

FORM G
BOARD OF REGENTS, STATE OF IOWA
PROPOSAL FOR PROGRAM/DEPARTMENT NAME CHANGE

Institution: Iowa State University
 Current Title of Program/Department: B.S. in Agriculture and Society
 Proposed Title of Program/Department: B.S. in Agricultural and Rural Policy Studies
 Name of College: Agriculture and Life Sciences
 Approximate date to implement changes: June 2022
 Contact person: (name, telephone, e-mail): Dr. David Peters, 515-294-6303, dpeters@iastate.edu

Please do not use acronyms without defining them.

1. Describe reasons (justification) for the proposed changes.

Both students and alumni have expressed the need for changes in the current Agriculture and Society (AgSo) major. More students are interested in pursuing careers in agricultural and rural development policy. Students see a critical need to change the name of the AgSo major, as it is often confusing to employers. To obtain more detailed information, instead of anecdote, a web survey was administered to all 35 current students and 286 alumni with known email addresses in January and February 2021 (response rate of 71.4 percent for students and 30.4 percent for alumni).

In general, students are only moderately satisfied with the AgSo major. Nearly all students said the AgSo major needs a new direction, with 63 percent favoring a policy focus and 27 percent a focus on agricultural communications or farming. Consistent with a focus on policy, 86 percent of students have some interest in a future career in agricultural or rural policy, with one-third indicating this as a primary career interest.

In addition, the Agriculture and Society name is very problematic with current students, with 91 percent saying the name of the degree needs to change. Alumni also tended to favor a name change, but less so than students. Recent graduates (since 2005) were 77 percent in favor of a new name, as were 66 percent of those who graduated between 1995 and 2004. By contrast, only 50 percent of older graduates (pre-1995) were supportive.

The faculty in the Department of Sociology voted 17-0 in favor of changing the name of the major to Agricultural and Rural Policy Studies following the April 14, 2021 faculty meeting.

2. How will the proposed change affect current students?

The needs assessment shows Agriculture and Society (AgSo) students are very supportive of the proposed name change. Our plan is to make the re-named major open to students beginning in the fall term of 2022. We do not expect any disruptions in student degree progress. However, some current AgSo students have indicated the desire to switch to the new major when approved.

3. If relevant, have accreditation requirements been addressed?

There are no issues with accreditation.

4. If relevant, describe program configuration changes that will accompany the proposed program or department name change, e.g., change in number of credit hours required, faculty appointments, etc.

There will be no major program changes associated with the new name, apart from expanding agricultural and policy content in existing courses.

5. If relevant, identify resources that will be needed in connection with the proposed program or department name change, e.g., facilities, faculty, funds, etc.

Program changes are not expected to have a major impact on resources within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) or ISU. There are three tenure-track faculty members, one adjunct faculty member, and a half-time lecturer devoted to CALs teaching in the Department of Sociology. Other support provided by CALs is sufficient at the present time.

6. Is this intended to be a temporary or permanent change? If temporary, for how long?

The change in the name of the major will be permanent.

Academic Program Approval Voting Record

This document is to be appended as the last page of the proposal for any new or revised academic program to record the successive votes of approval as the proposal moves through its required review and approval steps. Consult Faculty Handbook Section 10.8 or the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee website for information regarding Committee review and voting requirements for each action.

Curricular Action: (check appropriate boxes below)

1. New Program Name Change Discontinuation Concurrent Degree for:
2. Undergraduate Major Graduate Major Undergraduate Minor Graduate Minor
 Undergraduate Certificate Graduate Certificate Other: _____
3. Name of Proposed Change: B.S. in Agricultural and Rural Policy Studies
4. Name of Contact Person: Dr. David Peters e-mail address: dpeters@iastate.edu
5. Primary College: Agriculture & Life Sciences Secondary College: Liberal Arts & Sciences
6. Involved Department(s): Sociology

Voting record for this curricular action:

Voting Body	Votes			Date of Vote
	For	Against	Abstain	
Dept. or Program Committee	17	0	0	4/14/2021
College Curriculum Committee	14	0	0	9/17/2021
College Approval Vote	92	5	1	9/27/21
Graduate Council				
Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee	5	0	0	9/29/2021
Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Council	11	0	0	1/27/2022
Faculty Senate				