

# **Undergraduate Program Assessment 2008-2009**

## **Criminal Justice Certificate Program**

3-30-09

### **I. Program Overview**

The Criminal Justice Certificate Program (CJCP) is an interdisciplinary certificate program administered under the umbrella of the Center for Law, Society, and Justice in the College of Letters and Sciences. It currently has about 220 declared students; in each of the past three years, the program has awarded about 75 certificates to graduating seniors. Students enrolled in CJCP complete the certificate requirements in tandem with a chosen major. The requirements for the certificate allow students to select courses from more than 10 academic departments. The CJCP depends entirely on the good will of other programs and departments for instructional support.

### **II. Learning Goals and Objectives**

Students in the CJCP take courses across six topic areas designed to build a broad understanding of the philosophy, theories, and operation of the adult and juvenile criminal justice systems. A core requirement of the program is the internship course that requires students to enroll in field work during the course of the summer preceding graduation.

The CJCP encourages students to:

- Examine the fundamental concepts underlying the practice of criminal justice from a liberal studies perspective.
- Understand theoretical causes of crime and delinquency by applying the insights of various disciplines.
- Consider new ways of preventing and responding to crime.
- Analyze the impact of crime on society.
- Assess the efficacy of agencies with the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

CJCP efforts to achieve these goals include the following objectives:

- Promote the importance of criminal justice studies within the College of Letters and Sciences.
- Support relevant class offerings in major departments.
- Build and maintain relationships with criminal and juvenile justice agencies within the community and promote the Wisconsin Idea.

### **III. Efforts to Measures Student Performance**

The CJCP uses the following tools to assess student learning:

#### **A. Internship Evaluation**

Students complete an anonymous course evaluation on the last day of their internship course. This evaluation seeks feedback about successful and unsuccessful aspects of the entire program and solicits suggestions for improvement.

#### **B. Exit Survey**

CJCP graduates are asked to complete an exit survey. The survey, which has been modified periodically, assesses the achievement of student learning goals. The most recent version of the survey is attached.

#### **C. Report of the CJCP Academic Advisor**

Each year the CJCP Academic Advisor compiles a report based on statements by the staff and faculty who work most closely with CJCP students. The report is a qualitative measure of student performance based upon an aggregate, though often anecdotal, experience of student successes and concerns.

### **IV. Impact of Assessment Efforts**

The Core Faculty affiliated with the Center for Law, Society, and Justice will conclude its voluntary two-year, in-depth self-study of the Legal Studies Program at the end of the 2008-2009 academic year. The CJCP will undergo a similar rigorous review during the 2009-2010 academic year. This exercise will be the foundation for our internal self-evaluation and our external reporting. Specific efforts to ensure that the program is meeting its obligations and moving toward its goals will be made in the following ways.

#### **A. Use of Assessment Data & Continued Planning**

The assessment tools described above constitute the main data for the CJCP's annual meeting about assessment, during which the faculty and staff devote significant discussion time to a review of that year's data. Anonymous course evaluation data, exit surveys, and assessment reports are distributed in advance and discussed at the meeting. The Director of the Center for Law, Society, and Justice, in consultation with the staff and Core Faculty, collects any significant changes proposed and determines their feasibility and benefits to the program.

**B. To whom the results are reported:**

All data from the assessment tools are reported to the Director, Core Faculty, and staff. An annual report from the Director is then reported back to all affiliates of the program, after the annual assessment review. Those annual assessment reports and data will be reported to outside units such as the Dean of the College of Letters & Science or outside, interested reviewers as needed.

**C. Deadlines for achieving milestones related to the above activities.**

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Fall 2009   | Core Faculty commence in- depth self-study of the Criminal Justice Certificate Program curriculum, program goals and objectives, and student learning outcomes. |
| Fall 2009   | Annual Assessment Meeting. Review senior exit surveys and other assessment materials.   |
| Fall 2010   | Annual Assessment Meeting. Review senior exit surveys and other assessment materials.   |
| Fall 2010   | Conclude formal self-study.   |
| Fall 2010   | Present any recommended curricular changes to the appropriate College and Divisional Committees.  |
| Spring 2011 | Implement revised curriculum.   |
| Fall 2011   | Annual Assessment Meeting. Review senior exit surveys and other assessment materials. Review initial reports regarding revised curriculum.                      |

**University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Criminal Justice Certificate Program  
Survey of Graduating Seniors–May 2009**

**Please complete this questionnaire and return it to the Criminal Justice office.**

1. In what year of undergraduate study did you declare a Criminal Justice Certificate? Include years you attended college somewhere else.

- First year     
  Second year     
  Third year     
  Fourth year or later

2. Why did you choose a Criminal Justice Certificate?

3. Please indicate your Major(s) and other Certificates:

a.	Major(s) field: _____
b.	Other Certificate(s) field: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> None
c.	Honors program specify: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> None

4. For each of the following areas, please indicate how much the Criminal Justice Program courses you took contributed to your growth in that area:

		A lot	Somewhat	A little	Not at all
<b>a.</b>	A sense of the function and underlying fundamentals of the US criminal justice system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>b.</b>	A sense of the function and underlying fundamentals of the US juvenile justice system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>c.</b>	Understanding of the social, political, economic, and cultural determinants and impacts of crime and delinquency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>d.</b>	Analysis of the impact of crime on society	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>e.</b>	Ability to integrate theory in to practical application	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Please rate the Criminal Justice Program. Overall, how do you rate:

		Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
a.	The overall quality of the Criminal Justice courses that you took?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b.	The quality of instruction in Criminal Justice Courses?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c.	The availability of advising in the Program?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d.	The quality of advising you received in the Program?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6a. Do you have plans for graduate study?

		Yes	No
i.	No plans for graduate study	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii.	Plan to go to a graduate program within the next three years	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii.	Uncertain of future plans for graduate study	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6b. If you have immediate or possible plans to enroll in a graduate program, which of the following describe your plans for graduate education?

		Check All That Apply
i.	Master's (field: _____)	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii.	Ph.D. (field: _____)	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii.	Teaching certification	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv.	Law degree	<input type="checkbox"/>
v.	Other (field: _____)	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Have you found employment following graduation? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

If yes,

7a. Please describe where you will be working and what you will be doing:

7b. Do you feel your Criminal Justice Certificate studies helped you secure employment?

\_\_\_ A lot \_\_\_ Somewhat \_\_\_ A little \_\_\_ Not at all

8. What were the best and worst aspects of the Criminal Justice Certificate Program?