

**From:** [Neff, Jennifer](#)  
**To:** [Smith, Charles William](#); [Downey, Sean](#); [Stotlar, Jackson](#)  
**Cc:** [Nathanson, Amy](#); [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#); [Steele, Rachel](#); [Hilty, Michael](#)  
**Subject:** Computational Social Science BS  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 27, 2025 9:25:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good morning,

On Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, the Social and Behavioral Sciences Subcommittee of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a new program proposal for the Computational Social Science BS.

The Subcommittee approved the request with the following feedback:

- **Comment:** The Subcommittee notes that the program request sheet in curriculum.osu.edu lists the total number of credit hours required for the program as 47, but this includes the mandated minor credits. ASCCAS staff have adjusted this in curriculum.osu.edu so that it reflects the 35 minimum *major* credits.
- **Contingency:** Major proposal will not advance to ASCC until all new courses in the major are fully approved by the SBS subcommittee.
- **Contingency:** The Subcommittee kindly requests that the following issues be addressed in a revised version of the proposal to ensure clarity and coherence:
  - There are 5 Learning Outcomes listed for Goal 2 on page 5 of the proposal, but only the first 3 appear in the Section 7 tables [Proposal pp. 20-21]. Please ensure that all outcomes are consistently listed throughout the proposal.
  - The term “proficiencies” is used in the proposal (pp. 6-7 & also p. 20) in relation to assessment. Please replace this term with “learning outcomes” for consistency and clarity.
  - The assessment plan states that “proficiencies” (learning outcomes) embedded in 4 of the 5 goals were assessed across three CSS core courses, but only goals 2 and 3 appear in Table 1: Example one year assessment plan. [Proposal pp. 6-7]
  - The sample assessment plan outlined on pp. 6-7 of the proposal lists courses and assessment tools that do not align with those presented in the table in Section 7 on page 20. Please ensure consistency between these sections, particularly for Goal 3, Outcomes C and E.
  - The implementation timeline for the assessment plan should note that all learning outcomes will be assessed once every three years, in accordance with the Office of Academic Affairs requirements. Please incorporate a clarifying sentence to that effect. [Proposal p. 7]
  - The references to “co-directors” are confusing, as the operating budget includes only one director. This should be resolved for clarity. [Proposal pp. 7, 9, 11]
  - The proposal refers to the program as a “Bachelor of Science in Computational

Social Science,” which may imply a tagged degree. Consider reworking to avoid confusion (e.g., “Computational Social Science Bachelor of Science”). [Proposal p. 11]

- The statement in the Track A CSS Program Requirements chart states that the credits for the Social Science minor count exclusively in the selected minor and do not apply to the CSS major. However, university policy allows coursework exceeding the 12-hour minimum for a minor to overlap with the major. Additionally, in the advising sheets, it is stated that the courses for each minor are not counted towards major hours. Please revise the language in these sections to reflect university policy. [Proposal p. 12; Track A Advising Sheet p. 2; Track B Advising Sheet p. 2]
- Please review all course listings in the proposal to ensure that cross-listed designations are included where applicable. For example, the listings throughout the proposal for ANTH 4706 should be ANTH/HISTORY 4706, as the course is cross listed in the Department of History.
- The paragraph beginning “An additional 6 credit hours are required from a list of approved electives” is currently located under the heading for CSS Major Core Classes, which creates confusion and suggests that these credits are part of the core coursework. Please reposition this text to fall under the CSS Elective Classes heading, eliminating any repetitive language in the section, to distinguish elective requirements. [Proposal p. 12]
- The stated range of credit hours listed for the Social Science Minor should be corrected from “12” to “12-15.” [Proposal p. 13]
- All mentions of ANTH 5505 in the proposal include an unclear note (“move here instead of the list of CSS electives”). Please clarify or remove the language. (Also note that ANTH 5505 is cross listed in the Department of Food, Agricultural, and Biological Engineering (FABENG) & the Dept of EEOB.)
- GEOG 2200 has a new title starting in AU25: “How to Map Your World: Visualizing Space and Place”.
- The four-year sample plans list two slots for the Citizenship for a Diverse and Just World Theme category. As PHILOS 2332.01 is an approved Citizenship course and one Themes course is allowed to overlap with major requirements, please revise the plan to include only one additional slot. [Proposal pp. 18-19]
- SOCIO 3488, a required course for the Sociology minor, is not included in the Track A sample plan. Please remove one of the four Sociology electives and replace it with 3488. [Proposal p. 18]
- Please remember that the course CSS 4999 needs to be created. This note is not for program approval but serves as a reminder since the course is in both sample plans.

Students are encouraged to take their Reflection Seminar (GENED 4001) in their penultimate semester rather than their last. Consider reorganizing the last semesters in the sample plans to reflect this. [Proposal pp. 18-19]

- The curriculum map should include not only required courses, but also the electives and track options for the program. Additionally, as outlined in Appendix 10 of the [ASC Curriculum and Assessment Operations Manual](#), it should indicate the level at which each learning outcome is addressed (beginning, intermediate, or advanced).
- There are some courses listed in the proposal that are withdrawn or currently in limbo and should be removed from the proposal and advising sheets:
  - ECON 2001.02
  - ECON 2002.02
  - SOCIOL 3410H (please note that while the honors version is in limbo, the regular version can remain listed as simply SOCIOL 3410)
- On the Track B advising sheet, the CSS methods requirements intended only for Track A are mistakenly listed and should be removed.
- The top of the advising sheets list “47-50” and “48” credit hours for Track A and Track B, respectively. Please consider specifying the credit hours separately for the major and minor rather than presenting them as a combined total.
- *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee notes that several GE courses from the School of Environmental and Natural Resources have been included in Track B. The Subcommittee recommends that concurrence from ENR be sought to ensure they are aware of the use of their courses within the program.

As a reminder, **contingencies** (in bold above) must be addressed and resubmitted via curriculum.osu.edu before the proposal can move forward in the approval process.

I will return the program via curriculum.osu.edu in order to address the Subcommittee’s requests in a revised proposal.

Should you have any questions about the feedback, please do not hesitate to reach out to Amy Nathanson (faculty Chair of the SBS Subcommittee) or me.

Best,  
Jennifer



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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Pronouns: she/her/hers