

Abilene Approval Chart for Curriculum Changes

A = Approve I = Information Item R = Respond In Writing

Course Number: _____ **or Degree Plan(s):** **BS in Sociology**

The Provost is initiating a closure of the Sociology major due to a lack of sustainability due to the current staffing issues. Please see attached communication from the Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.

		Dept./School	College	Dean	TEC	AIAC/Grad	Provost
	Campus-Level Academic Review¹						
	Change to a Course Include signatures from all chairs/program directors for cross-listed courses. ¹						
1.	Title (description unchanged)	A	A	A	I	I	I
2.	Description (not affecting content)	A	A	A	I	I	I
3.	Course term(s)	A	I	A	I	I	I
4.	Content (change of course outcomes)	A	A	A	I	I	A
5.	Number of credit hours	A	A	A	A	A	A
6.	Course number within the hundred	A	A	I	I	I	I
7.	Course number beyond the hundred	A	A	A	A	A	A
8.	Prerequisites	A	A	A	I	I	I
9.	Course restriction (e.g., majors only, junior standing)	A	A	A	A	A	A
10.	Level change (U to G or G to U)	A	A	A	A	A	A
11.	Cross list course	A	A	A	A	A	A
12.	Department of record	A	A	A	A	A	A
13.	Open or close a course	A	A	A	A	A	A
	Change to a Degree Plan						
14.	Educational Program — Revise	A	A	A	A	A	A
15.	Educational Program — Adopt/revise admission requirements	A	A	A	A	A	A
16.	GPA — Revise program-required GPA	A	A	A	A	A	A
17.	Minor — Revise	A	A	A	A	A	A

		Dept./School	College	Dean	TEC	AUAC/Grad	Provost	Campus Faculty	Senior VPAA	President
	Full Review									
	Change to Catalog Information (for Campus)									
18.	General requirements for Bachelor's and Associate Degrees	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I
19.	Policies governing academic probation and suspension	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I
20.	Requirements for graduating with honors	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I
	Change to a Degree Plan									
21.	Educational Program — Add or Discontinue ²³	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	I
22.	Educational Program — Discontinue (Provost-proposed)	R	-	R	A	A	A	A	A	I
23.	Minor — Add or Discontinue	A	A	A	A	A	A	-	A	I
24.	Minor — Discontinue (Provost-proposed)	R	-	R	A	A	A	-	A	I
25.	Degree — Add or Discontinue	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	I
26.	Degree — Discontinue (Provost-proposed)	R	-	R	A	A	A	A	A	I

		Dept./School	College	Dean	AUAC	Provost	UGEC	University Faculty	Senior VPAA	President
	Change to General Education Requirements for Undergraduates (System)									
27.	Change course outcomes of an included course	A	A	A	A	A	A	-	A	I
28.	Add or drop a required course from the General Education Requirements	A	-	A	-	A	A	A	A	I
29.	Add or drop a course from a menu within the General Education Requirements	A	-	A	-	A	A	-	A	I
30.	Comprehensive revision of General Education Requirements	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	A	I

Notes

² Any change to a cross-listed course requires the signature of both department chairs or program directors overseeing the course to ensure that the courses stay in sync. This includes courses taught at other campuses (e.g. BIBL 101 and BIBO 101).

³ For undergraduate majors, a minimum of 30 hours is required. These programs must have a minimum of 6 elective hours, unless the requirements of external accrediting bodies make it impossible. Master's programs must include a minimum of 30 hours, and doctoral programs must include a minimum of 30 hours beyond the master's.

⁴ When a department/school or dean proposes closing a program, approval routing follows the typical process beginning with the department/school. An administrative proposal by the provost or senior vice president for academic affairs would follow the "provost-proposed" routing on the chart.

Updated 8/1/2023

Department/School(s)

Chair Signature

Date

Chair/Program Director Signature

Date

College Academic Council(s)

Chair Signature

Date

Chair Signature

Date

Dean(s)


Rachael Milligan (Mar 13, 2025 08:42 MDT)

Mar 13, 2025

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

Teacher Education Council

Signature

Date

**Campus Academic Council:
Abilene Undergraduate or Abilene Graduate**

Signature

Date

Provost

Signature

Date

University General Education Council

Signature

Date

University Faculty

Abilene Faculty Senate Chair signature

Date

Dallas Faculty Council Chair signature

Date

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Signature

Date

President

Signature

Date

Provost Initiated Closure Sociology Major

After careful consideration over the past two years, the provost's office is initiating the closure of the sociology major. Sociology continues to be a valuable program on our campus, and we will continue to offer sociology courses that are embedded in other degree programs. Additionally, we will continue to offer a minor in sociology; nevertheless, decreasing graduation rates along with a steadily decreasing number of new first-time students warrants the closure of the sociology major. The closure of the major will not result in the loss of any faculty positions. Though the argument could be made that a new faculty position in sociology would spur growth, the data does not support that conclusion, and as we consider the many faculty needs across our campus, we need to invest in areas that show signs of growth.

As the faculty in the Department of Communication and Sociology attest, the numbers over the last several years bear witness to this program's steady numerical decline. The sociology major graduated only one student in the most recent four-year cohort, and since 2017, that number has never risen above two students. Sociology had no new first-time students in the fall 2024 semester. By comparison, the global studies major, which is being closed by that department's faculty, added two new first-time students in the fall of 2022, one new first-time student in the fall of 2023, and two new first-time students in the fall of 2024.

The provost's office will work with the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences along with the Department of Communication and Sociology to support the transition of sociology from a major to a minor.

From: **Rachael Milligan** <rachael.milligan@acu.edu>
Date: Tue, Mar 11, 2025 at 11:46 PM
Subject: Re: closing sociology and GLST
To: Susan Lewis <lewiss@acu.edu>
Cc: Wes Crawford <twc99a@acu.edu>

Susan and Wes,

Below is the statement that the Department of Communication and Sociology sent to me to send to you.

The Department of Communication and Sociology faculty met on October 4, 2024 to discuss the future of the Sociology program. A motion to retain the Sociology program passed with majority support. However, the faculty realizes that the program is not sustainable with its current staffing. Since sufficient faculty will not be provided for a sustainable Sociology program, we will work to implement the Provost's decision to close the program and transition it from a major to a minor and general education offering of select courses.

I think I am also supposed to provide a response. My statement is below:

In consultation with the Department of Communication and Sociology and the Provost, the dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences supports the closure of the Sociology major. The major is not sustainable at this time. The courses and content housed within the discipline of Sociology are important options within a liberal arts education and the department and the CAHSS will work to support the transition of Sociology from a major to a minor and general education offerings of select courses.

Thank you!
--Rachael

On Fri, Mar 7, 2025 at 1:11 PM Susan Lewis <lewiss@acu.edu> wrote:
Rachael,

Will you send Wes and me the letter from Comm/Soci re closing the Sociology program? The approval chart also requires a recommendation from the dean for provost proposed closures. Will you share that with us, too?

Thanks.
Susan



Susan Lewis, Ed.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
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Rachael Milligan, Ed.D.

Dean, College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

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