

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:

For Fall 2023, Spring 2024 and Summer 2024, all students who took CRIJ 6388 successfully demonstrated these skills. There were a total of 41 students who fulfilled this requirement.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

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

Action Description:

According to the data from the instructor teaching the capstone course, 100% of MSCJ students have successfully demonstrated these skills in AY 2023/24. These results were consistent with results reported to members of the external review team in a previous year (2020/21). The reviewers saw the results as strengths to be retained at that time.

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 2023, Spring 2024, and Summer2024, the percentage of students earning B or higher on the research proposal was 83. The percentage of students earning a C or higher was 100%. These scores were slightly lower than in AY 2022/23 but higher than in previous years.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

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

Action Description:

For Fall 2023, Spring 2024, and Summer 2024, the percentage of students earning B or higher on the research proposal was 83. The percentage of students earning a C or higher was 100%. These scores were slightly lower than in AY 2022/23 but higher than in previous years.

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:

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Findings Description:

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RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

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

Action Description:

According to the data from the instructor teaching the capstone course, 100% of MSCJ students have successfully demonstrated these skills in AY 2023/24. These results were consistent with results reported to members of the external review team in a previous year (2020/21). The reviewers saw the results as strengths to be retained at that time.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

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

Indicator Description:

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RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

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

Action Description:

For Fall 2023, Spring 2024, and Summer 2024, the percentage of students earning B or higher on the research proposal was 83. The percentage of students earning a C or higher was 100%. These scores were slightly lower than in AY 2022/23 but higher than in previous years.

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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Findings Description:

For Fall 2023, Spring 2024 and Summer 2024, all students who took CRIJ 6388 successfully demonstrated these skills. There were a total of 41 students who fulfilled this requirement.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

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

Action Description:

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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:

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RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

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

Action Description:

According to the data from the instructor teaching the capstone course, 100% of MSCJ students have successfully demonstrated these skills in AY 2023/24. These results were consistent with results reported to members of the external review team in a previous year (2020/21). The reviewers saw the results as strengths to be retained at that time.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

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

Indicator Description:

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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.

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For Fall 2023, Spring 2024, and Summer2024, the percentage of students earning B or higher on the research proposal was 83. The percentage of students earning a C or higher was 100%. These scores were slightly lower than in AY 2022/23 but higher than in previous years.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

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

Action Description:

For Fall 2023, Spring 2024, and Summer 2024, the percentage of students earning B or higher on the research proposal was 83. The percentage of students earning a C or higher was 100%. These scores were slightly lower than in AY 2022/23 but higher than in previous years.

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:

For Fall 2023, Spring 2024 and Summer 2024, all students who took CRIJ 6388 successfully demonstrated these skills. There were a total of 41 students who fulfilled this requirement.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

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

Action Description:

According to the data from the instructor teaching the capstone course, 100% of MSCJ students have successfully demonstrated these skills in AY 2023/24. These results were consistent with results reported to members of the external review team in a previous year (2020/21). The reviewers saw the results as strengths to be retained at that time.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

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

Indicator Description:

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RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

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

Action Description:

For Fall 2023, Spring 2024, and Summer 2024, the percentage of students earning B or higher on the research proposal was 83. The percentage of students earning a C or higher was 100%. These scores were slightly lower than in AY 2022/23 but higher than in previous years.

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:

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:

For Fall 2023, Spring 2024 and Summer 2024, all students who took CRIJ 6388 successfully demonstrated these skills. There were a total of 41 students who fulfilled this requirement.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

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

Action Description:

According to the data from the instructor teaching the capstone course, 100% of MSCJ students have successfully demonstrated these skills in AY 2023/24. These results were consistent with results reported to members of the external review team in a previous year (2020/21). The reviewers saw the results as strengths to be retained at that time.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

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

Indicator Description:

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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.

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RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

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

Action Description:

For Fall 2023, Spring 2024, and Summer 2024, the percentage of students earning B or higher on the research proposal was 83. The percentage of students earning a C or higher was 100%. These scores were slightly lower than in AY 2022/23 but higher than in previous years.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

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

Closing Summary

Excerpt from the 2021-2022 Assessment Plan:

One of the recommendations of the reviewers [of the 2020-21 external review] 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.

We see this step as an ongoing effort and will continue to work on these steps in AY 20223/2024.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

During this Academic Year we deemphasized the faculty colloquia (as they were not very successful in the preceding year). Instead we focused on having more junior faculty members be involved with teaching: four junior faculty members taught courses during AY 2023/24 and they contributed to the continuing development and improvement of the program.

We see this step as an ongoing effort and will continue to work on it in AY 2024/2025.

New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Closing Summary:

While the MSCJ program does well with offering multiple courses every semester, there is room to offer additional electives for students. At this time, electives are limited due to faculty availability. However, we will try to increase the number of electives offered per semester, which will give students more flexibility with course options. Also, currently there are some MSCJ courses that are only offered in the Spring, even though are required courses. Offering them in the Fall or Summer could allow students the opportunity to graduate at an earlier time. We will explore the possibility of adding sections of these courses during Fall and Summer sessions of future academic years.