

Criminal Justice MS

Goal #1 (G1) Advanced comprehensive knowledge

Goal Description:

Upon completion of the Master of Science program in Criminal Justice, Graduate students will be able to exhibit specialized knowledge in the criminal justice and criminology field by demonstrating advanced familiarity with the terms, laws, theories, processes, research methods, statistics, key principles, analyzing and critiquing concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and trends.

Providing Department: Criminal Justice MS

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

L1- Advanced Communication and Critical Thinking (G1, G2)

Learning Objective Description:

Students will demonstrate advanced communication and critical thinking skills which are necessary in criminal justice on in areas related to the field.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

IND 2- Digital Portfolio (L1, L2, L3, L4, L5)

Indicator Description:

An academic integrative essay developed in the program's capstone course CRIJ 6388 "Emerging Issues in Criminal Justice Leadership" is considered an assessment of the student's integrated knowledge acquired through completion of all of the prior coursework required for the degree. Having completed each of the required courses for the program, students enrolled in CRIJ 6388 are required to construct a paper or project with appropriate information from the scholarly literature, using citations in APA format presenting their initial thoughts on the program and final reflections regarding how the program impacted their professional development. The paper should also assess and articulate relevant public policy implications of the project. Students should also identify how specific coursework completed throughout their program of study has assisted in their professional development.

Criterion Description:

Students enrolled in CRIJ 6388 will submit a portfolio demonstrating leadership philosophy statement and management statement, professional development activities, MyersBriggs Indicator individual assessment, and an academic integrative essay. Within the academic essay, three required elements should be developed: 1. Communication and Advanced Knowledge, 2. Application of Scientific Literacy, and 3. Sources and Citations. Each element is assessed using the attached rubric. Students in this course will score "A" in each of the categories.

Attached Files

 [Capstone Rubric.pdf](#)

Findings Description:

All 29 students (100%) who took CRIJ 6388 successfully demonstrated these skills.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

IND 2- Digital Portfolio (L1,L2,L3,L4,L5)

Action Description:

According to data from the instructor teaching the capstone course, 100% of MSCJ students have successfully demonstrated required skills in AY 2021/22. These results were reported to the external reviewers during AY 2021-2022 and they were assessed by them. The reviewers saw these results as strengths to be retained.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

IND 3- Research proposal (L1, L2, L3, L5)

Indicator Description:

A research proposal developed in the program’s capstone course CRIJ 6334 “Research Method and Quantitative Analysis” is considered an assessment of the student's integrated knowledge acquired during CRIJ 6334 as well as previously completed coursework. Students enrolled in CRIJ 6334 are required to construct a research proposal with appropriate information from the scholarly literature, utilize sound scholarly methods, and include citations in APA format. The paper should also assess and articulate relevant public policy implications of the project.

Criterion Description:

Three required elements should be developed in the students' Research Proposal: 1. Communication and Advanced Knowledge, 2. Application of Scientific Literacy, and 3. Sources and Citations. Each element is assessed using the attached rubric. Students in this course will score “Proficient” in each of the 3 categories.

Findings Description:

For Fall and Spring 2021 the percentage of students earning a B or higher on the research proposal was 89%. The percentage of students earning a C or higher was 97%.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

IND 3- Research proposal (L1,L2,L3,L5)

Action Description:

For Fall 2021 and Spring 2022, the percentage of students earning a B or higher on the research proposal was 89%. The percentage of students earning a C or higher was 97%. These scores were much higher than in previous years.

These scores were presented to the external reviewers during AY 2021-2022. They saw these scores as strengths to be retained.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

L2- Advanced Comprehensive Knowledge (G1)

Learning Objective Description:

Students will demonstrate advanced comprehensive knowledge of the structure and functions of the various components of the criminal justice system, the major theories, and approaches to inquiry in the field.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

IND 2- Digital Portfolio (L1, L2, L3, L4, L5)

Indicator Description:

An academic integrative essay developed in the program’s capstone course CRIJ 6388 “Emerging Issues in Criminal Justice Leadership” is considered an assessment of the student's integrated knowledge acquired through completion of all of the prior coursework required for the degree. Having completed each of the required courses for the program, students enrolled in CRIJ 6388 are required to construct a paper or project with appropriate information from the scholarly literature, using citations in APA format presenting their initial thoughts on the program and final reflections regarding how the program impacted their professional development. The paper should also assess and articulate relevant public policy implications of the project. Students should also identify how specific coursework completed throughout their program of study has assisted in their professional development.

Criterion Description:

Students enrolled in CRIJ 6388 will submit a portfolio demonstrating leadership philosophy statement and management statement, professional development activities, MyersBriggs Indicator individual assessment, and an academic integrative essay. Within the academic essay, three required elements should be developed: 1. Communication and Advanced Knowledge, 2. Application of Scientific Literacy, and 3. Sources and Citations. Each element is assessed using the attached rubric. Students in this course will score “A” in each of the categories.

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Findings Description:

All 29 students (100%) who took CRIJ 6388 successfully demonstrated these skills.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

IND 2- Digital Portfolio (L1,L2,L3,L4,L5)

Action Description:

According to data from the instructor teaching the capstone course, 100% of MSCJ students have successfully demonstrated required skills in AY 2021/22. These results were reported to the external reviewers during AY 2021-2022 and they were assessed by them. The reviewers saw these results as strengths to be retained.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

IND 3- Research proposal (L1, L2, L3, L5)

Indicator Description:

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Criterion Description:

Three required elements should be developed in the students' Research Proposal: 1. Communication and Advanced Knowledge, 2. Application of Scientific Literacy, and 3. Sources and Citations. Each element is assessed using the attached rubric. Students in this course will score "Proficient" in each of the 3 categories.

Findings Description:

For Fall and Spring 2021 the percentage of students earning a B or higher on the research proposal was 89%. The percentage of students earning a C or higher was 97%.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

IND 3- Research proposal (L1,L2,L3,L5)

Action Description:

For Fall 2021 and Spring 2022, the percentage of students earning a B or higher on the research proposal was 89%. The percentage of students earning a C or higher was 97%. These scores were much higher than in previous years.

These scores were presented to the external reviewers during AY 2021-2022. They saw these scores as strengths to be retained.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

L4- Advanced Knowledge of the Law and Legal Process (G1)

Learning Objective Description:

Students will have an advanced understanding of the goals and procedures of law and the legal process.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

IND 2- Digital Portfolio (L1, L2, L3, L4, L5)

Indicator Description:

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information from the scholarly literature, using citations in APA format presenting their initial thoughts on the program and final reflections regarding how the program impacted their professional development. The paper should also assess and articulate relevant public policy implications of the project. Students should also identify how specific coursework completed throughout their program of study has assisted in their professional development.

Criterion Description:

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Findings Description:

All 29 students (100%) who took CRIJ 6388 successfully demonstrated these skills.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

IND 2- Digital Portfolio (L1,L2,L3,L4,L5)

Action Description:

According to data from the instructor teaching the capstone course, 100% of MSCJ students have successfully demonstrated required skills in AY 2021/22. These results were reported to the external reviewers during AY 2021-2022 and they were assessed by them. The reviewers saw these results as strengths to be retained.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

L5- Advanced Theoretical Knowledge (G1)

Learning Objective Description:

Students will demonstrate advanced knowledge of the the major theories in the Criminal Justice and Criminology field.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

IND 2- Digital Portfolio (L1, L2, L3, L4, L5)

Indicator Description:

An academic integrative essay developed in the program’s capstone course CRIJ 6388 “Emerging Issues in Criminal Justice Leadership” is considered an assessment of the student's integrated knowledge acquired through completion of all of the prior coursework required for the degree. Having completed each of the required courses for the program, students enrolled in CRIJ 6388 are required to construct a paper or project with appropriate information from the scholarly literature, using citations in APA format presenting their initial thoughts on the program and final reflections regarding how the program impacted their professional development. The paper should also assess and articulate relevant public policy implications of the project. Students should also identify how specific coursework completed throughout their program of study has assisted in their professional development.

Criterion Description:

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Findings Description:

All 29 students (100%) who took CRIJ 6388 successfully demonstrated these skills.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

IND 2- Digital Portfolio (L1,L2,L3,L4,L5)

Action Description:

According to data from the instructor teaching the capstone course, 100% of MSCJ students have successfully demonstrated required skills in AY 2021/22. These results were reported to the external reviewers during AY 2021-2022 and they were assessed by them. The reviewers saw these results as strengths to be retained.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

IND 3- Research proposal (L1, L2, L3, L5)

Indicator Description:

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Criterion Description:

Three required elements should be developed in the students' Research Proposal: 1. Communication and Advanced Knowledge, 2. Application of Scientific Literacy, and 3. Sources and Citations. Each element is assessed using the attached rubric. Students in this course will score “Proficient” in each of the 3 categories.

Findings Description:

For Fall and Spring 2021 the percentage of students earning a B or higher on the research proposal was 89%. The percentage of students earning a C or higher was 97%.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

IND 3- Research proposal (L1,L2,L3,L5)

Action Description:

For Fall 2021 and Spring 2022, the percentage of students earning a B or higher on the research proposal was 89%. The percentage of students earning a C or higher was 97%. These scores were much higher than in previous years.

These scores were presented to the external reviewers during AY 2021-2022. They saw these scores as strengths to be retained.

Goal #2 (G2) Apply advanced knowledge to the field of the Criminal Justice and Criminology

Goal Description:

Upon completion of the Master of Science program in Criminal Justice, Graduate students will be able to design and produce an applied, investigative paper or project with real-world implications that draws on scientific literacy, theoretical criminology, and research methods.

Providing Department: Criminal Justice MS

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

L1- Advanced Communication and Critical Thinking (G1, G2)

Learning Objective Description:

Students will demonstrate advanced communication and critical thinking skills which are necessary in criminal justice on in areas related to the field.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

IND 2- Digital Portfolio (L1, L2, L3, L4, L5)

Indicator Description:

An academic integrative essay developed in the program's capstone course CRIJ 6388 "Emerging Issues in Criminal Justice Leadership" is considered an assessment of the student's integrated knowledge acquired through completion of all of the prior coursework required for the degree. Having completed each of the required courses for the program, students enrolled in CRIJ 6388 are required to construct a paper or project with appropriate information from the scholarly literature, using citations in APA format presenting their initial thoughts on the program and final reflections regarding how the program impacted their professional development. The paper should also assess and articulate relevant public policy implications of the project. Students should also identify how specific coursework completed throughout their program of study has assisted in their professional development.

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Findings Description:

All 29 students (100%) who took CRIJ 6388 successfully demonstrated these skills.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

IND 2- Digital Portfolio (L1,L2,L3,L4,L5)

Action Description:

According to data from the instructor teaching the capstone course, 100% of MSCJ students have successfully demonstrated required skills in AY 2021/22. These results were reported to the external reviewers during AY 2021-2022 and they were assessed by them. The reviewers saw these results as strengths to be retained.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

IND 3- Research proposal (L1, L2, L3, L5)

Indicator Description:

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Findings Description:

For Fall and Spring 2021 the percentage of students earning a B or higher on the research proposal was 89%. The percentage of students earning a C or higher was 97%.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

IND 3- Research proposal (L1,L2,L3,L5)

Action Description:

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RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

L3- Advanced Knowledge of Methods (G2)

Learning Objective Description:

Students will demonstrate advanced knowledge of the methods used to generate useful scientific knowledge in the fields of criminal justice and criminology.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

IND 2- Digital Portfolio (L1, L2, L3, L4, L5)

Indicator Description:

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RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

IND 2- Digital Portfolio (L1,L2,L3,L4,L5)

Action Description:

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RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

IND 3- Research proposal (L1, L2, L3, L5)

Indicator Description:

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Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):

Closing Summary

The MS in CJ program has experienced a repeated transition in leadership in recent years and has not received all the attention it needs. Fortuitously, it is scheduled to undergo an external review during AY 2021-2022. External reviewers will provide insights into improvements and suggest specific action steps; they will be implemented during AY 2022-23.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

The review by the external reviewers has been completed and they have submitted a final report with some specific recommendations. We are in the process of implementing them. For instance, we have initiated a faculty colloquium for online MS students. We have held one so far and will hold another one during the Fall 2022 semester and two during Spring 2023. Furthermore, we have contacted all current MS online students with a brief survey to obtain feedback for the colloquia to be held in the future.

New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Closing Summary:

One of the recommendations of the reviewers is to involve the junior faculty in the program more than has been the case in the past. We are doing so in two ways: (1) we will hold faculty colloquia with junior faculty--several faculty members have volunteered to be involved; and (2) we will ask junior faculty to teach electives in their fields of expertise--this will broaden the pool of faculty and also enhance the number of electives from which students can choose.