

Criminal Justice Sciences – Undergraduate Assessment Plan

The Department's Curriculum and Assessment Committee is charged with assessing the program and proposing and overseeing program improvements.

Program Goals and Intended Student Outcomes

The Department Faculty approved the following student learning outcomes for the Undergraduate BA/BS major in April 2011.

Student Learning Outcomes (faculty unanimously approved 4-15-11)
1) Content/Discipline Knowledge and Skills
a) Theory
Be able to recognize and demonstrate the major theoretical perspectives of criminology/criminal justice, as well as identify the social policy implications of these perspectives.
b) CJ Systems
Be able to recognize and demonstrate the development and operation of the major components of the criminal justice system, as well as the relationships between them. Identify the historical, social, political, and international context of criminal justice.
c) Research & Evaluation
Apply the principles of empirical social science evaluation to the analysis of problems and evaluation of policy.
d) Human Behavior
Understand the role of human behavior and diversity in relation to offending, victimization, and responding to crime.
e) Professionalism
Expose students to attitudes, values, and habits of professionals in the field of criminal justice with an awareness of ethical behavior and cultural diversity.
2) Communication Skills
a) Oral and Written Communication
Demonstrate proficiency in oral and written communication skills, including appropriate use of presentation techniques.
b) Computer Applications
Possess the ability to use relevant computer applications.
c) Information
Be able to acquire, evaluate, and utilize sources of information, including online and archival content.
3) Critical Inquiry and Problem Solving
Being able to conceptualize and define the nature of a problem, acquiring and applying necessary information, and assessing the quality of the solution(s).

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		x	x			x	x	
3) Critical Inquiry and Problem Solving								
Being able to conceptualize and define the nature of a problem, acquiring and applying necessary information, and assessing the quality of the solution(s).	x					x	x	

Direct Methods:

- 1) In order to measure success with these outcomes, the Department faculty is in the process of developing a series of questions to be administered in the introductory (CJS101) course. The “entrance” exam will be used to establish a baseline for content knowledge of entering students. A second exam will be administered in CJS 395 – Criminal Justice Administration course. This is the last course students take before completing an internship. The results can provide direct evidence of student mastery of learning objectives of the program. The exams will be finalized in the spring 2013 semester, and administered in CJS 395 that semester. The CJS101 exam will be administered in Fall 2013.
- 2) Eligible students are required to complete an internship second semester of their senior year, and an evaluation is administered at the end of their internships (Appendix I). This assessment questionnaire serves as both a direct measure (professionalism, 1e) and an indirect measure providing critical information about student perspectives of the internship experience. The questionnaire contains both open and closed-ended questions.

Indirect Methods:

- 1) The department’s Senior Exit Survey (Appendix II) also serves to provide student perspectives on several of the learning outcomes. We believe the student perceptions of the degree to which the major serves its stated objectives is valuable. The survey contains both open and closed-ended questions.
- 2) In 2013, an effort to identify means to specifically assess the experiences of transfer students will be undertaken.

Feedback from Key Stakeholders

Students:

- 1) Each semester a Senior Exit Survey (Appendix II) is given to students taking CJS 395 – Criminal Justice Administration. This course can only be taken by first semester senior students. It is anticipated that they will graduate the semester following successful completion of the course. First implemented in Fall 2011, 180 students completed the survey during the 2011-2012 academic year. Another 100 will complete the survey in Fall 2012.

The survey asks a variety of questions about the Criminal Justice major, and provides the department with information about student perspectives of courses, career goals, desires, as well as specific outcomes identified in the learning outcome matrix.

Alumni:

- 1) Feedback is collected through the Alumni Survey, which is administered each April by University Assessment Services. The low response rate limits the usefulness of the data acquired for assessment purposes.

Closing the Loop

Each Fall the Curriculum and Assessment Committee examines the prior year's assessment data (senior exit survey, internship survey, entrance and exit exam, alumni data when available) and uses it to identify strengths and weaknesses in the program, and identify curricular/program changes that may be needed, and other programmatic changes that could improve the department. These recommendations are submitted to the faculty during monthly department meetings, and action needed is followed up upon.

Appendix I: Criminal Justice Department Senior Survey

The Department of Criminal Justice Sciences seeks input from you to aid in the assessment of its undergraduate criminal justice program. This information will be used to improve our service to students. DO NOT place your name on this form. Please use the OPSCAN form to complete the following questions.

- 1.) When do you expect to graduate?
A.) Spring 2013 B.) Summer 2013 C.) Fall 2013
- 2.) What degree are you receiving?
A.) BA B.) BS C.) Don't know
- 3.) Were you a transfer student?
A.) Yes B.) No
- 4.) If you were a transfer student, did you receive an associate's degree?
A.) Yes B.) No C.) Was not a transfer student

For each of the following questions, please select the choice that best captures your experience with the criminal justice program.

A.) Strongly agree B.) Agree C.) Disagree D.) Strongly disagree E.) Does not apply

- 5.) Faculty were helpful when I needed assistance
- 6.) Overall, the quality of instruction was excellent in CJS courses
- 7.) Faculty were experts in their subject matter areas
- 8.) I was treated fairly in my dealings with faculty
- 9.) Department computer resources met my needs
- 10.) An internship is a valuable part of my education
- 11.) Career Services was helpful in my job search
- 12.) Student organizations were a valuable part of my education
- 13.) I was treated equitably by other students
- 14.) A CJS major expanded my career options
- 15.) Overall, I increased my knowledge and skills as a result of my CJS major
- 16.) I had an opportunity to get involved in community service/volunteering while working on my CJ degree
- 17.) I would recommend CJS to a good friend or family member

How well did the criminal justice program enhance your knowledge or skill in the following? For each of the skills, answer:

A.) A great deal B.) Moderately C.) Not much

- 18.) Problem-Solving
- 19.) Critical thinking
- 20.) Writing ability
- 21.) Knowledge of criminal justice theory
- 22.) Understanding of the criminal justice system
- 23.) Research methods
- 24.) Communication and presentation skills

25.) Professional and ethical behavior

Who or what influenced you in deciding to pursue the CJS program at ISU?

What do you feel are the strengths of the CJS program at ISU?

What do you feel are the weaknesses of the CJS program at ISU?

Are there specific skills or areas of knowledge you wish you had acquired as a criminal justice student at ISU?

Would you please share any additional comments about your experiences with the criminal justice program at ISU?

Appendix II: CJS Internship Assessment Questionnaire

CJS Internship Assessment

The following questions have been developed by the Criminal Justice Sciences Department to assess your experiences with the internship. This will be used to help the department evaluate its overall curriculum, and the internship's place in the major. Your answers are in no way tied to your grade in the internship classes, but we are requiring that you complete the survey before your grades for the courses will be assigned. The Curriculum and Assessment Committee will not examine your responses until after grades are submitted. Thank you for your assistance.

1. What agency did you complete your internship with?

2. Which of the following best describes the type of internship you had:

- a. Police department/sheriff's office
- b. Federal law enforcement
- c. Probation
- d. Corrections
- e. Parole
- f. Juvenile detention
- g. State's Attorney's office
- h. Public Defender's office
- i. Social services
- j. Other _____

3. How do you feel about the demands of your work assignment?

- a. Too heavy or advanced
- b. At your skill level
- c. Below your level

4. Did you discuss with your site supervisor prior to the beginning of the internship what was expected of you?

- a. Yes. B. No.

5. How would you rate your overall experience?

- a. Much better than expected
- b. Better than expected
- c. As expected
- d. Worse than expected.
- e. Much worse than expected

6. If you had the opportunity, would you be interested in working at the agency where you did your internship?

- a. Yes
- b. No

7. To what extent do you feel you were able to apply what you learned in criminal justice classes ?

- a. Great deal b. Somewhat c. Very Little d. Not at all

8. List the courses, **in order of importance**, that you have taken from the CJS department that you felt **most** useful on your work assignment.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____
5. _____

9. Where do you consider your home?

- a. Chicago proper b. Chicago suburb c. Other Northern IL area
d. St. Louis area e. Other southern IL area f. Central IL area
g. If other, please give location City _____ State _____

10. Where did you do your internship?

- a. Chicago proper b. Chicago suburb c. Other Northern IL area
d. St. Louis area e. Other southern IL area f. Central IL area
g. If other, please give location City _____ State _____

Perceptions of Your Internship Experience.

To what degree do you think your internship experience has provided you with the following benefits? Please indicate your degree of agreement with each of the following statements

For each question answer Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree

11. My internship provided an opportunity to gain real-world work experience that will be valued by employers.
12. My internship helped me determine whether to pursue a career in the criminal justice field.
13. My internship provided an opportunity to gain confidence in my professional skills and capabilities.
14. My internship provided an opportunity to learn valuable skills that would be difficult to learn in a classroom.
15. My internship provided the background to apply what I learned in the classroom to work-world experience.
16. My internship enabled me to gain awareness of what skills are used and valued in the workplace.
17. My internship enabled me to improve my interpersonal communication skills.
18. My internship enabled me to make more informed decisions in selecting a specific career within criminal justice.
19. I looked forward to my internship.

20. Overall, my internship was enjoyable.

21. The last semester is the best time to complete an internship.

22. The length of the internship was

- a. too long
- b. too short
- c. Just right

23. Please explain your answer to question 22.

24. Briefly describe your main work assignment(s). Note any aspects that seemed unusual, of a high priority or of particular significance or interest.

25. What did you find most challenging about the internship experience?

26. What would you tell other CJS majors about the internship program?

27. Is there anything else you would like to share?