages this proposal affects below. Follow the following guidelines for indicating necessary changes.**  **\*Please note: Courses are often listed in multiple sections of the bulletin. To ensure that all affected sections have been located, please search the bulletin (ctrl+F) for the appropriate courses before submission of this form.**  - Deleted courses/credit hours should be marked with a red strike-through (~~red strikethrough~~)  - New credit hours and text changes should be listed in blue using enlarged font (blue using enlarged font).  - Any new courses should be listed in blue bold italics using enlarged font (***blue bold italics using enlarged font***)  *You can easily apply any of these changes by selecting the example text in the instructions above, double-clicking the ‘format painter’ icon 🡪 , and selecting the text you would like to apply the change to.*  *Please visit* [*https://youtu.be/yjdL2n4lZm4*](https://youtu.be/yjdL2n4lZm4) *for more detailed instructions.* |

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Students must *complete a capstone project of either a thesis or comprehensive exam. Both projects will require students to work with a committee to guide them through the project. Students choosing the thesis option will be allowed to take up to 6 credit hours of CRIM 670V, Thesis and will be required to orally defend their thesis proposal and final thesis.* ~~write and defend a professional paper on a topic approved by the student’s graduate committee. The committee must agree that the defended paper is of a quality comparable to~~

~~one that may be presented at a professional conference or submitted to a refereed journal.~~

~~At least fifty percent of the course credit hours must be completed at the 6000 level~~

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**Criminal Justice**

**Master of Arts**

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| --- | --- |
| **University Requirements:** | |
| See Graduate School Degree Policies for additional information (p. 35) | |
| **Program Requirements:** | **Sem. Hrs.** |
| CRIM 6133, Police and Society | 3 |
| CRIM 6233, Criminal Justice Systems  *CRIM 6343, Methods of Social Research*  *CRIM 6383, Advanced Data Analysis* | 3  *3*  *3* |
| CRIM 6403, Seminar in Juvenile Delinquency **OR**  CRIM 6523, Seminar in Criminal Behavior | 3 |
| CRIM 6513, Seminar in Community and Institutional Corrections | 3 |
| **~~Methods Courses (select three hours from the following):~~**  ~~SOC 5323, Applied Research~~  ~~SOC 5343, Geographical Information Systems for the Social Sciences~~  ~~SOC 6253, Qualitative Methods of Social Research~~  ~~SOC 6343, Methods of Social Research~~  ~~SOC 6383, Advanced Data Analysis~~  ~~POSC 6003, Techniques of Political and Public Administration Research~~  ~~POSC 6533, Public Policy and Evaluation~~ | ~~3~~ |
| **Select ~~eighteen~~ *twelve* hours from the following:**  *Other courses require approval from the Director of the MACJ program and the Chair of the Criminology, Sociology, and Geography Department.*  CRIM 5313, Seminar on Organized Crime  CRIM 6403, Seminar in Juvenile Delinquency *(if not taken above)*  CRIM 6523, Criminal Behavior *(if not taken above)*  *CRIM 670V, Thesis (maximum of 6 hours for students selecting thesis)*  POSC 6503, Managing Local Government  POSC 6523, Decision Making  POSC 6533, Seminar in Human Resource Management  POSC 6553, Public Budgeting and Finance  POSC 6563, Seminar in Public Administration  POSC 6573, Grant Writing and Administration  SOC 5003, Perspectives in Death and Dying  SOC 5063, Sociology of Disasters  SOC 5073, Sociology of Family Violence  SOC 5223, Urban Sociology  SOC 5233, Social Organization  SOC 5253, Rural Sociology  SOC 5263, Terrorism as a Social Movement  SOC 560V, Special Problems  SOC 6113, Seminar in Contemporary Sociology  SOC 6123, Aging, Law and Social Issues  SOC 6203, Social Psychology  SOC 6423, Seminar in Race, Gender and Class  *Any additional methods course approved by program director.*  ~~Any of the Methods~~ ~~Courses listed above not taken to satisfy the Methods requirement.~~ | ~~18~~ *12* |
| **Sub-total** | **~~33~~ *30*** |
| **Total Required Hours:** | **~~33~~ *30*** |