

# DIRECTED STUDY

SOCIOL 478 or 479

A Directed Study (Sociology 478 or 479) provides upper-level students with an opportunity to study a topic of interest under the supervision of a faculty member. A Directed Study may be designed as a comprehensive review of existing research on a particular topic or as an empirical research project that involves data collection. In either case, a directed study culminates with a term paper that builds upon the work done over the entire semester and may include a public presentation based on the work.

## Am I Eligible?

Students are eligible for the directed study if they meet the following criteria:

1. Major or minor in Sociology or Criminology & Criminal Justice
2. Completion of Methods of Sociological Research (SOCIOL 202)
3. Completion of Sociological Theory (SOCIOL 201) for Sociology Majors or Criminology (SOCIOL 262) for Criminology & Criminal Justice majors
4. If the directed study will count as a capstone course, the student must also have completed 75+ credits and statistics (SOCIOL 350, SOCIOL 352, or PSYCH 370)
5. If the Directed Study is being completed in fulfillment of the Honors College senior thesis requirement, students must also coordinate with their Honors College advisor to ensure they have met any additional prerequisites

## How Do I Register?

1. Students must first identify a faculty sponsor who agrees to supervise the student's project the semester prior to enrollment in the directed study.
2. Students will submit a short proposal (about 2 pages) to the faculty sponsor (due **December 1**) for a directed study the following spring, and **May 1** for a directed study in the following fall). *Potential faculty sponsors cannot guarantee timely review of proposals that do not meet these guidelines.*
3. The proposal should include a description of:
  - a. the focus of the directed study and its importance to the student
  - b. the plan of study, which may include library research, collaboration on a reading list with the faculty sponsor, or data collection methodology; &
  - c. a bibliography of a minimum of five scholarly sources.
4. If approved, the faculty member will sign and send a copy of the proposal to the Director of Undergraduate Studies who will coordinate course registration in WISER.

## What are the Requirements?

Meeting Frequency: The faculty sponsor and the student are expected to meet approximately once every two weeks but could meet more often depending on the scope of the directed study.

Research Paper Guidelines: Students should develop a project that can be completed within one semester. As a general guideline, students pursuing a 3-credit Directed Study should plan to write a 20- to 25-page paper (not including the reference list) with at least 20 scholarly references.

### **Are there Additional Opportunities if I Enroll in a Directed Study?**

Departmental Honors Major designation: Seniors with a 3.5 GPA in the major and a 3.0 GPA overall are invited to complete their Directed Study for a Department Honors Major, a designation which is noted on a student's transcript. To earn the credential, the final grade for SOCIOL 478 must be B+ or higher, and the completed research project must be presented in an open forum to interested faculty, staff and students. This could be a poster presentation during CLA Undergraduate Research Week and/or a verbal presentation for members of the Sociology department.

Undergraduate Research Portfolio: Completing a Directed Study may make you eligible to earn the Undergraduate Research Portfolio designation on your transcript. For more information, visit <https://www.umb.edu/liberal-arts/student-resources/undergraduate-research>

# DIRECTED STUDY

Sociology and/or Criminology & Criminal Justice  
SOCIOL 478 or 479

## PROPOSAL LEARNING CONTRACT

Name of Student

Student ID

E-mail Address

Faculty Sponsor for Directed Study

Working Title or Subject of the Directed Study

Number of Credits

Is this a Capstone yes/no?

Is this an Honors Project yes/no?

Semester of Directed Study

Review and check each of the following to certify that your proposal is ready to submit:

The proposal contains:

1. A statement of purpose or a research question described in one or two paragraphs
2. A method of study described in one or two paragraphs
3. A bibliography that includes at least 5 scholarly sources

I understand that I will be expected to do the following or the equivalent work as part of my directed study, subject to arrangements with the supervising faculty:

1. Write a 20- to 25-page research paper (not including the reference list) with at least 20 scholarly references.
2. Maintain regular contact with my faculty sponsor throughout the semester in which I am doing the directed study.

Signature of Student

Date

## FACULTY SPONSOR SECTION

Name and Title:

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The proposal (check one):

is complete and I will supervise this Directed Study.

needs revisions in the following areas:

Signature of Faculty Supervisor

Date

**(Optional)** This directed study is being conducted to serve as a senior thesis under the University Honors College.

Signature of Honors College Advisor

Date