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**Utah System of Higher Education
Changes to Existing Academic Program Proposal
Cover/Signature Page - Abbreviated Template**

Institution Submitting Request:	Utah State University		
	<i>Current</i>		<i>Proposed (if applicable)</i>
Program Title:	PhD in Sociology; doctoral specialization in States & Markets		PhD in Sociology; doctoral specialization in Social Inequality
Sponsoring School, College, or Division:	College of Humanities and Social Sciences		
Sponsoring Academic Department(s) or Unit(s):	Department of Sociology, Social Work and Anthropology		
Classification of Instruction Program Code ¹ :	45.1101		6 - Digit CIP
Min/Max Credit Hours for Full Program Required:	48	/ 51	Min Cr Hr / Max Cr Hr
Proposed Effective Term for Program Change ² :	Fall	2017	
Institutional Board of Trustees' Approval Date:	May 5, 2017		
Award Type:	Doctoral Degree		

Program Change Type (check all that apply):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name Change of Existing Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Restructure with or without Consolidation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Transfer to a new academic department or unit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Suspension
<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Discontinuation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	Out of Service Area Delivery Program

Chief Academic Officer (or Designee) Signature:

I, the Chief Academic Officer or Designee, certify that all required institutional approvals have been obtained prior to submitting this request to the Office of the Commissioner.

Edward M. Reeve _____

Date: June 21, 2017

I understand that checking this box constitutes my legal signature.

¹ For CIP code classifications, please see <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=55>.

² "Proposed Effective Term" refers to term when change to program is published. For Suspensions and Discontinuations, "effective term" refers to the term the program will suspend admissions.

Program Change Description - Abbreviated Template

Section I: The Request

Utah State University requests approval to change name from PhD in Sociology; doctoral specialization in States & Markets to PhD in Sociology; doctoral specialization in Social Inequality effective Fall 2017. This action was approved by the institutional Board of Trustees on .

Section II: Program Proposal

Program Change Description/Rationale

Present a brief program change description. Describe the institutional procedures used to arrive at a decision for the change. Briefly indicate why such a change should be initiated. State how the institution and the USHE benefit by the change.

The sociology faculty at USU propose renaming the *States & Markets* specialization within the doctoral program to *Social Inequality*. In sociology, “social inequality” refers to unequal access to resources or “social goods” (e.g., income, education, healthcare, political representation) based on socially-defined categories or positions of individuals, such as class, gender, race, religion or age. “Social inequality” is therefore, a term very familiar to professionals in the field of sociology and is not reflective of a political statement in a negative context. The study of social inequality is fundamental to the field of sociology, and including this topic as a graduate specialization area brings the USU sociology program in line with:

- (1) The American Sociological Association’s (ASA) core research topics in the discipline;
- (2) Disciplinary trends at peer universities;
- (3) Disciplinary trends at the nation’s leading universities;
- (4) Research expertise of current faculty; and
- (5) Research interests and career prospects of graduate students.

The faculty anticipate that offering a specialization area in social inequality will facilitate recruitment of new graduate students and increase the competitiveness of USU students in the job market, as well as providing a more accurate description of the diverse expertise of the faculty members in the sociology program. Importantly, the only other sociology PhD-granting program in the state at the University of Utah does not offer graduate training in social inequality. Thus, renaming the specialty area at USU will not duplicate current offerings and will expand the range of graduate training opportunities available in Utah.

Social Inequality is an ASA Core Disciplinary Topic

According to the American Sociological Association, the national professional association for the discipline, “Inequalities and Stratification” represents a core research topic for sociologists, and includes studies of “the distribution of wealth and power within and across societies and the systems of stratification that develop including class, caste, race, and gender”.

Renaming this graduate specialty area brings the USU sociology program in line with a core research focus of the discipline. As is evident in the tables below, there is some variation across institutions in the specific terminology used to describe this core research focus. The sociology faculty have chosen “Social Inequality” for its brevity and simplicity, as well as because it is the most commonly used term for this area of research among USU’s peer institutions.

Peer Institutions’ Graduate Specialty Areas

Among USU’s 10 peer institutions, 5 offer PhD programs in sociology. All of these 5 sociology PhD-granting institutions include a sociology doctoral graduate specialty area in social inequality or stratification (see Table 1). By renaming the graduate specialty, the USU sociology program will be more in line with peer institutions.

Table 1. Peer Institution Comparison

Peer Institution	Graduate Specialty Area
Colorado State University	<i>Social Inequality, Justice & Gov</i>
Kansas State University	<i>Social Inequality</i>
New Mexico State University	<i>Stratification</i>
University of Nebraska	<i>Inequality</i>
Washington State University	<i>Social Inequalities</i>

Leading Institutions’ Graduate Specialty Areas

Among the top ten nationally ranked sociology PhD-granting institutions, every graduate program includes a specialty area of social inequality and/or stratification—both terms refer generally to systems that produce social inequality (see Table 2). While the two concepts differ somewhat in their meaning, they are usually used interchangeably. By renaming this graduate specialty, the USU sociology program will be more in line with leading national institutions.

Table 2. Top 10 Nationally Ranked Sociology Programs Comparison

Leading Institution	Graduate Specialty Area
Princeton University	<i>Inequality & Social Stratification</i>
UC-Berkeley	<i>Social Stratification</i>
University of Wisconsin	<i>Social Stratification</i>
Stanford University	<i>Gender/Sexuality, Race/Ethnicity & Immigration Social Stratification</i>
University of Michigan	<i>Social Stratification</i>
Harvard University	<i>Social Stratification</i>
University of Chicago	<i>Social Stratification & Mobility</i>
University of North Carolina	<i>Inequality/Stratification Inequality/</i>
UCLA	<i>Stratification</i>
Northwestern University	<i>Stratification</i>

Faculty Research Expertise

Table 3 includes a list of USU Sociology Program faculty with wide-ranging research

expertise in the area of social inequality. And the faculty hopes to build upon this core by recruiting faculty in the future with core research expertise in social inequality. The Social Inequality name better reflects the research expertise of current faculty. It also provides a more accurate description of the courses and research training available to students.

Table 3. USU Sociology Program Faculty with Social Inequality Expertise

USU Faculty	Research Expertise
Dr. Leon Anderson (Texas '87)	<i>Homelessness; Ethnography</i>
Dr. Gabriele Ciciurkaite (Kentucky '16)	<i>Health Disparities; Race, Class,</i>
Dr. Christy Glass (Yale '05)	<i>Gender Work & Labor;</i>
Dr. Erin Hofmann (Texas '12)	<i>Race, Class, Gender Immigration/migration;</i>
Dr. Sojung Lim (Wisconsin '13)	<i>Gender Social inequality; Family; Work & Labor</i>

Graduate Student Training

Currently, 8 graduate courses are listed as core courses in the States & Markets specialty area: Theory & Research in Social Change; Theory & Research in Social Inequality; Work and Occupations; Political Sociology; Community Theory and Research; Public Sociology; Global Migration; and Social Policy & Inequality. The faculty believe that social inequality describes the content of these graduate courses more accurately than does States & Markets. Students in these courses cover topics that include the construction of race, class, and gender; labor market inequalities; assimilation and integration of immigrants; global economic and political inequality; and social mobility. To further solidify available training in social inequality, the sociology program plans to replace the course on Theory & Research in Social Change with a course on the Sociology of Gender.

Career Prospects for Graduate Students

Current and former USU sociology graduate students have pursued research training in the area of social inequality. Current graduate students' research training focuses on workplace bias, race/ethnicity, immigration/migration, and gender. Recent graduates of the PhD program who have focused their training in the area of social inequality have been very competitive in securing prestigious research and/or tenure-track faculty positions (see Table 4). By renaming the graduate specialty to social inequality, the sociology program will have greater ability to recruit and train future researchers and teachers in this core area. Moreover, because social inequality is a more widely recognized sub-area of sociology than is States & Markets, this change will be helpful to USU students on the job market, particularly to those students who pursue careers in academia.

Table 4. Job Placements for Sociology PhD Program Graduates with a Social Inequality Research Focus (2012-2016)

PhD Graduate	Research Expertise/Current Position
Paul Jacobs	<i>Immigration; race & ethnicity / U.S. Census Bureau</i>

Karin Abel	<i>Health disparities; social policy/ Tennessee State Univ.</i>
Elizabeth Kiester	<i>Employment discrimination; gender; family/Albright College</i>
Stephanie Malin	<i>Environmental health; community activism/ Colorado State Univ. Work and</i>
Anita Harker	<i>employment; gender; family/Whatcom Community Col. Fertility; HIV/AIDS; global</i>
Joyce Mumah	<i>development/ African Pop. & Health RC</i>

Consistency with Institutional Mission/Institutional Impact

Explain how the action is consistent with the institution's Regent-approved mission, roles, and goals. Institutional mission and roles may be found at higheredutah.org/policies/policyr312/ . Indicate if the program will be delivered outside of designated service area; provide justification. Service areas are defined in higheredutah.org/policies/policyr315/ . Will faculty or staff structures be impacted by the proposed change?

Utah State University is one of the state's designated doctoral degree granting institutions, and the proposed change is consistent with that element of the institution's mission and with efforts to provide a high-quality doctoral education to students enrolled in the Sociology PhD program.

The proposed name change for one of the three doctoral specializations in the USU Sociology graduate program would not alter any other aspects of the program's structure. The PhD program would continue to be offered only at the Logan campus. No faculty or staff changes would occur in conjunction with the proposed name change.

Finances

What costs or savings are anticipated from this change? If new funds are required to implement the change, indicate expected sources of funds. Describe any budgetary impact on other programs or units within the institution.

There would be no budgetary effects associated with the proposed name change for this specialty area in the Sociology PhD program.