* Faculty in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice voted and approved changes to course requirements throughout all four of its graduate degree programs.  These changes are necessary for a few key reasons. First, our revised course requirements now better align with other top programs and peer institutions throughout the country. Second, and most importantly, course changes were necessary in order to provide our students with a comprehensive education that moved them in a timely manner through the program.  Whereas students were previously bound to meeting certain credit hour requirements in order to receive their degree, our revisions now allow students to be bound to courses rather than credit hours, which is more in-line with graduate education and its purpose.

In addition to shifting our requirements from credit hours to courses, our department also voted to alter our admissions requirements. Previously, we only accepted students into our doctoral program if they had already earned a masters degree. We propose to remove this restriciton and widen the pool of applicants to allow all prospective students the possibility of entering our doctoral program, including those without a preveiously earned masters degree.  Doing so will not only increase the quantity of applicants, but will also increase the quality. Excellent bachelors students would avoid applying to our program, as they were striving for direct entry into a PhD program. By widening our admissions pool, we will now allow these students to apply directly into our doctoral program. This decision is based in research and evidence, as no other top 10 program in Sociology or Criminology require a masters degree for entrance into their doctoral programs. Having this stipulation is hurting our applicant pool and ability to recruit top students.