

## Sociology

### Department of Sociology

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### Overview

Sociology examines the causes, characteristics, changes, and consequences of human behavior in groups, and provides an understanding of the structure and dynamics of social systems and issues. It emphasizes the study of individuals, social groups, and social systems as they relate to each other and to important societal issues, such as community, education, family, gender, social class, culture, law, health, environment, and war. Students are introduced to the history of social thought and to the applied and theoretical methods used to study these diverse topics. Training in sociology prepares students for a wide variety of professional careers and for active, enlightened participation in local, national, and world affairs.

### About our Degrees

#### Acceptance Criteria

Minimum GPA of 2.0 overall.  
Minimum GPA of 2.0 in [SOC 101](#) and in two other sociology courses.

#### Degree Requirements

Please see [Degrees and Policies](#).

### About our Courses

#### The typical class size for:

Freshman/introductory courses is: 300-350 ([SOC 101](#))  
Sophomore/intermediate courses is: 100-150  
Upper level/advanced courses is: 35-150

#### Suggested Introductory Courses

- [SOC 101](#) Introduction to Sociology
- [SOC 201](#) Structure of American Society
- [SOC 206](#) Social Problems

#### In the Department of Sociology, what do teaching assistants (TA's) do?

They hold office hours and assist in grading. Advanced doctoral students occasionally teach day classes and more frequently staff courses taught at night and during the summer.

For course descriptions, please see [Courses](#).

### About our Faculty

The faculty of the Department of Sociology are well-published, with many having achieved national and international prominence. To learn about their areas of expertise, visit the [faculty](#) link on our departmental Web site.

See a list of our [Undergraduate Faculty](#).

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### Transfer Policy

Students may transfer sociology courses taken elsewhere; however, the department accepts no more than 15 credit hours of appropriate sociology courses toward the major requirements. Course descriptions may need to be provided to the department.

### Extracurricular Activities

[Alpha Kappa Delta](#)/Zeta Chapter at UB accepts sociology majors with a minimum GPA of 3.0 in sociology and overall. Students must have completed at least 12 credit hours in sociology and must be at least a junior. For more information, call 716-645-2417.

The Undergraduate Sociology Association (USA) welcomes all sociology majors as members. Attending the meetings and parties of USA is one of the best ways to get connected to the department. USA sponsors visiting speakers, facilitates participation in the annual student conference, offers career counseling, and otherwise serves as a gathering-point for student interests and activities. Each year USA organizes the departmental graduation ceremony. For more information, call (716) 645-2417.

See the [UB Student Association](#).

### Practical Experience and Special Academic Opportunities

### Career Information and Further Study

A background in sociology is valuable preparation for careers in almost any modern organizational setting. Graduates apply their knowledge and skills across a wide variety of occupations and professions including recreation, law enforcement, and human services. They are also prepared for graduate and professional school programs in areas such as law, public policy, business, social work, or psychology.

#### **Skills gained in this program include:**

**Research:** Research methods, research theory, statistics, evaluating evidence, and examining electronic data sources

**Critical Thinking:** Ability to think conceptually, and understanding components of complex problems

**Communication:** Writing, teaching, speaking to groups, presenting research findings, and reading critically

**Human Relations:** Understanding human relationships and diversity, identifying cultural/social considerations, crisis intervention, and counseling

**Additional Transferable Skills:** Managing, promoting, selling, analyzing, interpreting, editing, advising, organizing, problem solving, conflict resolution, and detail orientation

#### **Career Choices**

- Advertising
- Banker
- Career counselor
- Caseworker
- City manager
- Community organizer
- Consultant
- Criminologist
- Demography education
- Editor
- Environmental researcher
- Financial services
- Government services
- Human resources
- Lawyer
- Market researcher
- Mediator
- Peace Corps volunteer

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- Policy analyst
- Professor
- Public health educator
- Research analyst or scientist
- Social worker
- Statistician
- Survey researcher
- Training and development
- Urban development

Recent graduates in Sociology have found employment in the following fields:

- Business
- Education
- Law enforcement
- Social services

Work settings include:

- Colleges/universities
- Corporations/businesses
- K-12 schools
- Law firms
- Non-profit/community service organizations
- Publishing firms
- US and state governments

### Career Hints

Employers are looking for experience and development of skills from that experience. Internships, part-time jobs, and volunteer activities in areas related to a student's career goals offer excellent methods of gaining experience and developing skills.

Students should:

- Participate in leadership roles in extracurricular activities
- Take electives relating to their career goals
- Participate in a directed research project through the department
- Volunteer at places of career interest

### Salary Information

Salaries vary considerably from one occupation, position, and work setting to another. In today's information age, however, sociology graduates possess marketable skills which are in high demand by employers.

### Degrees Offered

**Undergraduate:** BA, Minor

**Graduate:** MA, PhD

### Links to Further Information About this Program

- [Undergraduate Catalog](#)
- [Undergraduate Admissions](#)
- [Graduate Admissions](#)
- [Department of Sociology](#)
- [College of Arts and Sciences](#)

#### **Sociology - B.A.**

##### **Acceptance Criteria**

Minimum GPA of 2.0 overall.

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Minimum GPA of 2.0 in [SOC 101](#) and in two other sociology courses.

### Advising Notes

Minimum grade of C required in [SOC 101](#), [SOC 293](#), [SOC 294](#), and [SOC 349](#)

Double majors must meet all the departmental requirements noted above.

Joint majors are possible only with other majors that offer the BA degree. Students must complete [SOC 101](#), [SOC 293](#), [SOC 294](#), and [SOC 349](#) with a minimum grade of C in each course, and four additional sociology courses.

### Prerequisite Courses

[SOC 101](#) Introduction to Sociology  
Two other SOC courses

### Required Courses

[SOC 293](#) Social Research Methods (may substitute [PSY 250](#) or [SSC 213](#) with the addition of 3 credit hours of sociology electives)

[SOC 294](#) Basic Statistics for Social Sciences (may substitute [CEP 207](#), [ECO 480](#), [PSC 408](#), [PSY 207](#), [STA 119](#), or [SSC 225](#) with the addition of 3 credit hours of sociology electives)

[SOC 349](#) Classical Sociological Theory

Eight SOC electives at any level

### Summary

Total required credit hours for the major: 36

See [Baccalaureate Degree Requirements](#) for general education and remaining university requirements.

### Recommended Sequence of Program Requirements

#### FIRST YEAR

Fall [SOC 101](#)

Spring One 200-level SOC elective

#### SECOND YEAR

Fall [SOC 293](#) (may substitute [PSY 250](#) or [SSC 213](#) with the addition of 3 credit hours of sociology electives)

Spring [SOC 294](#) (may substitute [CEP 207](#), [ECO 480](#), [PSC 408](#), [PSY 207](#), [STA 119](#), or [SSC 225](#) with the addition of 3 credit hours of sociology electives)

#### THIRD YEAR

Fall [SOC 349](#); one 300/400-level SOC elective

Spring Two 300/400-level SOC electives

#### FOURTH YEAR

Fall Two 300/400-level SOC electives

Spring Two 300/400-level SOC electives

## Sociology - Minor

### Acceptance Criteria

Minimum GPA of 2.0 overall.

Minimum GPA of 2.0 in the prerequisite courses.

### Advising Notes

Four courses within the minor must be 300- or 400-level courses.

### Prerequisite Courses

[SOC 101](#) Introduction to Sociology

Two other SOC courses

### Required Courses

Three additional sociology courses (9 credit hours)

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### Summary

Total required credit hours for the minor: 18

### **SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology**

**Credits:** 3

**Semester(s):** Fall, Spring

**Type:** LEC/DIS

Introduces fundamental ideas and concepts of sociology, including culture, norms, status, role, socialization, stratification, industrialization, urbanization, and bureaucratization.

### **SOC 111: Contemporary Popular Music**

**Credits:** 3

**Type:** LEC

Same as [AMS 111](#). Outlines historical developments that helped formulate today's jazz and rock movements. Emphasizes roots and foundations of the forms.

### **SOC 201: Structure of American Society**

**Credits:** 3

**Type:** LEC

Introduces principal features and modern tendencies of patterned behavior in American society.

### **SOC 205: Sociology of Art**

**Credits:** 3

**Type:** LEC

Examines the linkages between social processes and artistic endeavors. Emphasizes the manners in which art, both historically and currently, has affected societies and influenced social behaviors.

### **SOC 206: Social Problems**

**Credits:** 3

**Type:** LEC

Examines social problems and their history, theoretical perspectives in the literature, and social problems as related to and distinguished from the concepts of deviance and social disorganization.

### **SOC 211: Sociology of Diversity**

**Credits:** 3

**Type:** LEC

Provides a sociological introduction to diversity in American society. Explores the bases and social implications of difference with particular reference to issues of race, ethnicity, religion, class, and

gender.

### **SOC 235: Sociology of American Jews**

**Credits:** 3

**Type:** LEC

Introduces the sociology of American Jews. Addresses the social foundations of the Jewish cultural experience, and, specifically, the relationship between the diverse population of Jewish religious adherents in the United States and the larger American society. Pays particular attention to issues of identity, family, social institutions, educational systems, assimilation, accommodation, and community matters. Additionally, the course moves beyond a strictly sociological perspective to present a survey and overview of the issues pertinent to the Jewish experience in America.

### **SOC 293: Social Research Methods**

**Credits:** 3

**Type:** LEC

Examines content analysis, unobtrusive measures, participant observation, surveys, field experiments, the relationship of methods to social theory development, ethical implications of the methods, and the use of research findings for designing social programs.

### **SOC 294: Basic Statistics for Social Sciences**

**Credits:** 3

**Type:** LEC

Provides a foundation in the mathematics underlying statistical techniques for interpreting quantitative social data.

### **SOC 302: Race & Ethnicity: Asians**

**Credits:** 3

**Type:** LEC

### **SOC 304: Sociology of Aging**

**Credits:** 3

**Type:** LEC

Explores social and historical currents in the study of aging; physiological, social, and theoretical perspectives of gerontology; issues of daily living impinging on older persons; and the institutional and social structural consequences of demographic trends.

### **SOC 305: Organizational Sociology**

**Credits:** 3

**Type:** LEC

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### **SOC 307: Criminology**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Introduction to the sociological study of crime and criminality, with a focus on the main theories of why individuals commit crimes.

### **SOC 308: Sociology of the Life Course**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Introduces theories and research on socialization processes. Provides an overview of development and socialization in childhood, adolescence, and adulthood.

### **SOC 309: Introduction to Social Change**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Basic issues and forces of social and cultural changes, both historic and contemporary.

### **SOC 310: Sociology of Education**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Explores schools and colleges as social institutions in the United States and other societies.

### **SOC 311: Drugs and Society**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Examines the relationship between drugs and social context. Understanding this relationship is critical for gaining insight into why, despite the risks, people find consciousness alteration meaningful; what kinds of experiences and problems arise from their use, and what types of social policies emerge in attempts to control use. Specific areas of interest will include: shifting perspectives on drug usage in society, the emergence of drug crusades and drug legislation in America, the difference between 'licit' and 'illicit' drugs and why they become defined as such, the use and misuse of various substances, the relationship between drug use and crime, the prevention and treatment of alcohol and drug problems, and current domestic and international drug control policies.

### **SOC 313: Sociology of the Family**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Examines the family in terms of its internal structure and its relationships with major social institutions. The analysis is generally cross-cultural, specifically emphasizing the American family.

### **SOC 314: Sociology of Gender**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

The historical, social, and cultural construction of gender, focusing on the ways that femininities and masculinities are constructed from infancy through adulthood in the United States. Includes how gender shapes - and is shaped by - major social institutions such as media, sports, and work, as well as other characteristics such as social class, race/ethnicity, and sexuality.

### **SOC 315: Sociology of City Life**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Studies cities and metropolitan regions in terms of history, types, institutions, social organizations, ecological structure, and classes; urban problems; and city and regional planning.

### **SOC 317: Criminal Justice Systems**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Studies the institutions that administer criminal law: police, prosecutor, courts, probation service, and prisons and jails. Introduces substantive and procedural criminal law as applied by those institutions.

### **SOC 318: Gender and Work**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

### **SOC 319: Juvenile Justice**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Reviews past and current legal reactions to adolescent deviance, delinquency, and crime.

### **SOC 321: Race and Ethnic Relations**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Explores intergroup relations in the United States among racial, religious, nationality groups. Considers factors in the development of intergroup hostility, acculturation, assimilation, and pluralism.

### **SOC 322: Introduction to Medical Sociology**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Examines social epidemiology, including the influence of social conditions on health status, and the effect of social milieu on the appearance of chronic degenerative disease and mental disorders.

### **SOC 325: Friendship and Life Course**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

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Examines theories and research on social networks, small group development, and social support. Focuses on friendship across the life course.

### **SOC 326: Group Dynamics**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** SEM

Improves the student's ability to observe, conceptualize, and explain small-group processes by analyzing events that occur in the group. Meetings are videotaped or sound-taped to aid analysis.

### **SOC 328: Social Stratification**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Explores systems of inequality in society, including theories of social stratification from Marx to the functionalists, forms of stratification systems, inequality in the United States, class consciousness, and class action.

### **SOC 329: Population Problems**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Introduces the principles and methods of demographic analysis in sociology as it is used to examine population changes and their social, political, and economic implications for human societies.

### **SOC 331: Sociology of Poverty**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Explores sociological perspectives on the issue of poverty - past and present. Topics include explanations of poverty, U.S. poverty in a global context, the experience of being poor, and anti-poverty policies.

### **SOC 332: Sociology of Work**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Presents an historical analysis of the meaning, function, and commitment to work of people in industrial societies, emphasizing the United States. Also studies the extent of job satisfaction and alienation from work.

### **SOC 334: Introduction to Mass Cultural Studies**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Examines popular culture and mass media through their relation to social processes. Introduces the tradition of cultural studies, especially the Frankfurt School of Sociology and the Birmingham School. Further considers contemporary approaches including cultural criticism, postmodernism and semiotics. Studies media

culture as institutionalized in the film, music, television, advertising and publishing industries. Analyzes the relationship between popular culture and subcultures, especially adolescent subcultures.

### **SOC 335: Sociology of Adolescence**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Explores social processes and the socialization of children and adolescents, including current patterns of generational conflict, generational succession as a social problem, and age gradings and the status system.

### **SOC 336: Sociology of Culture**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Examines patterns of communication implied by senders or inferred by receivers drawn from media. Also explores categories and rules for interpreting and creating patterns; the genesis of patterns in social science, conventional thought, practical experience, and imagination; and their effects on class, ethnic, sex, and age groupings.

### **SOC 337: Sociology of Punishment**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Studies the organizational emergence of legal institutions to treat, isolate, and punish the criminal offender.

### **SOC 338: Sociology of Sexuality**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

An overview of current theoretical and empirical approaches to the sociological study of sexuality. Sexuality is discussed at both the micro-level, including sexual practices and sexual identities of individuals, and at the macro-level, with a focus on how sexuality is shaped within institutions and by the historical context.

### **SOC 342: Soc Group in Urban Space**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

### **SOC 348: Urban Sociology**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Considers urban and metropolitan communities and their problems, including housing, transportation, urban renewal, race relations, poverty, and suburbanization.

### **SOC 349: Classical Soc Theory**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

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Explores the development of sociological theory and the forerunners of sociological thought, including contributions of Saint-Simon and Comte, Spencer, Marx, Durkheim, Weber, and others.

### **SOC 350: Contemporary Sociological Theory**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Introduces contemporary sociological theories; studies the historical background of and systematically analyzes sociological perspectives, such as functionalism, symbolic interaction, systems approaches, structuralism, and contemporary Marxism.

### **SOC 351: Sociology of Religion**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Explores religious behavior as it relates to the larger social system, including American religious phenomena and its cross-cultural perspective.

### **SOC 365: Sociology of Developing Countries**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Provides a theoretical and cross-societal comparative analysis of the social-structural, cultural, and motivational changes in developing countries.

### **SOC 368: Special Topics**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

*The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.*

Special topics in sociology determined by individual faculty interest. Topic titles and content vary from semester to semester. Check with the department for current offerings.

### **SOC 370: Special Topics**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

*The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.*

Special topics in sociology determined by individual faculty interest. Topic titles and content vary from semester to semester. Check with the department for current offerings.

### **SOC 371: Individual and Society**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Studies the relation between the individual and society. Examines

major theoretical problems, such as human nature; communication and language; perception; socialization; role playing; and the interdependence of values, ideologies, and social structures.

### **SOC 373: Sociology of Law**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Introduces social science materials on the nature of law, legal institutions, the legal profession, and the impact of law on behavior. Also considers theories of law and legality, comparative legal systems, police, lawyers, judges, jury, the effect of law on behavior, and the use of social science in the courts.

### **SOC 375: Postmodernism and War**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Explores war as a system of organized violence. Also examines state war (external war) and class war (internal war), the military-police complex, and the polymorphous violence of contemporary society.

### **SOC 379: Sociology of Literature**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Examines popular magazine fiction in relation to levels of taste and general values, and novels as presenting social strata. Utilizes selected scientific studies. Requires individual projects.

### **SOC 381: Contemporary Protest Movements**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Introductory course; involves the theoretical and empirical study of reform movements.

### **SOC 384: Collective Behavior and Social Movements**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Studies the individual's participation in, and the structure, strategies, and developments of, organized groups that attempt to change society.

### **SOC 390: Race, Class, and Gender in the U.S. Military**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Examines race, class, and gender relations in the United States armed forces. Studies the military as a social institution. With the help of sociological concepts, theories, and methods, students analyze both the internal organization and the practices of the armed forces and the relationships between the military and other institutions. Additional topics include recent Congressional hearings and military policies on race relations, women in combat, sexual

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harassment, sexual orientation, and quality-of-life issues.

### **SOC 401: Family in Comparative Per**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** SEM

Examines families in East Asia through the lens of sociological and economic family theory. Students will have the opportunity to evaluate different theories, comparing the assumptions on which they are based and ultimately discussing which theoretical perspectives most closely fit the data available for East Asia. During the semester, we will look at topics such as marriage, cohabitation, fertility, the division of household labor, divorce, remarriage, and intergenerational transfers in the context of East Asia.

### **SOC 405: Sociology of Deviance**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Explores deviant behavior, and studies the sociological determinants of crime and delinquency, mental disorders, alcoholism, and drug addiction.

### **SOC 422: Senior Seminar in Medical Sociology**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** SEM

Social factors play a critical role in health. Social conditions and situations not only promote the possibility of illness and disability; they also enhance prospects of disease prevention and health maintenance. Examines the social facets of health and disease, the social functions of health organizations, the social behavior of health personnel and the users of health care, and the relationship of health-care systems to other social systems.

### **SOC 431: Historical Sociology**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Investigates the connection between biography, social structure and history.

### **SOC 440: Social Theories of Gender**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** SEM

Reviews issues in critical theory, feminist theory, and postmodernism as they relate to sociology.

### **SOC 446: Environmental Sociology**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** SEM

Examines the emerging field of environmental sociology in theoretical and substantive ways, focusing on issues of importance in all modern industrial societies. Concerns the reciprocal relationship between human societies and change within the natural

environment.

### **SOC 464: Sociology of the Arts**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Considers reflection, social control, influence, and other theories of how the arts function in primitive and modern societies and cultures; also examines audiences and their relation to artists' roles.

### **SOC 467: Sociology and Social Policy**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Provides a critical evaluation of how sociological research can affect the development, revision, and application of social policies. Conducts a broad examination of legislative and economic issues within a sociological perspective.

### **SOC 468: Special Topics**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** SEM

*The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.*

Special topics in sociology determined by individual faculty interest. Topic titles and content vary from semester to semester. Check with the department for current offerings.

### **SOC 477: Sociology of Health Care**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** SEM

Explores sociological perspectives on the role of health care facilities and systems in the larger society. Topics covered include the quality and availability of health care, training and socialization of care providers, governmental versus private control, and individual rights within health care.

### **SOC 481: Special Topics**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** SEM

*The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.*

Special topics in sociology determined by individual faculty interest. Topic titles and content vary from semester to semester. Check with the department for current offerings.

### **SOC 482: Senior Seminar: Sociology of Law**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** SEM

Covers advanced topics in deviance, juvenile justice, legal institutions, and criminology.

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### **SOC 485: Social Change**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** LEC

Examines class interests, agency, social movements, culture and other important issues embedded in historical and contemporary perspectives on the processes of social change. We consider such topics and their place in understanding how society changes. Our focus is on change in the United States; however, we also look at case examples from other parts of the world and discuss how globalization impacts on our understanding of the processes of social change.

### **SOC 492: Analysis of Social Data**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** SEM

Special topics in the quantitative analysis of social data.

### **SOC 496: Internship Program**

**Credits:** 1-6  
**Type:** TUT

Typically conducted in a community agency, government office, or private setting. Gives students the opportunity to observe and participate in a variety of work experiences related to sociology. Open to sociology majors with junior or senior class standing only.

### **SOC 497: Honors Program**

**Credits:** 3  
**Type:** TUT

Participation in the departmental honors program

### **SOC 499: Independent Study**

**Credits:** 1-12  
**Type:** TUT

*The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.*

A program of work agreed upon by the student and a faculty sponsor. Requires a faculty sponsor in the department before registering.