



Professor Ila Nagar
Chair, Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

January 28, 2026

Dear Professor Nagar and Members of the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee:

On September 10, 2025, the Social and Behavioral Sciences Subcommittee of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a proposal for a New Certificate in Holocaust and Genocide Studies put forward by the Department of Sociology, to be implemented starting in Autumn 2026. The proposed certificate is designed to serve as an undergraduate certificate, including Types 1a (stand-alone), 1b (embedded), and 2 (post-bachelor's). The Certificate will be led and advised by Sociology, and it also involves collaborations with the Departments of Germanic Languages and Literatures, History, and Near Eastern and South Asian Languages and Cultures. Each of these departments offer courses within the certificate.

The Sociology Department anticipates the proposed 12-credit certificate would meet demand from two main student populations. First, they expect current undergraduate students interested in careers or service related to education, museums, human rights, and/or public policy would all potentially seek this certificate credential. Second, the Department anticipates that professionals, including educators and museum staff seeking expertise in Holocaust and Genocide studies, will seek a postgraduate certificate through this program. Such students could seek funding to pursue the certificate from The Ohio Holocaust and Genocide Memorial and Education Commission, which has funds available to support professionals in relevant positions to complete the certificate program. This Commission was created by the Ohio legislature in December 2020, yet no similar certificates are offered at any other universities in Ohio. There are some related programs at peer institutions outside of Ohio, though only 4 of these 12 provide programs that serve undergraduate students and only 1 of the 12 provides a program that serves professionals.

The SBS Subcommittee voted unanimously to approve the request with contingencies. The Department has satisfied the contingencies, and the proposal is now advanced to the ASCC with a motion to approve.

Sincerely,

Rachel E. Dwyer, Ph.D.
Professor and Vice Chair of Sociology
Faculty Affiliate of the Institute for Population Research
Chair of the Social and Behavioral Sciences Subcommittee of the
Arts and Science Curriculum Committee