

# Criminal Justice BA/BS

## Goal #1: Development of Communication Skills

**Goal Description:**

Students should demonstrate competency in communication skills.

**Providing Department:** Criminal Justice BA/BS

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**Demonstrate Effective Written Communication and Critical Thinking**

**Learning Objective Description:**

Students will demonstrate effective communication and critical thinking skills important for employers in criminal justice and related fields and/or an advanced degree criminal justice or related field.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**Assessment of Writing Assignments**

**Indicator Description:**

Undergraduate criminal justice students will demonstrate effective written communication and critical thinking skills in criminal justice related areas.

A total of 258 artifacts from CRIJ 3378 Methods of Criminal Justice Research were scored as part of this writing assessment by 23 faculty and staff volunteers during a two-day in-person scoring session in July 2022 using a locally-developed writing rubric. This rubric was divided into four separate domains: (1) Ideas/Critical Thinking/Synthesis; (2) Style; (3) Organization; and (4) Conventions. A copy of this rubric is attached. Each domain was scored individually from 1 to 4, with 1 being the lowest and 4 being the highest. Each artifact was reviewed by two raters, with a third rater introduced when the scores were too far out of agreement (i.e., a score of 1 and 4 for the same domain). The third rater would only score those domains that were not in agreement, and the two closest scores would be kept. The individual domain scores for each student writing artifact were then averaged together to provide a total average score for the artifact.

Attached Files

 [Writing Assessment Rubric.docx](#)

**Criterion Description:**

Student scores will have improved from the 2018-2019 OAPA scores.

Contextual Information: The last time OAPA scored writing artifacts was in 2018-2019. The Department of CJ and Crim Undergraduate Committee scores writing assessments in the years that OAPA does not. Given that this year was a year in which OAPA did the scoring, results can be compared and determine if improvements have been made.

**Findings Description:**

A total of 44 writing samples were collected from eight sections of CRIJ 3378 - Intro to Research Methods in Spring 2024. Each member of the Undergraduate Curriculum and Assessment Committee assessed a random sample of eight artifacts and scored them using the rubric. The results revealed an average of 3.41 for Ideas, 3.5 for Style, 3.61 for Organization, and 3.43 for Conventions. The total average for writing samples was 13.95 out of a total possible score of 16.

Attached Files

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**Revise Curriculum Map**

**Action Description:**

The Undergraduate Curriculum and Assessment Committee will continue the work from the past cycle beginning in spring of 2025. Specifically, the committee will begin to assign skills that are introduced in each of the core classes for BA and BS programs. After this is done, the next step will be to evaluate which upper-level criminal justice courses reinforce and help students master these skills.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**Systematic Process for Writing**

**Action Description:**

Using data from the previous cycle, the Undergraduate Curriculum and Assessment Committee will be evaluating weaknesses in student writing with the hope of devising strategies to help improve areas that need improvement. The committee will also be evaluating a random sample of writing artifacts during the spring of 2025 to examine any changes in writing quality from spring of 2024.

**Goal #2: Development of Professional Skills**

**Goal Description:**

CJ students should demonstrate professional skills necessary to pursue employment in criminal justice related areas and/or an advanced degree in criminal justice or a related field, including comprehensive knowledge of communication and critical thinking skills.

**Providing Department:** Criminal Justice BA/BS

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**Student Preparedness for Future Career**

**Learning Objective Description:**

Students will be evaluated by agency administrators and provide feedback on how well prepared they appear for a career in their respective field.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**Internship Supervisor Evaluations**

**Indicator Description:**

Student preparedness will be evaluated by end of semester evaluations sent to the direct supervisors of our student interns. A copy of the evaluation is attached. Note the pdf example says mid-semester, but the final evaluations are the same.

The evaluations will be used to assess the intern's capabilities in the field in the areas of: understanding job requirements (knowledge); understanding the structure, organization, and administration of the intern agency (knowledge); cooperation with staff (ability); communication (skill); courteous/responsiveness (ability); willingness to engage in self-improvement (ability); and adaptability (ability). Students are rated on these dimensions using the following scale: Exceeds Expected Level (3), Expected Level (2), Below Expected Level (1).

The evaluations cover students who took our CRIJ 4373 Undergraduate Internship Criminal Justice course in the Spring (n=30) and Summer (n=24) semesters. Internship supervisors were to complete the evaluation and go over it with the student. The student should then upload the evaluation into the

course Blackboard page. Evaluations were uploaded for 16 of 30 enrolled students in the Spring 2022 semester and 19 of 24 enrolled students in the Summer 2022 semester. This provides an overall response rate of 65% of enrolled students.

Internship supervisor evaluations are used to assess the knowledge, skills, and abilities of our students. In doing so, it serves as one indicator of the following dimensions highlighted in our department's current mission statement: acquiring knowledge of the roles of criminal justice agencies, integrating ability and skills in criminal justice settings, and being equipped with the ability to adapt to the evolving nature of the criminal justice system.

In addition the evaluations serve as a way to measure essential skills and abilities deemed important by criminal justice hiring agencies based on our most recent program health check conducted by OAPA. These skills and abilities include communication and cooperation.

Attached Files

 [InternshipAgencyEvaluation.pdf](#)

#### **Criterion Description:**

80% of student interns will be rated at "expected level" or "above expected level" on each individual item assessed. This is the first time student interns have been assessed in our program. As such, we have no baseline for an established criterion. The internship is also not a program requirement and so no programmatic thresholds are established. Finally, there are no current professional or licensure passage standards for this indicator. In this regard, 80% was chosen as this would indicate that the large majority of our interns are performing at the expected level.

#### **Findings Description:**

A total of 51 intern and supervisor evaluations during Spring 2024 were evaluated. Approximately, 89% of student interns received feedback from supervisors that they operated at the "expected level" or "above expected level".

#### **RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3**

##### **Action - Internship Supervisor Survey**

##### **Action Description:**

Internship supervisors will continue to receive surveys for them to evaluate intern performance and knowledge. The Director of Undergraduate Programs also received a mini-assessment grant this academic year to collect additional information from internship supervisors about how well they think their intern(s) are best prepared for their future career in criminal justice. The results from this project will hopefully underscore strengths of our students and identify weaknesses that we need to address to best prepare them for their career. The results will be presented to college and university administrators in the spring of 2025.

### **Goal #3: Revise Curriculum Map**

#### **Goal Description:**

The Curriculum and Assessment Committee needs to review the curriculum map document to make sure the learning objectives and core courses are still appropriately matched and to determine if objectives are still being introduced, reinforced, and mastered in the courses they are listed under. Furthermore, the map needs to identify how writing and oral communication skills are incorporated throughout the curriculum. After that, the committee should work with faculty who regularly teach the core courses listed on the map to identify possible indicators within the courses to assess the learning objectives. Once updated, the new map should be included as part of the Assessment Plan in Campus Labs. The committee should work with Lori Rodriguez in the College of Criminal Justice to revise the map.

**Providing Department:** Criminal Justice BA/BS

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**Update Curriculum Map**

**Performance Objective Description:**

Align learning objectives in the major core to identify when skills are being introduced, reinforced, and mastered in the courses they are listed under. Include writing and oral communication skills into the curriculum map. Identify possible indicators within the courses to assess the learning objectives.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**Curriculum Map Instrument**

**KPI Description:**

The performance objective will be met when the new curriculum map is developed by the committee.

**Target Description:**

Final version of a curriculum map

**Results Description:**

During Spring 2024, members of the Undergraduate Curriculum and Assessment Committee analyzed all syllabi for core CJ courses from the past three years to identify similarities and differences in course objectives to begin to identify skills that are being introduced in these courses. The next step during Fall 2024 is to start outlining those and beginning to identify courses that reinforce these skills.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**Action - Curriculum Map Instrument**

**Action Description:**

The Undergraduate Curriculum and Assessment Committee will continue the work from the past cycle beginning in spring of 2025. Specifically, the committee will begin to assign skills that are introduced in each of the core classes for BA and BS programs. After this is done, the next step will be to evaluate which upper-level criminal justice courses reinforce and help students master these skills.

**Goal #4: Development of Student Learning**

**Goal Description:**

Students should exhibit understanding of key components of the criminal justice system and theory.

**Providing Department:** Criminal Justice BA/BS

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

**Learning Objective 4: Develop Understanding of Criminal Justice System and Theory**

**Learning Objective Description:**

Students will demonstrate an emergent understanding of the main components of the criminal justice system and key theoretical ideas associated with criminal justice and criminology

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

**Introduction to CJ Quiz**

**Indicator Description:**

Students in sections of our CRIJ 2361 Introduction to Criminal Justice course will be asked to complete a quiz, through Qualtrics, towards the end of the semester. This course is generally students' introduction to the criminal justice major and so the goal is to assess development

(introduction) of understanding in these areas. Three members of the Undergraduate Curriculum and Assessment committee who teach this course developed a set of 15 questions that measure key objectives for students taking this course. The plan is to administer this quiz each fall and spring semester.

**Criterion Description:**

Students will, on average, score a 10/15 on the quiz. This benchmark would mean that students answer 2/3 of the questions correctly. This criterion was chosen based on the number of questions asked.

**Findings Description:**

A total of 39 students from sections of CRIJ 2361 Introduction to Criminal Justice during Spring 2024 completed the CJ Quiz. The mean score for all quizzes was 10.95 (SD = 2.55).

Attached Files

 [Screenshot 2024-08-01 at 1.12.41 PM.png](#)

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

**Action - Intro to CJ Quiz**

**Action Description:**

The results from the CJ Quiz from Spring 2024 demonstrate that most students are learning the necessary information from the Introduction to Criminal Justice courses. Nevertheless, the CJ Quiz will continue to be administered to collect this vital information about student learning.

The only difference will be that sections from both fall and spring semesters in AY 24-25 will be surveyed.

## **New Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item**

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

#### **Closing Summary**

1. The curriculum map is still being developed and will be the focus of the Undergraduate Curriculum and Assessment Committee workload during the spring semester of 2024. The committee will work closely with Lori Rodriguez to revise the map and make sure it will be included in the Assessment Plan to evaluate its effectiveness.
2. The feedback from internship supervisors suggests that interns thrive in many of their internships. Additional information will be gathered this assessment cycle during mid-semester and at the end of the semester to track intern's progress. Internship supervisors will also be asked to provide information on interns who did not successfully complete their internship requirements to identify targets for intervention that can be addressed to decrease the rate of not completing an internship. Finally, efforts will be made to reach out to alumni to evaluate the type of industry many of our majors find employment after graduation.
3. While scores for CJ major writing artifacts increased, on average, from 2018-2019, they are still low. We will continue to encourage students to use the services provided by the Writing Center in the Academic Success Center as well as work with doctoral teaching fellows to provide clearer prompts and strategies to work with students on their writing skills throughout the semester.
4. Data from the CJ Quiz administered to students in sections of CRIJ 2361 (Introduction to Criminal Justice) will be collected and evaluated to assess whether students are retaining necessary knowledge about the criminal justice system before they proceed to other core and upper-level courses.

### **Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:**

#### **Update of Progress**



1. Common course objectives have been identified across different sections of core classes taught over the past three AYs. Moving forward, the curriculum map instrument will be the focus of the Undergraduate Curriculum and Assessment Committee attention during Spring 2025. This time, decisions will be made about which essential skills are introduced in each of the core courses into the curriculum for the BA and BS degree programs.
2. Feedback from interns and internship supervisors continues to provide useful information about how our students are performing their assigned duties. Funding from an assessment mini-grant will help to expand our understanding of how well students believe they are prepared for their future career and whether their supervisor(s) believe they are prepared.
3. Writing scores improved slightly, but are still well below what is expected from our students. In addition to encouraging students to seek assistance from the Writing Center in the Academic Success Center and making sure that doctoral teaching fellows are providing clear prompts, the Undergraduate Curriculum and Assessment Committee will continue to evaluate writing samples and devise ways to improve student writing.
4. Data from the CJ Quiz show that the majority of students are demonstrating strong knowledge of the criminal justice system - the primary learning objective for the course. The quiz will continue to be administered to assure that students are learning necessary information about the criminal justice system that they will undoubtedly need for their careers.

## **New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item**

### **Closing Summary:**

Data collected from the assessment cycle indicate that students are performing well in their internships and demonstrating strong knowledge of the criminal justice system after completing CRIJ 2361 - Introduction to Criminal Justice. However, more information is needed from interns and internship supervisors to understand how well prepared students are for their future careers. Funding from an assessment mini-grant will help to collect this information during the fall of 2024 and spring of 2025. Writing continues to be below average. The Undergraduate Curriculum and Assessment Committee will devise ways to improve student writing by encouraging students to take advantage of available on-campus resources and by implementing other methods at the college level. Lastly, the committee will continue to work on creating an updated curriculum map for the BA and BS programs. This will include assigning essential skills that are introduced in each course and identifying upper-level criminal justice courses that reinforce and master those skills.