



MEMORANDUM

Department of Sociology

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TO: Melody Tankersley
Senior Associate Provost, Dean of Graduate Studies

FROM: Richard T. Serpe, Chair
Richard Adams, Associate Chair
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DATE: October 31, 2018

SUBJECT: Ph.D. in Sociology

The Department of Sociology Doctoral Program has been joint with the University of Akron since the mid-1970's. Since the joint doctoral program's inception, both departments were equal partners in the delivery of the courses, comprehensive examinations, and dissertation committees. Over the past five years, with reduction of faculty in the University of Akron-Department of Sociology, Kent State University has carried a larger share of the program delivery.

The attached document is in response to the question, "Can Kent State University's Department of Sociology deliver the doctoral degree without the University of Akron." The answer is an unequivocal yes. The document begins with a summary of the status of the doctoral program at Kent State University, followed by the more detailed information.

Please let us know if you need additional information to move forward as an independent doctoral program.

Summary of the Doctoral Program in Sociology at Kent State University

The joint doctoral program over the past twenty years has functioned as a “cooperative partnership” between Kent State University and the University of Akron. Operationally, the degree program is currently administered jointly. How that is currently accomplished, and Kent State University’s ability to administer the program without the University of Akron as a joint partner are summarized below. The summary is followed by information about the program, the faculty and the graduate students in detail.

1. Admissions to the doctoral program have never been a “joint” decision. Both departments have separate Graduate Education Committees that reviews applications and decides on admission and funding for each campus. Students are admitted to either Kent State University or the University of Akron, and each campus confers degrees separately. There are no formal procedures to collaborate or share information concerning who is admitted and funded at each campus. Over the past seven years, Kent State University has consistently admitted and funded a larger number of students in each cohort. The number of applications to the doctoral program at Kent State University has been stable over the past fifteen years, and we have seen an increase in the quality of the students who apply to our program.
2. Course schedules are developed jointly and include a mix of our core courses and concentration courses. Before the reduction of the faculty at the University of Akron, each department offered four courses each semester. That has shifted. Since fall 2015, the University of Akron has only been able to staff twenty-four courses or three graduate courses per semester. During this same period, Kent State University has offered forty-one courses or five courses per semester. Kent State University’s Sociology Department currently has twenty-one tenure-track faculty who hold Graduate Status. The current faculty provide the resources necessary to offer all the coursework in the doctoral program.
3. Changes in the delivery of comprehensive exams have been made three times in the past ten years. In the last round of revisions, each department now handles the comprehensive exam process autonomously. While similar, there are significant differences in how the comprehensive exam process works. At both campuses, the comprehensive exam committees are almost exclusively faculty from the student’s campus. Until 2015, almost all comprehensive exam committees included faculty from both campuses. Given that the University of Akron currently has only eight faculty with Graduate Faculty Status, about half of the Akron students’ comprehensive exam committees have at least one faculty member from Kent State University. At this time, there are almost no comprehensive exam committees for Kent students that include faculty from the University of Akron.
4. Dissertation committee make-up has exhibited the same change as has been experienced in comprehensive exam committee. In the past, there were always a member of the University of Akron faculty on the Kent State University student’s dissertation committee. At this point, the only committees at Kent State University that include faculty from the University of Akron are those for students who were admitted to the doctoral program in fall 2012. Currently, it appears that most of the Akron students’ dissertation committees include at least one Kent State University faculty

member.

The above summary highlights the changes in the functional operation of the joint doctoral program. It provides insight into why the Kent State University Department of Sociology has been increasing both our share of the delivery of the doctoral degree and our readiness with the current resources to maintain the current doctoral program without any changes as the partnership with the University of Akron dissolves.

The detailed sections below document how Kent State University's current resources align with the Department of Sociology to continue to be successful in both training and placing the doctoral students in professional positions after graduation.

Faculty by Departmental Substantive Concentrations

The faculty in Sociology are recruited to support the four concentrations within the Ph.D. program. The tenure-track faculty are balanced over our four substantive concentrations: 8 in Criminology/Deviance, 11 in Inequality (Gender, Race, and Class), 6 in Medical/Mental Health, and 6 in Social Psychology. The number of faculty in each concentration meets the programmatic and pedagogical needs to offer graduate courses, and working closely in mentoring, training, and research collaboration with our graduate students. Below is the list of faculty in each concentration Appendix A includes the faculty vita's.

Criminology/Deviance

Tim Berard
 Christopher Dum
 David Kessler
 Molly Merryman
 Hedi Nasheri
 Starr Solomon
 Kamesha Spates
 Pamela Tontodonato

Inequality (Gender, Race, and Class)

Tim Berard
 Christopher Dum
 Rebecca Catto
 Susan Fisk
 Carla Goar
 Molly Merryman
 Nicole Rousseau
 Starr Solomon
 Kamesha Spates
 Clare Stacey
 Tiffany Taylor

Medical/Mental Health

Richard E. Adams
 Kristen Marcussen
 Timothy Owens
 Manacy Pai
 Susan Roxburgh
 Clare Stacey

Social Psychology

Richard E. Adams
 Susan Fisk
 Carla Goar
 Will Kalkhoff
 Kristen Marcussen
 Timothy Owens
 Richard T. Serpe
 Tiffany Taylor

Doctoral Courses Schedule

The following tables list our core courses and elective courses (by area of specialization) across an established two-year timeframe that ensures adequate progress for graduate students. Within each table we list the faculty who have (or are capable of) teaching each course.

A. Core Courses

Course	Year 1 (Fall)	Year 1 (Spring)	Year 2 (Fall)	Year 2 (Spring)
Professional and Ethical Issues in Sociology – SOC 6/72002 (Kalkhoff, Roxburgh)	X		X	
Early Sociological Theory – SOC 6/72100 (Roxburgh, Taylor, Catto)	X		X	
Contemporary Sociological Thought – SOC 6/72105 (Roxburgh, Taylor, Stacey, Catto)		X		
Quantitative Methods in Sociology – SOC 6/72111 (Adams, Taylor, Fisk, Solomon, Serpe)	X		X	
Multivariate Techniques in Sociology – SOC 6/72217 (Fisk, Solomon, Kessler)		X		X
Advanced Data Analysis – SOC 6/72218 (Fisk, Kalkhoff, Adams, Kessler)	X		X	
Qualitative Methods in Sociology – SOC 6/72219 (Catto, Dum, Stacey, Taylor)				X
College Teaching of Sociology – SOC 6/72894 (Stacey, Marcussen)		X		X

B. Criminology/Deviance Concentration

Course	Year 1 (Fall)	Year 1 (Spring)	Year 2 (Fall)	Year 2 (Spring)
Criminological Theory – SOC 6/71003 (Dum, Solomon, Tontodonato, Nasheri)	X			
Juvenile Delinquency – SOC 6/71005 (Tontodonato, Berard, Dum, Spates)		X		
Sociology of Corrections – SOC 6/71004 (Tontodonato, Kessler, Solomon)			X	
Deviance – SOC 6/72760 (Dum, Solomon, Berard, Spates)				X

C. Inequality (Gender, Race, and Class) Concentration

Course	Year 1 (Fall)	Year 1 (Spring)	Year 2 (Fall)	Year 2 (Spring)
Sociology of Gender – SOC 6/72566 (Taylor, Rousseau, Fisk, Merryman)	X			
Social Inequality – SOC 6/72546 (Berard, Catto, Goar, Merryman, Rousseau, Spates, Stacey, Taylor)		X		
Sociology of Race & Ethnicity – SOC 6/72870 (Goar, Rousseau, Solomon, Spates, Dum)			X	
Social Psychology and Inequality – SOC 6/72872 (Taylor, Berard, Goar, Serpe)				X

D. Medical & Mental Health Concentration

Course	Year 1 (Fall)	Year 1 (Spring)	Year 2 (Fall)	Year 2 (Spring)
Sociology of Mental Health and Mental Illness – SOC 6/72326 (Marcussen, Roxburgh, Owens, Adams)	X			
Sociology of Aging & the Life Course – SOC 6/72877 (Pai, Roxburgh, Stacey)		X		
Sociology of Health & Illness – SOC 6/72323 (Pai, Roxburgh, Stacey)			X	
Stratification & Health – SOC 6/72328 (Roxburgh, Stacey)				X

E. Social Psychology Specialization

Course	Year 1 (Fall)	Year 1 (Spring)	Year 2 (Fall)	Year 2 (Spring)
Social Psychology – SOC 6/72430 (Adams, Marcussen, Owens, Serpe)	X			
Self & Identity – SOC 6/72439 (Marcussen, Owens, Serpe)		X		
Structural Social Psychology – SOC 6/72437 (Goar, Kalkhoff, Fisk)			X	
Social Structure & Personality – SOC 6/72433 (Owens, Marcussen, Adams)				X

Course Offerings by Semester and University Fall 2015 to Spring 2019

The following table lists all the courses offered in the doctoral program from fall 2015 to spring 2019 by campus.

Fall 2015 Graduate Courses

Kent State University

6/72100	Early Social Thought	Roxburgh
6/72218	Advanced Data Analysis	Fisk
6/72430	Social Psychology	Owens
6/72566	Sociology of Gender	Taylor
6/72221	Advanced Qualitative Methods	Stacey

University of Akron

6/72002	Professional Issues in Sociology	Nofziger
6/72211	Quantitative Methods in Sociology	Callanan
6/72760	Deviance	Peralta

Spring 2016 Graduate Courses

Kent State University

6/72328	Stratification and Health	Roxburgh
6/72546	Social Inequalities	Taylor
6/72895	Juvenile Delinquency	Tontodonato
6/72895	Self and Identity	Serpe

University of Akron

6/72105	Contemporary Sociological Thought	Erickson
6/72217	Multivariate Techniques in Sociology	Xi
6/72894	College Teaching in Sociology	Zipp

Fall 2016 Graduate Courses

Kent State University

6/72100	Early Social Thought	Roxburgh
6/72218	Advanced Data Analysis	Fisk
6/72877	Sociology of Aging and Life Course	Pai
6/72895	Structural Social Psychology	Goar
6/72221	Advanced Qualitative Methods	Stacey

University of Akron

6/72002	Professional Issues in Sociology	Nofziger
6/72211	Quantitative Methods in Sociology	Frech
6/72895	Race and Crime	Peralta

Spring 2017 Graduate Courses**Kent State University**

6/72219	Qualitative Methods in Sociology	Dum
6/72323	Sociology of Health and Illness	Roxburgh
6/72870	Race and Ethnicity	Spates
6/72433	Social Structure and Personality	Owens

University of Akron

6/72760	Deviance	Lee
6/72217	Multivariate Techniques in Sociology	Xi
6/72894	College Teaching in Sociology	Zipp

Fall 2017 Graduate Courses**Kent State University**

6/72002	Professional Issues in Sociology	Kalkhoff
6/72100	Early Social Thought	Roxburgh
6/72211	Quantitative Methods in Sociology	Adams
6/72221	Advanced Qualitative Methods	Stacey
6/72326	Soc of Mental Health & Mental Illness	Marcussen
6/72430	Social Psychology	Serpe

University of Akron

6/72566	Sociology of Gender	Feltey
6/72218	Advanced Data Analysis	Xi
6/71003	Criminological Theory	Nofziger

Spring 2018 Graduate Courses**Kent State University**

6/72328	Stratification and Health	Roxburgh
6/72105	Contemporary Sociological Thought	Taylor
6/72217	Multivariate Techniques in Sociology	Fisk
6/71005	Juvenile Delinquency	Tontodonato
6/72328	Stratification and Health	Roxburgh
6/72895	Self and Identity	Serpe

University of Akron

6/72219	Qualitative Methods in Sociology	Felty
6/72894	College Teaching in Sociology	Zipp
6/72546	Social Inequalities	Dill

Fall 2018 Graduate Courses**Kent State University**

6/72002	Professional Issues in Sociology	Kalkhoff
6/72211	Quantitative Methods in Sociology	Adams
6/72221	Advanced Qualitative Methods	Stacey
6/72872	Social Psychology of Inequality	Taylor
6/72877	Sociology of Aging and Life Course	Pai
6/72437	Structural Social Psychology	Goar

University of Akron

6/72100	Early Social Thought	Dill
6/72218	Advanced Data Analysis	Xi
6/71043	Sociology of Corrections	Peralta

Spring 2019 Graduate Courses**Kent State University**

6/72105	Contemporary Sociological Thought	Taylor
6/72217	Multivariate Techniques in Sociology	Fisk
6/72894	College Teaching in Sociology	Stacey
6/72328	Sociology of Health and Illness	Pai
6/72433	Social Structure and Personality	Owens

University of Akron

6/72219	Qualitative Methods in Sociology	Felty
6/72760	Deviance	Peralta
6/72870	Race and Ethnicity	Takyi

Profile of Recent Graduate Students

The Sociology Department at Kent State currently has 22 tenured/tenure-track faculty. These faculty are actively engaged in teaching, advising, and mentoring 40 full-time graduate students. In the past four years, over 40 students in our program have earned graduate degrees. Fifteen students earned doctoral degrees, and 27 students earned M.A. degrees on their way toward earning the doctoral degree (three are pending this semester). The following table lists our graduates over the past four years by term and degree type:

Term	Student	Degree earned	Status
<i>Fall 2018</i>			
	Kayla Cagwin	MA	Defense scheduled
	Adam Gibson	MA	Thesis defended; pending graduation
	Tierra James	MA	Defense scheduled
<i>Summer 2018</i>			
	Katherine Gary	MA	In PhD program
	Jonathan Overton	MA	In PhD program
<i>Spring 2018</i>			
	Anisi Daniels-Smith	PhD	Tenure Track, Rust College
	Briana Turgeon	PhD	Tenure Track, Jacksonville State College
<i>Fall 2017</i>			
	Victoria Reynolds	MA	In PhD program
	Brooke Long	PhD	Assistant Teaching Professor, Penn State Altoona
	Fritz Yarrison	PhD	Quantitative Insightz Project Coordinator, Sheetz Corporation
<i>Summer 2017</i>			
	Christopher Schell	MA	In PhD program
	Karen Martinez	MA	In PhD program
<i>Spring 2017</i>			
	Jay Hays	PhD	Academic Program Director, College of Nursing, KSU
	Timothy Rose	MA	In PhD program
	Austin Johnson	PhD	Tenure Track, Kenyon College
	Rusty Schnellinger	MA	In PhD program
	Erin Andro	MA	In PhD program
	Macie McKensey	MA	Federal Bureau of Investigation
	Jacob Church	MA	In PhD program
	Michael Kreiter	MA	In PhD program
	Kenneth Hanson	MA	PhD student, University of Oregon

Fall 2016

Megan Shaeffer	PhD	Summit Metro Parks, Cultural Resource Coordinator
Matthew Pfeiffer	MA	In PhD program

Summer 2016

Meghan Novisky	PhD	Tenure Track, Cleveland State University
Nicolle Estevez	MA	Unknown
Elena Fox	MA	In PhD program
Christi Gross	PhD	Moving from a Visiting Assistant Professor to the Private Sector
Brennan Miller	MA	In PhD program
Kelly Markowski	MA	In PhD program

Fall 2015

Jacqueline Coffey	MA	Dismissed
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Summer 2015

Paige Speeney	MA	In PhD program
Rebecca Myer	MA	In PhD program in Higher Education - KSU

Fall 2014

Alex Briesacher	PhD	Tenure track, Worcester State University
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Summer 2014

Kelly MacArthur	PhD	Tenure Track, University of Nebraska Omaha
Stephen Mullet	PhD	
Lindsey Westermann Ayers	PhD	Assistant Director, Accreditation, Assessment and Learning, KSU
Chivon Fitch	PhD	Tenure Track, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Terry Mortensen	MA	Adjunct Instructor three Community Colleges

Spring 2014

Ginny Natale	MA	In PhD program
Mazen Sarwar	MA	Medical student, NEOMED
Sarah Samblanet	PhD	Tenure Track, Central Washington University
Brianna Turgeon	MA	Completed PhD (see spring 2018)