

**Department of Sociology**  
**Upper Division Honors Program Proposal**

**Program Summary and Justification**

The mission of the Sociology Honors Program is to provide a highly performing group of sociology majors the opportunity to enhance their academic writing abilities and acquire research skills under the guidance of Sociology faculty. Specifically, Sociology Honors Program participants will develop the following skills: (1) Critical reading and writing a literature review; (2) Develop coherent arguments and clear thesis statement in their writing; (3) Collect and analyze empirical data; (4) Gain research experience in sociological methods such as interviewing, ethnography, content analysis and/or quantitative analysis and (5) Understand and apply sociological theory to a research project. Through writing and research intensive coursework and participation in an original research project, Sociology Honors students will have firsthand experience with all aspects of the research process including working collaboratively with fellow students and faculty, writing and revising a journal article length piece, and presenting findings in a professional setting.

**1. Entry Requirements**

- a. Students will apply after completing a minimum of 12 credit hours in sociology. After grades are processed, applications will be reviewed. Qualified students will be invited for an informational interview with the Honors Program Director and a representative from the Research Team faculty.
- b. Minimum Criteria for application are:
  1. >3.5 cumulative grade point average
  2. >3.7 grade point average in sociology courses (minimum of 12 credits completed)
- c. No more than 10% of sociology majors will be admitted to the Honors program.

**2. Program Standards**

- a. Students must maintain a cumulative 3.5 GPA throughout the program to progress.
- b. If less than a B is earned in any sociology course or the student's cumulative GPA falls below 3.5, the student will be dismissed from the Honors in Sociology program.
- c. Students admitted to the Honors Program must maintain high academic and ethical standards.

### **3. Honors Level Enrichment**

Students must complete at least three of the following 3 credit courses:

1. Completion of a graduate level methods course (Research Methods, Qualitative Methods, or Quantitative Methods) or an undergraduate methods course with an Honors compact
2. Completion of a graduate level substantive course
3. Completion of a Research Intensive 4000-level sociology course
4. Completion of a 3 credit Directed Independent Study (DIS) or Directed Independent Research (DIR) with a faculty member

### **4. Capstone Experience (one of the following)**

#### **a. Thesis Requirement**

1. A senior level thesis must be produced by honors students.
2. Length of senior thesis must be at least 30 double spaced pages.
3. The capstone experience will be overseen by two qualified research faculty members.
4. Students will present their thesis at a department workshop

#### **b. Research Team**

1. Honors students will work on a research team directed by two or more qualified research faculty members
2. The research team will collectively gather data, write a literature review, and analyze results. A research team report of findings will be collectively written.
3. Students will present their findings at a department workshop

### **5. Graduation Eligibility**

- a. Overall GPA >3.5
- b. Sociology GPA >3.7
- c. Complete three of the following: graduate level methods course (Research Methods, Qualitative Methods, or Quantitative Methods) or an undergraduate methods course with an Honors compact, a graduate level substantive course, a Research Intensive 4000-level sociology course, a 3 credit Directed Independent Study (DIS) or Directed Independent Research (DIR) with a faculty member
- d. Complete the capstone project

**6. Benefits to Students**

- a. Gain research skills required for graduate school and careers
- b. Improve writing skills
- c. Increased interaction with faculty members in the sociology department
- d. Completion of undergraduate degree with honors distinction (Honors recognition with cord at graduation)

**APPLICATION FOR UNDERGRADUATE SOCIOLOGY HONORS PROGRAM  
FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Z# \_\_\_\_\_

FAU Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Year/Semester \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative GPA \_\_\_\_\_

Sociology GPA \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach:

1. A copy of your (unofficial) current transcript highlighting all Sociology courses
2. A 1-2 page statement of purpose which details why you are applying for the Honors Program and your proposed plan of study

I certify that the information given in this application is complete and accurate. Should any of the information I have given change prior to my entry to the program I will immediately notify the Sociology department.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED BY:

Department Chair

Amh 2/20/18

College Curriculum Chair

M. Spencer 2/15/18

College Dean

[Signature] 2/27/18

UUPC

J E M 2/2/18

Undergraduate Studies Dean

[Signature] 3/5/18

UFS President

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Provost

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