NEW/CHANGE PROGRAM REQUEST
Undergraduate Programs

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

UUPC Approval 10-12-2026
UFS Approval _____
Banner _____
Catalog _____

Department Sociology

College Arts & Letters

Program Name

Families, Youth & the Life Course Concentration in the Sociology Major

☑ **New Program***

☐ **Change Program***

Effective Date
(TERM & YEAR)

Spring 2027

Please explain the requested change(s) and offer rationale below or on an attachment.

In Fall 2024, the Sociology Department met with representative from the College Advising Office to explore strategies for better showcasing career pathways for Sociology majors. Based on their recommendations, the department has pursued the development of BA concentrations aligned with faculty expertise and curricular strengths.

After reviewing our course offerings, student interests, and career opportunities, the department proposes a new 12-credit concentration in Families, Youth & the Life Course. Built entirely from existing, regularly offered courses, this concentration will provide students with focused training in this sociological subfield and prepare them for careers focused on working with children, youth, families, and older adults.

In addition to the core competencies of the Sociology major - including social theory, research methodology, and public issue analysis - this concentration will provide students with specialized knowledge in sociological perspectives on family relationships, child and adolescent development, aging, education, and the social forces that shape individuals across the life course. To complete the concentration, students must take 12 credits from a selection of 12 relevant courses (listed in the attached catalog revision memo).

This concentration will help students develop a specialized focus within their elective coursework while equipping those interested in the intersection of sociology, family, childhood, and the life course with the skills necessary to transition into relevant career paths.

*All new programs and changes to existing programs must be accompanied by a catalog entry showing the new or proposed changes.

Faculty Contact/Email/Phone

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Consult and list departments that may be affected by the change(s) and attach documentation

Social Work

Approved by	***Date***
Department Chair	9/22/26
College Curriculum Chair	9/29/2026
College Dean	10/01/2026
UUPC Chair Korey Sorge	10-12-2026
Undergraduate Studies Dean Dan Mecroff	10-12-2026
UFS President	
Provost	

Email this form and attachments to mjenning@fau.edu seven business days before the UUPC meeting.

NEW PROGRAM REQUEST

Department of Sociology

New Major Concentration – Families, Youth and the Life Course Concentration

Rationale:

The Families, Youth and the Life Course Concentration introduces students to the sociological study of family relationships, child and adolescent development, aging, education, and the social forces that shape individuals across the life course. Students develop analytical skills that prepare them for graduate study and careers in education, counseling, social work, human services, and other professions focused on working with children, youth, families, and older adults.

This concentration is based entirely on our existing course offerings. The Families, Youth and the Life Course Concentration requires completing four courses from a list of existing Sociology electives that are offered regularly. By completing these courses, students develop a sociological understanding of family life, human development, and social institutions while strengthening skills relevant to education, counseling, social services, and related professions.

Departments that may be affected by the change(s) and attach documentation

School of Social Work

PROPOSED CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Families, Youth and the Life Course Concentration

The Families, Youth and the Life Course Concentration introduces students to the sociological study of family relationships, child and adolescent development, aging, education, and the social forces that shape individuals across the life course. Students develop analytical skills that prepare them for graduate study and careers in education, counseling, social work, human services, and other professions focused on working with children, youth, families, and older adults.

For this concentration, students take at least 12 credits from the list of courses below. All courses must be completed with a minimum of "C+" to count toward the concentration. This concentration does not require additional credits in the Sociology major.

Course Title	**Course Number**	**Credits**
Families in the United States	SYO 2101	3
Family & Society	SYO 3100	3
Family Politics: The Welfare State	SYO 3151	3
Sociology of Education	SYO 3250	3
Human Sexuality & Social Change	SYP 3060	3
Adolescence & Delinquency	SYP 3530	3
Sociology of Youth	SYP 3714	3
Sociology of Aging & Dying	SYP 3740	3
Youth Subcultures	SYP 3774	3
Social Construction of Sexuality	SYP 4014	3
Special Topics (with departmental permission)	SYA 4930	1-3
Sociology Internship (with departmental permission)	SYG 4941	3

Up to two relevant 4000-level courses (6 credits) may be substituted with Sociology Department approval.