

**RESOLUTION TO approve the name change from “Department of Sociology”
to “Department of Sociology and Criminology”**

**From: Faculty Senate Academic Planning and Assessment Committee
Diane Christian, Chair**

To: Faculty Senate

Date proposed to FSEC: 3/5/24

Date approved by the FSEC for placement on the Faculty Senate Calendar: 3/5/24

Date approved by the Voting Faculty: 4/16/24

Whereas, the faculty of the Department of Sociology in the College of Arts and Sciences seeks to change its name to the “Department of Sociology and Criminology.” Four main reasons drive this change:

- (1) In the 2019 Fall Semester, the Department started a new major, “Criminology.” Criminology majors have quickly outpaced Sociology majors and, as of August 2023, there are 423 Criminology majors and 208 Sociology majors.
- (2) The Department has a new online MS degree in Criminology. The current enrollment for the first-year cohort (Fall 2023) is already at 26 students.
- (3) Criminology is now the primary or secondary specialization of at least ten faculty, or about 42% of the total faculty (with additional faculty who sometimes publish in the area). This is the modal specialization in the Department.
- (4) The Department is starting a prison education program at the Wende Correctional Facility (expected launch in Fall 2024). This initiative was spurred, and will be carried forward, by faculty specializing in Criminology.

Whereas, the descriptive nature of “Sociology and Criminology” in the name of the Department will better reflect the actual composition of the Department faculty and their specializations.

Whereas, in a “[Report](#) of the ASA Task Force on Sociology and Criminology Programs,” the American Sociological Association is clear that “Department names should accurately reflect the program(s) offered.”

Whereas, the name change will help with recruitment to both Criminology programs (undergraduate and MS).

Whereas, the name change will help align PhD student interests with those of faculty.

Whereas, the name change will help to repair the mismatch of 42% of faculty specialized in Criminology, and less than 10% of the Department’s PhD students share this specialization.

Whereas, the name change will aid research productivity in the Department among

faculty and graduate students, and job outcomes among PhD students.

Whereas, the new name will not only align with the Department's recruitment strategies and faculty composition, but it will create a stronger profile for current students, alumni, and potential donors.

Whereas, there are enough Sociology-Criminology named departments across the United States that the ASA created a [task force](#) to examine such programs.

Whereas, the Department will continue to cultivate and maintain its status as a *Sociology* department given that all of the faculty have doctorates in Sociology and even the new name will reflect that reality.

Therefore, be it resolved that, the name of the Department of Sociology be changed to the Department of Sociology and Criminology.



University at Buffalo

Faculty Affairs

Office of the Provost

To: Vice Presidents
Vice Provosts
Deans
Department Chairs
Institutional Analysis
Business Services
Human Resources
Chair, Faculty Senate
UB Now

From: Robert Granfield
Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Granfield'.

Subject: Department of Sociology Name Change

Date: June 4, 2024

This is to advise you that President Satish K. Tripathi has approved the name change of the Department of Sociololgy to the Department of Sociology and Criminology in the College of Arts and Sciences.

cc: Satish K. Tripathi, President

Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs

563 Capen Hall, Buffalo, NY 14260-1606

716 645 3594

ubvpfacultyaffairs@buffalo.edu

buffalo.edu/facultyaffairs