

Criminal Justice BA/BS

Comprehensive knowledge

Goal Description:

Exiting seniors should exhibit comprehensive knowledge of key components of the criminal justice system, criminological theory, and methods of inquiry.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Exhibit Comprehensive Knowledge

Learning Objective Description:

Students will demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of the structure and functions of the various components of the criminal justice system

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Senior Exit Exam

Indicator Description:

Each semester, all graduating seniors are asked to complete an exit exam, through Survey Monkey, an online data collection/response validation website. This survey provides faculty a means of assessing students' comprehension and retention on key concepts provided to them during their educational experience. The 60-item Exit Exam, created by faculty, assesses learning in seven core areas.

Criterion Description:

Graduating students will achieve an average of 70% on the exit survey. Last year this average was below 70% but our department will continue to strive toward this goal.

Findings Description:

Graduating seniors were sent an email with a link to a Qualtrics Survey asking them 61 substantive and objective questions covering various topics related to criminal justice and criminology. The overall average grade among students who completed the exit survey was 43 out of 61 questions, equating to an average grade of 70% correct across all topics.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Evaluate and Improve Within Course Assessment

Action Description:

In order to improve the assessment process, additional evaluation of the assessment schedule and process for gathering indicators of student success in the core classes where they are taught will be undertaken. Alternative methods for creating indicators and collecting findings will be discussed by the Assessment Committee for implementation

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Theoretical Foundations

Learning Objective Description:

Students will understand the prevailing theoretical foundations of criminology.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

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Development of professional skills

Goal Description:

Exiting seniors 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 various research strategies, communication and critical thinking skills, and legal issues.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS - - - - -

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Communication and Critical Thinking

Learning Objective Description:

Students will demonstrate effective communication and critical thinking skills necessary to pursue employment in criminal justice related areas and/or an advanced degree criminal justice or related field.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Development Of Scholarly Research Proposals

Indicator Description:

Undergraduate criminal justice students will develop a scholarly research paper proposal in their core required Research Methods course (CRIJ 3378). Writing and research skills will be scored by a rubric agreed upon by a faculty committee. Each professor will utilize this rubric when grading the student research paper proposals. These guidelines include areas of organization, content, quality of proposed research, hypothesis construction and writing.

Criterion Description:

Students will score at 70% or above on the research paper scoring rubric.

Attached Files
[☐ Rubric for Research Proposal](#)

Findings Description:

After further discussion among the assessment committee alternative classes and assignments were selected for the evaluation of student writing. Based on the use of a rubric, the average points earned for writing mechanics was 6.57 out of 10 possible points, which equated to "Meets Expectations". In other words 59% of the students earned a score of "Meets Expectations" or "Exceeds Expectations" on the writing components of their written exam. Overall, student scores averaged 81.38% on the writing assignments.

Additional writing assessment was conducted in CRIJ 4385 across the Fall and Spring semesters. Based on the scoring of these assignments, in the Fall, 80% of students earned a grade of B or higher on the writing assignment with an average grade of 84%. In the Spring, 83% of students earned a grade of B or higher on the writing requirement, with an average grade of 84%.

Attached Files
[☐ Writing Assessment](#)

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Develop Alternate Methods for Writing Assessment

Action Description:

In order to better assess the variety of student writing occurring in different courses, the Assessment Committee will evaluate and implement options for assessment of writing that are better suited to different courses.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

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RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Knowledge of Methods

Learning Objective Description:

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

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Senior Exit Exam

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RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Law and Legal Process

Learning Objective Description:

Students will understand the goals and procedures of law and the legal process.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Senior Exit Exam

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Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement

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

For the 2016 - 2017 academic year, the Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology will continue to place needed focus on implementing and improving the assessment plan.

A new assessment schedule has been put in place in order to reduce the burden the changes in the assessment plan might place on instructors in the

classroom. This schedule will allow for the capture of indicators of student success throughout the academic year, in addition to the senior exit exam sent out at the end of each Fall and Spring semesters.

Additional development of the communication and critical thinking assessment will continue to better capture where and how assessment activities are already taking place and improve faculty "buy-in". This will, hopefully, improve the sample size available for evaluating this assessment indicator.

Based on the development of the assessment committee, it is now possible to have a mechanism through which assessment activities and results can be shared with the other faculty members. The Assessment Committee chair will work with the Department Chair in order to make sure the faculty are informed of assessment activities and will work regularly to encourage participation in collecting assessment indicators.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

The Assessment Committee has been working to continue improving the assessment process within the Department and improve the culture of assessment. An assessment schedule was implemented to gather assessment indicators from select courses to determine if implementing smaller scale assessments in core courses improved our understanding of student learning. Findings from this first year do indicate that these provide valuable insight to student performance at the course-level.

Continued evaluation of the writing assessment process is needed. Due to the varied way instructors implement writing within individual courses, additional planning is needed to target where writing is occurring in courses to systematically collect and evaluate student performance.

Plan for Continuous Improvement

Closing Summary:

For the the 2017 - 2018 academic year, the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology will continue to place needed focus on modifying, implementing, and improving the assessment plan.

The assessment has implemented an assessment schedule to capture indicators of student success throughout the academic year in the classroom. Gathering findings from instructors has been met with some success and the committee hope to continue and improve upon these methods to ensure we are gathering reliable data on student performance.

The Assessment Committee will look into options for improving response rates to our senior exit survey, which has been a primary source of data on student performance. Improving response rates will be critical in enhancing our assessment of student learning. The committee will look into options providing incentives for completion of the exam and/or alternative methods for students to complete the exam.

The Assessment Committee will continue to share results and assessment plans with the faculty in order to continue to normalize assessment practices within the Department and improve faculty buy-in. The Assessment Committee Chair will continue to work with the Department Chair in order to ensure the faculty are informed of assessment activities and will work regularly to encourage participation in collecting assessment indicators.