

Status: PENDING

**PROGRAM REQUEST**  
Rural Sociology

Last Updated: Myers, Dena Elizabeth  
07/29/2011

<b>Fiscal Unit/Academic Org</b>	Sch of Enviro&Natural Res - D1173
<b>Administering College/Academic Group</b>	Food, Agric & Environ Science
<b>Co-administering College/Academic Group</b>	
<b>Semester Conversion Designation</b>	Converted with minimal changes to program goals and/or curricular requirements (e.g., sub-plan/specialization name changes, changes in electives and/or prerequisites, minimal changes in overall structure of program, minimal or no changes in program goals or content)
<b>Current Program/Plan Name</b>	Rural Sociology
<b>Proposed Program/Plan Name</b>	Rural Sociology
<b>Program/Plan Code Abbreviation</b>	RURLSOC-MS
<b>Current Degree Title</b>	Master of Science

**Credit Hour Explanation**

Program credit hour requirements		A) Number of credit hours in current program (Quarter credit hours)	B) Calculated result for 2/3rds of current (Semester credit hours)	C) Number of credit hours required for proposed program (Semester credit hours)	D) Change in credit hours
Total minimum credit hours required for completion of program		45	30.0	27	3.0
Required credit hours offered by the unit	Minimum	25	16.7	15	1.7
	Maximum	40	26.7	24	2.7
Required credit hours offered outside of the unit	Minimum	10	6.7	6	0.7
	Maximum	25	16.7	15	1.7
Required prerequisite credit hours not included above	Minimum	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Maximum	0	0.0	0	0.0

**Program Learning Goals**

Note: these are required for all undergraduate degree programs and majors now, and will be required for all graduate and professional degree programs in 2012. Nonetheless, all programs are encouraged to complete these now.

- Program Learning Goals**
- Students will develop understanding of concepts and theories in rural sociology, and learn how to pursue scholarly research in the field and apply their knowledge and technical skills to related problems.
  - Students will develop in depth knowledge in either the sociology of agriculture, environment and natural resources and/or social change and development.
  - Students will rigorously familiarize themselves with literature relevant to their thesis research topic.
  - Students will identify questions that can be realistically pursued as a master's thesis.
  - Students will design and carry out appropriate studies or experiments to address their master's thesis research questions.
  - Students will analyze the results of their master's thesis studies or experiments, and incorporate those results into a coherent master's thesis.
  - Students will develop effective skills to communicate rural sociological research orally and in writing.

**Assessment**

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Assessment plan includes student learning goals, how those goals are evaluated, and how the information collected is used to improve student learning. An assessment plan is required for undergraduate majors and degrees. Graduate and professional degree programs are encouraged to complete this now, but will not be required to do so until 2012.

**Is this a degree program (undergraduate, graduate, or professional) or major proposal? Yes**

**Does the degree program or major have an assessment plan on file with the university Office of Academic Affairs? No**

**DIRECT MEASURES (means of assessment that measure performance directly, are authentic and minimize mitigating or intervening factors)**

**Direct assessment methods specifically applicable to graduate programs**

- Research proposals written and grants awarded
- Thesis/dissertation oral defense and/or other oral presentation
- Thesis/dissertation (written document)

**INDIRECT MEASURES (means of assessment that are related to direct measures but are steps removed from those measures)**

**Additional types of indirect evidence**

- Job or post-baccalaureate education placement

**USE OF DATA (how the program uses or will use the evaluation data to make evidence-based improvements to the program periodically)**

- Meet with students directly to discuss their performance
- Analyze and discuss trends with the unit's faculty

**Program Specializations/Sub-Plans**

If you do not specify a program specialization/sub-plan it will be assumed you are submitting this program for all program specializations/sub-plans.

**Pre-Major**

**Does this Program have a Pre-Major? No**

**Attachments**

- SENR\_FINAL\_Q2S\_COVERLTR.pdf: SENR cover letter  
*(Letter from Program-offering Unit. Owner: Hitzhusen, Gregory Ernest)*
- RuralSocMS:PhDProposals.docx: Rural Soc MS/PhD program proposal  
*(Program Proposal. Owner: Hitzhusen, Gregory Ernest)*

**Comments**

- cover letter explains conversion/termination request. Attached proposal document includes course lists, degree requirements, rationales, transition and termination plans. *(by Hitzhusen, Gregory Ernest on 07/27/2011 04:55 PM)*

Status: PENDING

**PROGRAM REQUEST**  
Rural Sociology

Last Updated: Myers,Dena Elizabeth  
07/29/2011

**Workflow Information**

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Hitzhusen,Gregory Ernest	11/27/2010 12:12 AM	Submitted for Approval
Revision Requested	Hitzhusen,Gregory Ernest	12/10/2010 02:49 PM	Unit Approval
Submitted	Hitzhusen,Gregory Ernest	12/12/2010 04:23 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Hitzhusen,Gregory Ernest	12/12/2010 04:24 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Pfister,Jill Ann	01/14/2011 04:55 PM	SubCollege Approval
Approved	Pfister,Jill Ann	01/14/2011 04:55 PM	College Approval
Approved	Myers,Dena Elizabeth	01/19/2011 10:11 AM	GradSchool Approval
Revision Requested	Soave,Melissa A	07/27/2011 08:20 AM	CAA Approval
Submitted	Hitzhusen,Gregory Ernest	07/27/2011 04:55 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Hitzhusen,Gregory Ernest	07/27/2011 04:55 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Pfister,Jill Ann	07/27/2011 09:18 PM	SubCollege Approval
Approved	Pfister,Jill Ann	07/27/2011 09:19 PM	College Approval
Approved	Myers,Dena Elizabeth	07/29/2011 11:34 AM	GradSchool Approval
Pending Approval	Cameron,Erin Marie Soave,Melissa A	07/29/2011 11:34 AM	CAA Approval



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To: The Office of Academic Affairs  
From: Ron Hendrick, Professor and Director  
Date: June 30, 2011  
Re: School of Environment and Natural Resources Semester Program Proposals

The faculty and staff of the School of Environment and Natural Resources (SENR) have completed a thorough review and revision of our undergraduate and graduate curricula in preparation for the conversion to semesters, and the SENR faculty has voted to recommend that the Office of Academic Affairs approve the attached semester curriculum proposals. In addition to the work of several curricular sub-committees within the School, the SENR Academic Affairs Committee reviewed and approved all semester conversion plans for undergraduate programs, and the SENR Graduate Studies Committee reviewed and approved plans for the MS, PhD, and MENR graduate programs. SENR faculty approved these semester plans by unanimous vote (25 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions) on April 16, 2010; subsequent minor revisions and updates to the plans have been approved by SENR curriculum committees as appropriate.

The following outline details the SENR programs proposed for semester: A) conversion, B) new approval, C) termination, and D) conversion with minimal changes but subsequent termination.

**A. Existing SENR programs to be converted to semesters include:**

(Note: Rural Sociology programs included below became part of SENR in 2010; program degree codes are in parentheses following program titles; specialization three-letter codes are in parentheses following specializations.)

**Four Undergraduate Majors:**

- 1) Environmental Science (ENVSCI-BS): *modified from four to five specializations representing existing focal areas in the major, including Ecosystem Restoration (ECR), Water Science (WTR), Environmental Molecular Science (EMS), Soil Resources and Environmental Sustainability (SOI), and Environmental Science Education (ESE).*
- 2) Forestry, Fisheries, and Wildlife (FFW-BS): *converted as semester equivalent, with appropriate revisions to maintain certification and double-certification options uniquely available (compared with other programs nationally) to students in this major, including Society of American Foresters (SAF) accreditation and The Wildlife Society (TWS) and American Fisheries Society (AFS) certifications. Three-letter specialization codes for FFW specializations (FAS, FOR, FWM, UFW, WFS, WPV, WLS) are detailed in the comment field of the FFW-BS program request.*
- 3) Environmental Policy and Decision Making (ENVPDM-BS): *modified in title (previously Environmental Policy and Management (EPM)) and designating three specializations based on existing focal areas in the major: Climate Change (CCP), International Issues (IIP), and Water Conservation (WCP).*
- 4) Natural Resource Management (NATRESM-BS): *modified in title (previously Parks, Recreation & Tourism (PRT)) and designating three specializations based on existing and emerging focal areas (made possible by the addition of Rural Sociology faculty to SENR in 2010) in the major: Parks and Recreation Management (PRM), Natural Resource Administration and Management (NRA), and Sustainable Agriculture (SAG), with additional focus-area options (non-transcript) aligned with employment opportunities and existing programs in the School: Forestry, Fisheries, Wildlife, Soil and Water, Visitor Services, and Zoo Science and Management.*

**Two Undergraduate Minors:**

- 1) Soil Resources (SOILSCI-MN): *converted as semester equivalent.*
- 2) Rural Sociology (RURLSOC-MN): *converted as semester equivalent.*

**Two Graduate Degree Programs:**

- 1) Master of Science (ENVNATR-MS): converted as **semester equivalent**
  - 2) Doctor of Philosophy (ENVNATR-PH): converted as **semester equivalent**
- The Environment and Natural Resources Graduate Program awards both MS and PhD degrees in seven areas of specialty (all converted as **semester equivalents**):
- Ecological Restoration (ERS)
  - Ecosystem Science (ECS)
  - Environmental Social Sciences (ESS)
  - Rural Sociology (RS)
  - Fisheries and Wildlife Science (FWS)
  - Forest Science (FS)
  - Soil Science (SSC)

**Three Graduate Minors** (all converted as **semester equivalents**):

- 1) Environment and Natural Resources (ENVNATR-GM)
- 2) Soil Science (SOILSCI-GM)
- 3) Rural Sociology (RURLSOC-GM)

**One Professional Degree Program** (converted as **semester equivalent**):

- 1) Master of Environment and Natural Resources (ENVNAT-MEN)

**Three Combined Programs** (all combined programs will be converted as **semester equivalents**, and impose no additional requirements or provisions beyond the requirements of the combined degrees. As such, and abiding all college and university rules of the degree-granting partners, forms for **these combined degrees are not included in these SENR semester electronic program proposals**):

- 1) Combined BS/MS
- 2) Combined BS/MENR
- 3) Dual Degree Program with the John Glenn School of Public Affairs: MS/ or MENR/MAPPM (Master of Arts in Public Policy and Management) or MS/ or MENR/MPA (Master of Public Administration)

**B. New SENR semester programs proposed for approval by OAA:**

Four undergraduate minors have been developed for semesters. Three minors correspond with existing majors in the School; three of these minors collectively replace the Natural Resources Management minor (listed as terminated, below). The fourth minor, Sustainable Agriculture, has been developed through the collaboration of Rural Sociology and Soils faculty, together with colleagues from across the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

**Undergraduate Minors:**

- 1) Environmental Science (ENVSCI-MN)
- 2) Forestry, Fisheries & Wildlife (FFW-MN)
- 3) Society and Environmental Issues (SOCENV-MN)
- 4) Sustainable Agriculture (SUSTAGR-MN)

**C. SENR programs to be terminated:**

Each listed below is an old program name that has been replaced by current programs listed above, either through revised titles (1-3), being subsumed as a specialization into the ENR MS and PhD (4-7), or being replaced by more targeted options (8).

- 1) Fisheries and Wildlife Management (FWMGT-BS): no students remain under this old title
- 2) Forestry and Urban Forestry (FORUF-BS): no students remain under this old title
- 3) Human Dimensions in Natural Resources (HDNR-BS): no students remain under this old title
- 4) Natural Resources (NATRES-PH): no students remain under this old title
- 5) Natural Resources (NATRES-MS): no students remain under this old title
- 6) Soil Science (SOILSCI-PH): all students remaining under this old title will graduate by 2012
- 7) Soil Science (SOILSCI-MS): all students remaining under this old title will graduate by 2012

8) Natural Resources Management Minor (NATRESM-MN): this minor is being terminated because of its broad scope and is being replaced by the more specific new minors listed above that correspond to existing majors; no new students will be admitted after Spring 2012, and this minor should be terminated upon moving current students to appropriate (more targeted) new minors, which should be completed by Summer 2012.

**D. SENR programs to be converted with minimal changes, but to be terminated thereafter:**

No new students will be admitted to these programs effective immediately; the programs should be terminated upon the completion of the last student in the program, which should be no later than Spring 2015.

- 1) Rural Sociology (RURLSOC-MS)
- 2) Rural Sociology (RURLSOC-PH)

SENR faculty and staff have worked tirelessly to develop these plans, engaging in a thorough and collegial process. Two faculty retreats devoted significant time to semester conversion plans, and all faculty meetings beginning in the fall of 2009 included updates and discussion about semester conversion planning. Dr. Greg Hitzhusen was appointed by the School as a point person to facilitate Q2S planning, participated in regular UCAT Q2S workshops with colleagues from across the university, and established a Carmen site to share and organize Q2S working documents and resources. In addition to the committees mentioned above, several new committees led the curriculum development process, including four faculty working groups formed within each of the majors, and a core curriculum committee of a dozen faculty representing all of the specializations across the four undergraduate majors and including myself and the chairs of the Grad Studies Committee and Academic Affairs Committee. These groups reviewed all recent SENR curriculum revisions, researched semester programs of peer institutions, and generated creative proposals of how to improve and better integrate our multi-disciplinary curriculum. Curriculum mapping revealed gaps and overlap in our curriculum; to match our semester courses to our learning goals, at least nine new courses have been proposed, several others have been merged, and at least 75 courses will be discontinued. As a previous director of a Natural Resources program that underwent semester conversion at the University of Georgia, I provided guidance to revise SENR's curricular offerings around our core strengths, guided by learning outcome goals and encouraging options beyond existing structures and traditions. Several SENR faculty and staff participated in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences bi-weekly Q2S Implementation Committee meetings starting in November 2009, sharing planning ideas with Q2S point people from across the College.

We also based our semester curriculum development on several faculty-led research efforts. Our social science faculty created a survey of environmental curriculum interests and career goals for CFAES, SENR and OSU undergraduate student samples, and results from over 1300 respondents (published results now *in press*) informed our vision of student interests, needs, and knowledge about the environmental topics addressed in SENR programs. We also completed phone interviews with SENR alumni and stakeholders to examine curricular elements most valuable to graduates and employers. And I conducted exit interviews of SENR students to better understand their experience in SENR programs. These measures and the efforts mentioned above collectively led the faculty to propose an expanded core of courses to help SENR students better integrate natural and social science elements of the curriculum, and to modify the majors as described above. The core curriculum committee will remain intact to monitor the quality and success of the semester curriculum, and make revisions as appropriate into the future.

This proposed curriculum represents welcome changes that increase the efficiency and complementarity of SENR programs, maximizing the expertise of our faculty and improving opportunities for SENR students to prepare for graduate education and succeed in their professional careers. I have also attached a commentary detailing SENR's preliminary assessment plans for semester programs. These program proposals reflect the outstanding collaborative efforts of SENR faculty to prepare for the semester transition. I heartily recommend approval of these plans, and appreciate OAA's ongoing efforts to strengthen our curriculum in OSU's transition to semesters.



Ronald L. Hendrick, Ph.D.  
Director, SENR

## **Rural Sociology MS and PhD Program Proposals**

### **Conversion with minimal changes and future termination (2015)**

#### **Program Rationale and Rationale for Changes**

The Rural Sociology program at Ohio State is described in further detail below; for the purposes of semester conversion, the following points summarize the rationale for conversion with minimal changes and future termination:

1. The Rural Sociology department was joined with the School of Environment and Natural Resources in 2010. As a result, all Rural Sociology programs are in the process of being incorporated as specializations within existing Environment and Natural Resources (ENVNATR) programs.
2. Specifically, the Rural Sociology MS and PhD degrees are being replaced by ENVNATR-MS and ENVNATR-PH. Students will no longer enroll in RURLSOC-MS/PhD effective immediately, but will choose Rural Sociology as an area of specialization in ENVNATR-MS/PhD.
3. All current Rural Sociology graduate students will finish their programs by Summer 2015, at which point the Rural Sociology MS and PhD programs will be terminated.

#### **Philosophy Statement on Rural Sociology Graduate Education**

The foundation for graduate study in Rural Sociology is the discipline of sociology, the study of human societies and social groups. Rural Sociology is a sub-field of sociology, drawing from the same theoretical and empirical foundations as the broader discipline. Graduate programs in Rural Sociology provide a systematic treatment of rural studies in addition to training in a range of theories, methods, and statistics used in the discipline of sociology.

#### **Graduate Programs in Rural Sociology**

Rural Sociology at Ohio State dates back to 1904 with the founding of the Department of Rural Economics. The first step toward a separate program came in 1913 when the first Rural Sociology course was offered, followed quickly by others. Rural Sociology at Ohio State frequently has been a leader in the discipline in the United States and

internationally. Our faculty have produced important undergraduate textbooks in the discipline and ground breaking scholarly works on social change, diffusion of innovation, locality and inequality, soil and water conservation, labor market restructuring and policy, the Amish, rural crime, women in development, and international development.

Current Rural Sociology faculty members have national and international reputations and are active in both the Rural Sociological Society and the American Sociological Association. Rural Sociology faculty also are members of professional organizations that match their substantive interests, including the American Sociological Association, the Society for Community Development, the American Society of Criminology, the Southern Sociological Society, the Latin American Studies Association, the Applied Anthropology Association, the Population Association of America, and the Soil and Water Conservation Society. Several faculty members sit on important national committees and hold influential positions in these associations.

Rural Sociology maintains strong ties to Ohio State University Extension (OSUE) and the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC). Therefore, Rural Sociology graduate students have opportunities for interdisciplinary and applied as well as academic, discipline-based research.

## **Semester Course List and Degree Requirements:**

**(requirements under quarters copied below for comparison)**

### **Rural Sociology Ph.D. Program (Semesters)**

	<b>Credits</b>
<b>Sociological Theory</b> [*required]	<b>12</b>
SOCIOL 705 -- Construction and Verification of Theory	3
SOCIOL 747 -- Theories of Social Change	3
SOCIOL 761 -- Social Stratification	3
SOCIOL 771 -- Symbolic Interaction	3
SOCIOL 782 -- Earlier Developments in Sociological Theory*	3
SOCIOL 792 -- Structural Sociology	3
SOCIOL 884.01 -- Sociological Theory	3



<b>Research Methodology</b> [*required]	<b>12</b>
SOCIOL 649 -- Principles of Multiple Regression	3
SOCIOL 651 -- Approaches to Sociological Inquiry	3
SOCIOL 703 -- Advanced Single Equation Techniques	3
SOCIOL 704 -- Qualitative Methods in Sociology	3
SOCIOL 707 -- Multi-Equation Quantitative Models*	3
SOCIOL 708 -- Problems in Qualitative Analysis	3
SOCIOL 748 -- Comparative Methods in Sociology	3
SOCIOL 850 -- Seminar in Sociological Research Methods	3

<b>Field in Rural Sociology</b> [*required]	<b>12</b>
RURLSOC 7600 -- Concepts and Theories in Rural Sociology*	3
Other Rural Sociology courses (5000 level or above)	9

<b>Second Field</b> [choose one area, *required]	<b>12</b>
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***Sociology of Agriculture/Natural Resources***

RURLSOC 7560 -- Environmental Sociology*	3
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Strongly suggested:

RURLSOC 6500 -- Rural Poverty	3
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RURLSOC 5530 -- Sociology of Agriculture and Food Systems	3
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*Courses may be from Rural Sociology, Sociology, or related disciplines approved by the advisor. Normally, no more than 6 hours of 693 may be counted toward the Ph.D.*

***Social Change/Development***

RURLSOC 892/8500 -- Rural Sociology of Development and Social Change/Development Sociology in Theory & Practice*	3
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Strongly suggested:

RURLSOC 788/6550 -- Sociological Theory Applied to Domestic Development/The Change Agent	3
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RURLSOC 888/7550 -- Social Action in Community Development/Rural Community Development in Theory & Practice	3
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*Courses may be from Rural Sociology, Sociology, or related disciplines approved by the advisor. Normally, no more than 6 hours of 693 may be counted toward the Ph.D.*

<b>Third Field</b>	<b>12</b>
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*Requirements for the third field will be decided by the student in consultation with the advisor. The third field may represent a*

*social science area, an area related to the student's plan of study, or the remaining specialization in Rural Sociology.*

**Electives** **0-9**  
*Courses may be from Rural Sociology, Sociology, or related disciplines approved by the advisor. Normally, no more than 6 hours of 693 may be counted toward the Ph.D.*

**Dissertation RURLSOC 999/ENR 8998** **12**

**Candidacy and Oral Exams**

Satisfactory completion of comprehensive written and oral general examinations is required after the student completes the course work and prior to becoming a candidate for the Ph.D. degree. After his/her dissertation has been completed, the student must pass a final oral examination (commonly referred to as "the defense").

**Rural Sociology MS Program (Semesters)**

**General Rural Sociology Minimal Requirements**

	<b>Credits</b>
<b>Sociological Theory</b>	<b>6</b>
RURLSOC 7600 -- Concepts and Theories in Rural Sociology	3
SOCIOL 782 -- Earlier Developments in Sociological Theory	3
or	
SOCIOL 784 -- Later Developments in Sociological Theory	
 <b>Research Methodology</b>	 <b>3</b>
SOCIOL 649 -- Principles of Multiple Regression	3
or	
SOCIOL 651 -- Approaches to Sociological Inquiry	
 <b>Rural Sociology</b>	 <b>9</b>
RURLSOC 5520 -- Amish Society	3
RURLSOC 6500 -- Rural Poverty	3

RURLSOC 5570 -- Women in Rural Society	3
RURLSOC 5580 -- Social Impact Assessment of Domestic Development	3
ENR 6193 -- Independent Studies	1-3
ENR 6194 -- Group Studies	1-3
RURLSOC 5540 -- Rural Sociology Demography	3
RURLSOC 7560 -- Environmental Sociology	3
RURLSOC 788/6550 -- The Change Agent	3
RURLSOC 892/8500 -- Rural Sociology of Development and Social Change/Development Sociology in Theory and Practice	3
RURLSOC 888/7550 -- Social Action in Community Development/Rural Community Development in Theory and Practice	3
<b>Courses from Elective Field</b>	<b>6-12</b>
<b>Thesis Research 999/ENR 8998</b>	<b>3-6</b>
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>27-30</b>

**Thesis Option:** If you wish to delay online publication of your thesis (especially for article publication purposes), see Graduate School info [here](#) and complete the Petition to Delay Dissemination of Ohio State Dissertations and Theses.

## **Rural Sociology Course Lists and Degree Requirements Under Quarters:**

### **Ph.D. Program (quarters)**

	<b>Credits</b>
<b>Sociological Theory</b> [*required]	<b>20</b>

SOCIOL 705 -- Construction and Verification of Theory	5
SOCIOL 747 -- Theories of Social Change	5
SOCIOL 761 -- Social Stratification	5
SOCIOL 771 -- Symbolic Interaction	5
SOCIOL 782 -- Earlier Developments in Sociological Theory*	5
SOCIOL 792 -- Structural Sociology	5
SOCIOL 884.01 -- Sociological Theory	5

**Research Methodology** [\*required] **20**

RURLSOC 789 -- Survey Research Practicum	5
SOCIOL 649 -- Principles of Multiple Regression	5
SOCIOL 651 -- Approaches to Sociological Inquiry	5
SOCIOL 703 -- Advanced Single Equation Techniques	5
SOCIOL 704 -- Qualitative Methods in Sociology	5
SOCIOL 707 -- Multi-Equation Quantitative Models*	5
SOCIOL 708 -- Problems in Qualitative Analysis	5
SOCIOL 748 -- Comparative Methods in Sociology	5
SOCIOL 850 -- Seminar in Sociological Research Methods	5

**Field in Rural Sociology** [\*required] **20**

RURLSOC 742 -- Concepts and Theories in Rural Sociology*	5
Other Rural Sociology courses (600 level or above)	15

**Second Field** [choose one area, \*required] **20**

***Sociology of Agriculture/Natural Resources***

RURLSOC 766 -- Environmental Sociology*	5
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Strongly suggested:

RURLSOC 666 -- Rural Poverty	5
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RURLSOC 733 -- Sociology of Agriculture and Food Systems	5
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*Courses may be from Rural Sociology, Sociology, or related disciplines approved by the advisor. Normally, no more than 10 hours of 693 may be counted toward the Ph.D.*

***Social Change/Development***

RURLSOC 892 -- Rural Sociology of Development and Social Change*	5
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Strongly suggested:

RURLSOC 788 -- Sociological Theory Applied to Domestic Development	5
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RURLSOCy 888 -- Social Action in Community Development 5  
*Courses may be from Rural Sociology, Sociology, or related disciplines approved by the advisor. Normally, no more than 10 hours of 693 may be counted toward the Ph.D.*

**Third Field** 20  
*Requirements for the third field will be decided by the student in consultation with the advisor. The third field may represent a social science area, an area related to the student's plan of study, or the remaining specialization in Rural Sociology.*

**Electives** 0-15  
*Courses may be from Rural Sociology, Sociology, or related disciplines approved by the advisor. Normally, no more than 10 hours of 693 may be counted toward the Ph.D.*

**Dissertation RURLSOC 999** 20

**Candidacy and Oral Exams**

Satisfactory completion of comprehensive written and oral general examinations is required after the student completes the course work and prior to becoming a candidate for the Ph.D. degree. After his/her dissertation has been completed, the student must pass a final oral examination (commonly referred to as "the defense").

## MS Program (quarters)

### General Rural Sociology Minimal Requirements

	<b>Credits</b>
<b>Sociological Theory</b>	
RURLSOC 742 -- Concepts and Theories in Rural Sociology	5
SOCIOL 782 -- Earlier Developments in Sociological Theory	5
or	
SOCIOL 784 -- Later Developments in Sociological Theory	
<b>Research Methodology</b>	<b>5</b>
SOCIOL 649 -- Principles of Multiple Regression	5
or	
SOCIOL 651 -- Approaches to Sociological Inquiry	
RURLSOC 789 -- Survey Research Practicum is recommended	5
<b>Rural Sociology</b>	<b>15</b>
RURLSOC 622 -- Amish Society	5
RURLSOC 666 -- Rural Poverty	5
RURLSOC 678 -- Women in Rural Society	5
RURLSOC 688 -- Social Impact Assessment of Domestic Development	5
RURLSOC 693 -- Independent Studies	2-5
RURLSOC 694 -- Group Studies	2-4
RURLSOC 744 -- Rural Sociology Demography	5
RURLSOC 766 -- Environmental Sociology	5
RURLSOC 788 -- The Change Agent	5
RURLSOC 892 -- Rural Sociology of Development and Social Change	5
RURLSOC 888 -- Social Action in Community Development	5
<b>Courses from Elective Field</b>	<b>10-20</b>
<b>Thesis Research 999</b>	<b>5-10</b>

**Total Hours** 45-  
50

**Thesis Option:** If you wish to delay online publication of your thesis (especially for article publication purposes), see Graduate School info [here](#) and complete the [Petition to Delay Dissemination of Ohio State Dissertations and Theses](#).

## Termination Plans:

**D.1. Rural Sociology (RURLSOC-MS):** Rural Sociology joined SENR in 2010, so as with Soil Science, the Rural Sociology MS degree is being incorporated into the Rural Sociology MS (ENVNATR-MS) specialty in ENR. No new students will be admitted to this program effective immediately; the program should be terminated upon completion of the last student in the program, which should be no later than Spring 2015.

**D.2. Rural Sociology (RURLSOC-PH):** Rural Sociology joined SENR in 2010, so as with Soil Science above, the Rural Sociology PhD degree is being incorporated into the Rural Sociology PhD (ENVNATR-PH) specialty in ENR. No new students will be admitted to this program effective immediately; the program should be terminated upon completion of the last student in the program, which should be no later than Spring 2015.

## Transition Plan:

**Based on the preceding future termination plans, all current Rural Sociology graduate students remaining in the program after Spring 2012 will complete their degrees by Spring 2015 following the degree requirements listed above. Additional instructions for semester transition are posted at the following URL, including the text copied below as relevant to Rural Sociology graduate programs.**

[http://senr.osu.edu/Current\\_Students/SENR\\_Quarter\\_to\\_Semester\\_Conversion/SENR\\_Q2S\\_Curriculum\\_Conversion.htm](http://senr.osu.edu/Current_Students/SENR_Quarter_to_Semester_Conversion/SENR_Q2S_Curriculum_Conversion.htm):

SENR Graduate Programs Transition Plans:

The legacy Rural Sociology MS and PhD programs will "carry over" into semesters in order to allow current students to graduate (no new students are being admitted). Rural Sociology MS and PhD students select a faculty advisor (and the faculty member agrees to serve as academic advisor) as part of the application process. The faculty advisor and the student determine other members of the Advisory/Examination Committee (minimum 2 for Rural Sociology MS, 4 for PhD pre-candidacy, 3 for PhD post-candidacy). The Advisory/Examination Committee advises the student in coursework, research/project process and implementation, and examines and recommends revisions for completion of the MS thesis, and doctoral candidacy / final dissertation as appropriate to the rigors of the discipline and the degree.

Additional advice to students regarding semester planning is posted at the following URL, and also copied below:

[http://senr.osu.edu/Current\\_Students/SENR\\_Quarter\\_to\\_Semester\\_Conversion/Q2S\\_Semester\\_Planning.htm](http://senr.osu.edu/Current_Students/SENR_Quarter_to_Semester_Conversion/Q2S_Semester_Planning.htm):

### **GRADUATE STUDENTS**

If possible, try to complete as much coursework as you can prior to Summer 2012!

Complete the Program of Study form listing the courses you and your Advisory/Examination Committee determine are best for your graduate degree based on the current course catalog. Most graduate-level courses in SENR (and potentially in other units) should convert with different course numbers/titles.

After the course catalog for semesters is available, review your Program of Study and note which courses you have already taken under quarters and update the course numbers/titles for the courses you will take under semesters. You may either submit the updated copy of your Program of Study with faculty initials by their earlier signature, complete the update via OSU email to your committee, or request the original Program of Study from the SENR graduate program office to make notes and obtain faculty initials.

When you apply to graduate, the SENR graduate program office will manually audit your Program of Study with your actual enrollment over both quarters and semesters. If there are any discrepancies, you will need to submit a letter with your Advisory/Examination Committee's signatures explaining the changes.