

Criminal Justice and Criminology, Department of

G1: Increase Research Productivity

Goal Description:

Increase Research Productivity

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

G1: Increase Research Productivity

Performance Objective Description:

The department will continue to increase research productivity within the field of criminal justice and criminology.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

G1: Higher Number Of Peer-Reviewed Journal Publications

KPI Description:

The faculty within the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology will increase the number of peer-reviewed journal articles from last year.

Results Description:

Measuring the number of peer-reviewed publications written by faculty members during an academic year is challenging. While not an ideal indicator, the number of peer-review publications appearing in print in calendar year 2014 were compared to the number in calendar year 2015. In 2014, 55 peer-reviewed journal articles appeared in print. In 2015 the number was 60, an increase of 5 peer-reviewed publications by faculty in the Department.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

G1: Increase Research Productivity

Action Description:

The Department needs to improve its ability to measure research productivity and changes in productivity over time. To do this the Department will create a measurement system to count different types of publications, including peer-reviewed journal articles, articles in high-impact journals, and books. This system will allow us to measure our performance and assess change over time. In addition, Department faculty will increase the number of publications and successful grant applications.

G2: Sustained Effective Teaching

Goal Description:

Sustained effective teaching

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

G2: The Department Will Continue To Engage In Effective Teaching

Performance Objective Description:

The department will continue to engage in effective teaching

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

G2: IDEA Evaluations

KPI Description:

The Department Of Criminal Justice And Criminology Will Continue To Effectively Teach At Both The Undergraduate And Graduate Levels. The average score on the IDEA evaluations will be above the university mean for undergraduate and graduate courses.

Results Description:

During AY 2015-2016 the average adjusted IDEA scores for the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology were consistent with the SHSU average adjusted IDEA scores. During the fall 2015 semester, the Department average adjusted IDEA score was 4.19 while the SHSU average was 4.20. During the spring 2016 semester, the Department average adjusted IDEA score was 4.20 and the SHSU average was also 4.20. Among full time faculty members, adjusted average IDEA scores in undergraduate courses were 4.18 in the fall 2015 semester and 4.32 in the spring 2016 semester. Among full time faculty members, adjusted average IDEA scores in graduate courses were 4.24 in the fall 2015 semester and 4.08 in the spring 2016 semester.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

G2: Sustained Effective Teaching

Action Description:

The retention of effective adjunct instructors, the continued development of junior faculty, the strong preparation being provided to doctoral students, and the re-design of the UPD position will enhance teaching effectiveness scores. The Department will delve deeper into the IDEA scores to better identify strengths and identify areas in need of improvement. The Department will report more detailed information about IDEA score performance, such as on-line versus face-to-face classes and scores as the "effective teacher" item.

G3: Sustained Faculty And Administrative Development

Goal Description:

Sustained faculty and administrative development

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

G3: Competitive Faculty Will Increase

Performance Objective Description:

The department will continue to develop and grow by hiring competitive faculty and administrators.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

G3: Additional Competitive Faculty

KPI Description:

The Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology will hire one or two new competitive faculty members.

Results Description:

During the 2015-2016 academic year the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology successfully searched for and hired two assistant professors. Dr. Eryn O'Neal earned her Ph.D. from Arizona State University and will join the Department in August 2016. Mr. Daniel Butler is completing the requirements to earn his Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska Omaha and will also join the Department in August 2016. These two new faculty members add to our existing strengths in the areas of corrections and victimology and, based on their existing records of performance, will make strong contributions to our research, education, and service missions.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

G3: Sustained Faculty and Administrative Development

Action Description:

The Department of CJC will recruit and hire three full-time faculty members during the 2016-2017 academic year. In addition, members of the Departmental leadership team, including the Chair, Undergraduate Program Director, and Graduate POrogram Director, will attend professional development conferences to build the managerial and administrative abilities within the Department.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

G3: Department Chair Will Be Hired.

KPI Description:

The Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology will hire a competitive Chair for the Department.

Results Description:

A new Department Chair was hired on July 1, 2016. Dr. William Wells was selected to be the new Chair during the spring 2016 semester. Dr. Wells started working on the transition to assume the Department Chair responsibilities in April 2016. Dr. Wells has gained administrative and chair experience during his 17 years in higher education and has worked at SHSU since fall 2007.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

G3: Sustained Faculty and Administrative Development

Action Description:

The Department of CJC will recruit and hire three full-time faculty members during the 2016-2017 academic year. In addition, members of the Departmental leadership team, including the Chair, Undergraduate Program Director, and Graduate POrogram Director, will attend professional development conferences to build the managerial and administrative abilities within the Department.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement

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

The following is an update to the 2014-2015 Plan for Continuous Improvement.

2014-2015 Plan Item: "In addition to monitoring and reporting the overall IDEA scores for faculty member in our Department, we will seek to assess specific items reported in the IDEA instrument such as the "effective teacher" item. This will allow the Department to consider both the student perceptions of the course in general, but also more specifically the instructor." This action was not realized during the 2015-2016 academic year. The Department continued to focus on the single, summary IDEA course evaluation score. This will, however, be an important action item to consider in future years."

2014-2015 Plan Item: "Efforts to disseminate faculty productivity both internally and with external constituents will continue to be addressed. We will consider our most efficient and effective approaches to sharing our successes in the year ahead." A communication system to systematically disseminate research productivity within SHSU and to external audiences was not created. Information about our Department's strong research accomplishments was not effectively shared. This will be addressed more effectively in the 2016-2017 year.

2014-2015 Plan Item: "Our focus in the upcoming year will be to strive for an increase in the average publications per faculty rate in comparison to peer CCJ programs." No actions were taken to facilitate this.

2014-2015 Plan Item: "Open discussions about workload of faculty will continue to be a priority for the Department to ensure balanced efforts across all faculty members." Broad-based discussions about this issue did not occur. Only two faculty meetings were convened during the 2015-2016 academic year and this issue was not raised at either meeting or in specially-designated meetings focused on this topic.

2014-2015 Plan Item: "We will aim to state our case for an increased number of faculty to meet the needs of our more than 3,100 undergraduate students and 400 graduate students in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology." The Department was successful in making the case for the need to hire outstanding faculty. In the 2015-2016 the Department successfully recruited and hired two new faculty members to join the faculty during the 2016-2017 academic year.

Plan for continuous improvement in 2016-2017

Closing Summary:

In the upcoming academic year (2016-2017) the Department of CJC will more completely develop the Undergraduate Program Director (UPD) position that was created in December 2015. The position was created but requires additional development in terms of specific roles and responsibilities. We expect the position will play an important role in the Department by creating linkages with divisions and programs across campus that have not been formally established to date (i.e., Honor's College, First Year Experience, CJ Living Learning Community, SHSU On-Line, etc.). The position will also review data and provide feedback on undergraduate program performance the Department can use to identify needs. For instance, we expect the UPD will examine whether on-line courses are in need of updates and will assess the performance of transfer students.

Teaching performance, as indicated by the overall IDEA scores, was found to be consistent with the SHSU institutional average. The retention of effective adjunct instructors, the continued development of junior faculty, the strong preparation being provided to doctoral students, and the re-design of the UPD position have the potential to enhance teaching effectiveness scores. In the upcoming year the Department will delve deeper into the IDEA scores to better identify strengths and identify areas in need of improvement. The UPD will be able to devote time and attention to this task. In the upcoming assessment cycle we plan to report more detailed information about IDEA score performance, such as on-line versus face-to-face classes and scores as the "effective teacher" item. This will allow the Department to better understand classroom teaching performance.

The departure of three full professors (Menard, T. Armstrong, G Armstrong) at the end of the 2015-2016, academic year has put a strain on the Department of CJC. Three additional full professors retired in the previous few years and have not been replaced (Webb, Dowling, Del Carmen). In combination, these departures have placed a strain on the Department's faculty in terms of teaching classes, mentoring graduate students, supervising students with assistantships, and serving on thesis and dissertation committees. In addition, research and grant productivity may suffer because of the departure of advanced, research-active faculty. Finally, the national reputation of our program, which has improved tremendously in the past several years, will suffer if faculty are not replaced. The Department of CJC must be successful in hiring three full-time faculty members during the 2016-2017 academic year.

The Department of CJC will continue to seek a high level of productivity in peer-reviewed journals with an emphasis on high impact peer reviewed journals. This has been in our prior plans for continuous improvement. To understand our productivity in terms of peer-reviewed publications, the Department will create a measurement system to count different types of publications, including peer-reviewed journal articles, articles in high-impact journals, and books. This system will allow us to measure our performance and assess change over time.

In the spring 2016 semester the Department completed its review of the MS CJ On-Line degree program. External program reviewers offered some important recommendations for improving this program. The Department will use feedback from external reviewers to enhance and build this important program.

Enhance and develop student's methodological and statistical abilities.

RELATED ITEMS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Competency In Employing Elements Of Qualitative And/or Quantitative Research Methods

Learning Objective Description:

Competency in employing elements of qualitative and/or quantitative research methods to design scientific-based projects in the field of criminal justice and criminology.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Successful Execution Of Study And Statistics

Indicator Description:

Students will successfully execute the methodology and statistical analyses needed for their thesis. They will also recognize the assumptions and limitations underlying the research methods and statistical techniques used and accurately interpret the results.

Criterion Description:

Students will score at least an 80% on each section of the methodological and statistical sections of the thesis rubric. These include 1. mode of inquiry, 2. execution of study, 3. interpretation of results, and 4. analysis.

Findings Description:

Overall, the majority of students achieved a working mastery of social science research methods techniques including an understanding of statistics as measured by the 4 criteria outlined in the thesis rubric. The findings reveal that the majority of students (88%; 7/8) excelled (as measured by a score of 5/5) at selecting their mode of inquiry, the execution of their study, and the interpretation of their results. Furthermore, 88% (7/8) scored a 4/5 or better on their analyses, which is the minimum standard, with only 1 student falling below that threshold.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Strengthening Methodological and Statistical Skills

Action Description:

In the upcoming year, the Department will focus on strengthening students' methodological and statistical skills. This will be accomplished by 1. providing a faculty led 1/2 day workshop on basic statistics and research methods the summer prior to starting the MA program, 2. offering a Statistics II elective course for 2nd year MA students who are beginning to work on their thesis, and 3. providing additional statistical and methodological workshops throughout the semester to further develop specific skills and abilities.

Research Competence

Goal Description:

Enhance and develop student's ability to conceptualize and deliver an original research paper.

RELATED ITEMS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Competency In Conducting Original Criminal Justice And Criminology Research

Learning Objective Description:

Students will demonstrate integration of knowledge, skills and abilities needed to conduct original research in criminal justice and criminology.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Conceptualization And Delivery Of The Thesis

Indicator Description:

Successful conceptualization and delivery of an original research study as demonstrated by the defense of a Thesis using a faculty-developed rubric. The rubric uses a 1 (insignificant) to 5 (critically significant) rating of specific criteria pertaining to conceptualization and delivery of an original research paper. These elements include: choice of problem, theoretical framework, written presentation, originality of idea and/or approach, and contribution to the field.

Criterion Description:

Students will demonstrate their ability to conceptualize and write an original research study within the field of criminal justice or criminology by completing a thesis. Students will score at least an 80% on each of the related elements of the facultydeveloped rubric.

Findings Description:

Overall, students demonstrated competency in conducting original criminal justice and criminological research. When assessing the conceptualization and writing elements of the thesis, 1 students did not achieve the 80% threshold for "theoretical framework" with only 38% of the students scoring a 5/5 on that element. Furthermore, 88% (7/8), 75% (6/8), and 88% (7/8) of students scored a 5/5 on the criteria of choice of problem, written presentation, and contribution to the field, respectively. The area that students seem to excel at most is originality of idea with 100% of the students scoring 5/5 on this element.

Strengthen Student Ability to Conceptualize and Deliver Original Research

Action Description:

The Department will focus on strengthening students' abilities to conceptualize and write original research in criminal justice or criminology. This may be accomplished by 1. providing a workshop on how to identify criminological problems to study that make a significant contribution to the field, 2. offering more theory-based elective courses to further develop their theoretical knowledge base, and 3. allow MA students to register for Ph.D. electives.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement

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

For the 2015-2016 academic year, continued emphasis will be placed on strengthening student research and statistical skills with an overall goal of preparing our MA students for the PhD program. This will be accomplished by 1. providing a workshop on how to identify criminological problems to study that have the potential to make a significant contribution to the field , 2. encouraging students to use the University's writing center, 3. offering more theory-based elective courses to further develop their theoretical knowledge base, 4. providing a faculty led 1/2 day workshop on basic statistics and research methods the summer prior to starting the MA program, 5. offering a Statistics II elective course for 2nd year MA students who are beginning to work on their thesis, and 6. providing additional statistical and methodological workshops throughout the semester to further develop specific skills and abilities.

Students will also be encouraged to publish their research findings in peer-reviewed journal articles with faculty assistance as well as present their research at national conferences and University-sponsored events.

The development of our MA students statistical and research skills is contingent on 1. access to the latest versions of various statistical software programs used in the social sciences (e.g., STATA, MPlus, HLM, etc.), 2. student travel and professional development funds, and 3. summer research scholarships.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

This academic year, faculty in the department focused on teaching students how to identify criminological problems to study and to strengthen their writing skills. We also provided a faculty led 1/2 day workshop on basic statistics and research methods the summer prior to starting the MA program, offered a Statistics II elective course for 2nd year MA students who are beginning to work on their thesis, and provided additional mandatory statistical and methodological workshops throughout the semester to further develop specific skills and abilities.

Several students worked on publications for peer-reviewed journal articles with faculty assistance as well as presented their research at national conferences (e.g., ASC and ACJS) and University-sponsored events (e.g., Graduate Research Exchange, Woodlands Symposium).

Closing Summary

Closing Summary:

For the 2016-2017 academic year, continued emphasis will be placed on strengthening student research and statistical skills with an overall goal of preparing our MA students for the PhD program. The Graduate Standards and Admissions Committee will discuss:1. continuing to provide a faculty led ½ day workshop on basic statistics and research methods the summer prior to starting the MA program, 2. adding Statistics II as part of the core requirements, 3. allowing MA students to register for Ph.D. electives, and 4. providing additional statistical and methodological workshops throughout the semester to further develop specific skills and abilities.

Students will also be encouraged to publish their research findings in peer-reviewed journal articles with faculty assistance as well as present their research at national conferences and University-sponsored events. The Department will also seek ways to better keep track of graduate student publications.

The development of our MA students statistical and research skills is contingent on 1. access to the latest versions of various statistical software programs used in the social sciences (e.g., STATA, MPlus, HLM, etc.), 2. student travel and professional development funds, and 3. summer research scholarships.