

## Appendix A

### The University of North Carolina Notification of Intent to Plan a New Baccalaureate, Master's, or C.A.S. Program

*THE PURPOSE OF ACADEMIC PROGRAM PLANNING: Planning a new academic degree program provides an opportunity for an institution to make the case for need and demand and for its ability to offer a quality program. This notification, and the planning activity to follow, do not guarantee that authorization to establish will be granted..*

Date: July 21 2006

**Constituent Institution:** The University of North Carolina Wilmington

CIP Discipline Specialty Title: Sociology and Criminal Justice

CIP Discipline Specialty Number: 45.1101 Level: B  M  C.A.S.

Exact Title of the Proposed Program: Master of Criminology and Public Sociology

Exact Degree Abbreviation (e.g. B.S., B.A., M.A., M.S., C.A.S.): M.A.

Does the proposed program constitute a substantive change as defined by SACS? Yes  No

a) Is it at a more advanced level than those previously authorized? Yes  No

b) Is the proposed program in a new discipline division? Yes  No

Approximate date for submitting the Request to Establish proposal (must be within one year of date of submission of notification of intent to plan): October 15<sup>th</sup> 2006

Proposed date to establish degree: month August year 2007

(Date can be no sooner than six months after the date of notification of intent to plan and must allow at least three months for review of the request to establish, once submitted.)

1. Describe the proposed new degree program. The description should include:
  - a) A brief description of the program and a statement of educational objectives

Increasingly, non-academic employers (chiefly policy makers, managers, planners and executives with responsibilities for a large variety of social, service, commercial, public and private agencies, programs and businesses) are becoming aware of the need for social science skills and for specific reliable information that they can use to assess policy, plan, pre-test, monitor and evaluate their efforts. Since many of the issues they confront are social in origin, current status or consequence, it is clear to them that in order to respond appropriately, they require highly relevant and necessary information, knowledge and social science skills that can contribute to making and carrying out effective decisions.

Recent developments in the social sciences, especially along methodological lines, have led to the emergence of a body of knowledge and skills bearing on decision-making and implementation. The theoretical and methodological developments in the social sciences can be made available to fill the acute need for professional skills that apply information to specific problems. In recent years the Sociology and Criminal Justice department has been approached by a variety of organizations with requests for competent MA professionals who can fill positions in applied social science and criminal justice areas, in the management of research, and in research related executive positions. In addition, master's-level enrollments and degrees in the social sciences nationally have increased markedly over the past ten years. Likewise, the desire for skills-based courses that develop students for careers as master's-level sociologists is increasing nationally. The department responds to this need by providing an MA program to educate graduate

students who will work as professionals in non-academic applied settings as researchers, counselors, planners, managers, team members, volunteers, program directors, board members, and policy makers in public and private agencies, in marketing, media and not-for-profit management, that have use for the social science components of knowledge, information and skills.

One of the main objectives of the MA program will be to provide students with professional training to seek employment in federal, state, and local governmental agencies and in private-sector organizations, rather than seeking employment in strictly academic settings. The program will provide students training in both theory and methods as well as provide opportunities for them to apply both theory and methods in a variety of settings that deal with particular substantive areas. These areas will reflect the variety and depth of the department's faculty interests including family, demography, minority studies, drugs, crime mapping, rural services, social policy, mental health, education, criminology, legal studies, poverty and criminal justice policy.

The educational objectives of the master's program are:

- To prepare students for professional careers in Sociology, Criminal Justice and Criminology
  - To strengthen students' analytical, research and writing skills
  - To provide extended training in theory and methods
  - To strengthen students' ability to apply theories and methods to social issues, problems and policies
  - To provide students opportunities to work with community organizations and leaders in internship settings gaining hands-on knowledge and application of social science research methods and practice
- b) The relationship of the proposed new program to the institutional mission and how the program fits into the institution's strategic plan

Our proposed MA in Criminology and Public Sociology will certainly enhance UNCW's mission, goals, and objectives. According to the strategic vision, "UNCW will promote and engage in high-quality scholarship and in master's-focused graduate education." Furthermore, UNCW is devoted to student development in terms of personal and professional aspirations. We are committed to providing students enrolled in our MA program with the cutting edge disciplinary skills and tools to take back into their communities, their employment, and their families as well-rounded, professionally trained social scientists. They will be encouraged to develop observation and analytical skills necessary for overall well being. Graduates of our MA program will have significant advantages for their career aspirations, whether they stay in this geographical region or move beyond southeastern North Carolina. UNCW values highly our commitment to regional engagement. This MA in Criminology and Public Sociology specifically requires graduate students to take on internships, and it is expected that most

of them will be employed in the New Hanover metropolitan area (New Hanover, Pender and Brunswick counties). The region will benefit from the application of students' theoretical and methodological skills to that work. Thus, our program will directly enhance Goal V ("strengthen the university's regional engagement and outreach activities"), and specifically relate to Objectives 2 (provide services to and collaborate with our P-16 educational partners in public schools, community colleges and other universities) and 8 (enhance the university's ability to perform larger scale multi-disciplinary applied research programs that focus on issues important to southeastern North Carolina).

- c) The relationship of the proposed new program to other existing programs at the institution

The mission statement of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice is to: provide quality undergraduate liberal arts education for its students; producing new knowledge through scholarship and research; and performing service to its profession, the university, and community. As an academic unit within the College of Arts and Science, the primary department goal is the creation and transmission of knowledge through its two social science disciplines, sociology and criminal justice. To this end, the department's programs provide curricula that encourage critical thinking, intellectual curiosity, and an understanding of the social science perspective. Through various and innovative instructional modes, including technologically enhanced and web-based courses, individualized instructions, interdisciplinary curricula, distance learning, internships, and practice, the department seeks to fulfill the university's commitment to providing a quality learning experience for its students. Excellence in scholarship and research is also viewed as essential to providing an effective and meaningful educational environment. Performing service to the region from the special perspective of sociology and criminal justice and providing students with the professional training necessary for success in applied settings is also a basic department responsibility. The department seeks to increase knowledge of human society from a global perspective and to enhance understanding of the various multicultural segments of American Society.

The Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice currently offers a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and in Criminal Justice. Both programs offer internships and applied settings. The department offers a Public Sociology track that emphasizes community based participatory research. Public Sociology involves taking sociology beyond the boundaries of the university: it is a sociology that "seeks to bring sociology to publics beyond the academy, promoting dialogue about issues that affect the fate of society" (Burawoy 2004). In the Public Sociology Program, students learn how to use sociology to inform real life social issues. The proposed professional master's degree will expand on the undergraduate program focusing on internship placement in the community to apply social science skills in relevant professional settings. The 36 hour master's program includes a six hour internship placement. In addition, we have begun conversations with the Master of Public Administration and Master of Social Work degree programs on the prospect of cross-listing courses on social policy and non-profit

management that would overlap with the applied professional features of our proposed master's program.

- d) Special features or conditions that make the institution a desirable, unique, or appropriate place to initiate such a degree program.

The Public Sociology concentration in the department of Sociology and Criminal Justice is one of a very few in the nation. Public Sociology emphasizes moving beyond the academy into various publics, using the skills, methods and theories of the discipline to engage publics about important issues facing society. The nature of this community-based approach to social science makes the program at UNCW unique and well suited for a professional master's degree program. In addition, in 2004, the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice was awarded Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) and Ford Foundation funding to develop and plan a professional master's degree program in the social sciences. A study conducted in 2004 to assess the need for such a program found that 77% of employers surveyed (n=31) in the region indicated the need for professional master's trained graduates; 92% of alumni (n=60) surveyed believed the program was needed; and 91% of faculty (n=15) surveyed believed the professional master's program was needed.

UNCW is unique within the UNC-system, as well as regional and national arenas, in its emphasis on community-based applied learning and professional development in the social sciences. Clearly the need exists for a professional program that will complement the undergraduate program in Sociology and Criminal Justice and meet a community need for employers and students alike.

- 2. List all other public and private institutions of higher education in North Carolina currently operating programs similar to the proposed new degree program.

None. Our MA would be the first in the state and nation to offer concentration in Public Sociology.

- 3. Estimate the number of students that would be enrolled in the program during the first year of operation: *Full-Time* 10 *Part-Time* 5
- 4. If there are plans to offer the program away from campus *during the first year of operation*:
  - a) briefly describe these plans, including potential sites and possible method(s) of delivering instruction.

Currently, we have no plans to offer the program away from campus during the first year of operation.

5. List the names, titles, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers of the person(s) responsible for planning the proposed program.

Within the department of Sociology and Criminal Justice a distinct committee has been formed to plan the MA program, entitled: MA Implementation Committee. In addition, an Advisory Board comprising community and university members has been created and whose activities are coordinated by the MA Implementation Committee.

Members of the MA Implementation Committee are:

Co-Chairs:

Dr. Leslie Hossfeld, Assistant Professor of Sociology, [HossfeldL@uncw.edu](mailto:HossfeldL@uncw.edu), 910 962-7849

Dr. Mike Maume, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, [Maume@uncw.edu](mailto:Maume@uncw.edu) 910 962-7749

Departmental Chair:

Dr. Kim Cook, Professor and Chair, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, [Cookk@uncw.edu](mailto:Cookk@uncw.edu), 910 962 3785

Committee Members:

Dr. Rob Miller, Professor of Sociology, [MillerR@uncw.edu](mailto:MillerR@uncw.edu), 910 962 3575

Dr. Donna King, Associate Professor of Sociology, [Kingd@uncw.edu](mailto:Kingd@uncw.edu), 910- 962 3574

Dr. Darrell Irwin, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, [Irwind@uncw.edu](mailto:Irwind@uncw.edu), 910 962 7420

Dr. Clyde McDaniel, Adjunct Professor of Sociology, [McDanielC@uncw.edu](mailto:McDanielC@uncw.edu) 910 962 4170

Dr. Lynn Snowden, Professor of Criminal Justice, [SnowdenL@uncw.edu](mailto:SnowdenL@uncw.edu), 910 962 3838

Members of the Advisory Board include university personnel as well as community agency representatives:

Janet Nelson, NC Partnership for Children, Wrightsville Avenue

Dr. Tom Barth, UNCW, Political Science

Claude Odom, NC Dept. of Juvenile Justice

Larry Bonney, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

Rebecca Caldwell, Crossroads

Sterling Cheatam, City Manager, City of Wilmington

Dr. Deborah Covington, Inveresk

Lynn H. Pharr, Cape Fear United Way

Amy Price, Dept of Health and Human Services

Benjamin Quattlebaum, Wilmington Housing Authority

Bruce Hickman, Wilmington Police Dept.

Cathy Howell, AFL-CIO

Mary Ann Lama, Domestic Violence Shelter

Christine McNamee, New Hanover County Social Services

John Ranalli, Director New Hanover County Juvenile Day Treatment Center

Dr. P. Nelson Reid, Social Work, UNCW

Bob Speight, Juvenile Justice Court Counselors

Kitty Yerkes, Domestic Violence Shelter

J. L. Yost, Cape Fear Community College

Babette Boyd, UNCW  
Lynn Smithdeal, Faculty Liaison, Community Engagement Programs  
UNCW Division for Public Service and Continuing Studies  
Reverend Mac Legerton, Center for Community Action,  
Serena Lau, PPD  
Joan Pennell, Chair, Social Work Dept. North Carolina State University  
Frankie Roberts, Director, LINC  
John Parker, Executive Director, Good Work, Durham

This intent to plan a new program has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate campus committees and authorities.

**Chancellor** \_\_\_\_\_