

Criminal Justice BA/BS/MS Program

Annual Program Report

Year:	2022-2023
Program:	Criminal Justice
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Summary of Continuous Improvement Efforts since Last Report

Provide a brief description of how assessment results have been used for program improvement. Point to a specific example of how an assessment provided the program with data it could use for improvement and what that improvement was, if possible, also show evidence of the improvement. You may look at data from the two previous academic years to support this case.

Respond here: The CJ program is actively reviewing course rotations to ensure timely graduation for students. A key focus of the student learning outcomes is on prioritizing social responsibilities. Notably, the course CRIJ 4311 Ethical Issues achieved a perfect passing rate in both the main assignment and final class grade. To enhance student success, the instructor has increased class discussions, resulting in noticeable improvements. However, the course CRIJ 4310 Social Justice, which contributes to the examination of the SLO goals, was not offered during the 22-23 academic year due to the faculty shortage. Fortunately, it will be available in Fall 2023, taught by a newly hired faculty member. Moving forward, regular offerings of this course are anticipated.

Instructors have revised major assignments to enhance the SLOs related to critical thinking and analytical planning/skills. For instance, in the course CRIJ 4380 Research Method, students successfully applied their acquired knowledge and techniques in a faculty-led research project. This experience proved to be beneficial for students. Additionally, in CRIJ 3311, the class incorporates debates or presentations alongside the final paper to evaluate students' abilities in addressing theoretical interpretations and applications. CRIJ 4321 courses are introducing new assignments to further expand upon the analytical skills students acquired in CRIJ 3311. Collectively, these additional assignments offer valuable data for assessing the SLOs in critical thinking and analytical planning/skills. Lastly, the final SLO goal, which involves integrating knowledge from various social sciences and humanities disciplines to comprehend policy implications, has seen improvements due to higher performance in major assignments and increased course passing rates.

Program Highlights Since Last Report

Identify and briefly discuss any programmatic curriculum changes made since the last report (e.g. new courses, course changes, SLO changes, course deletions).

Respond here: 1. New course rotation in the BA/BS degree is continued. An updated three-year course rotation carousel was done. Students' 4-year degree completion pathways were further reviewed and updated, including the consideration of transferred students from community colleges.

2. More course assignments were included for examining the program student learning outcomes.

3. Student organizations and activities were strongly encouraged to energize student learning out of classroom.

Table 1. Assessment Results and Analyses for Current Cycle.

STAGE 1: PLAN				STAGE 2: DO		STAGE 3: STUDY
Departmental Student Learning Goal	Program Student Learning Outcome	Assessment	Assessment Method/Location	Benchmark Expectations	Data Results	Actions/Goals Based on Data Results* What do the data tell you? How will you use this data? How were data from the last cycle used to make changes during this cycle, and What were the results of those changes?
Ensure the program offers comprehensive course rotations and schedules that pave the way for student success.	Students have knowledge in the three components of criminal justice systems and can use technology effectively in the fields.	Undergraduate courses in three components of criminal justice system are required and rotated annually to allow comprehensive training for students.	Semester class schedules and mid-range course rotation carousel.	No more than 1 (each program) of the following courses omitted in an academic year: Undergraduate: CRIJ 1306, CRIJ 2313, CRIJ 3238. CRIJ 3300, and CRIJ 3380.	CRIJ 1306, CRIJ 2313, and CRIJ 3380 were offered twice in each semester of the academic year of 2021-20220, while CRIJ 3300, was offered once in the year. Students' passing rates in these courses were 85% or higher in online and in-person sessions.	The course rotation since spring 2022 had significantly increased the enrolled credit hours by over 50% in CJ program although the enrollment head count was not increased. was mostly done well with only one of the targeted courses not being offered. The passing rates of these courses were all beyond 85%. The updated course rotation is considered a success for helping students' success in completing their degree.
Ensure Course content and assignments that foster the achievement of student learning goals, particularly in critical thinking and analytical planning.	Students can conduct evidence-based analyses with critical thinking and problem-solving skills.	Upper-level courses require analytical assignments for developing the skills.	- CRIJ 3311 final paper assignment and presentation /debate passing rates - CRIJ 4380 research project assignment - CRIJ 4321 final paper assignment passing rate.	Several required upper-level undergraduate courses (CRIJ 3311, CRIJ 4321, and CRIJ 4380) had the revised or new assignments with the passing rate at 80% or higher.	All denoted assignments from the three courses that were offered in 2022-2023 had passing rate of 85% or higher. However, CRIJ 3311 course passing rate were at 80% due to some students had either lower test grades or absence in other assignments/tests.	The targeted courses and assignments provided good evaluation of the learning goals and outcomes. Together, these courses offer multiple assignments to demonstrate the targeted learning outcomes.

Expand and enhance internship opportunities for senior students so they can Apply acquired professional knowledge through real-world internship experiences.	Students have content knowledge in the field and the necessary skills, both academic and practical, for a successful career in their chosen fields.	Practicum courses are offered to require internship in the undergraduate program.	-Students' placement rate in off-campus internship. -Sample Graduate course assignments passing rates.	Placement rate (90% or higher) and passing rate (90% or higher) in CRIJ 4340 Criminal Justice Application (internship) and CRIJ 4313 Practicum in Policing (PIP).	The internship placement rate through CRIJ 4340 Criminal Justice Application was stayed nearly perfect and other students took CRIJ 4313 Practicum in Policing. In 2022-2023, The passing rate (pass/non-pass grades) was high too. CRIJ 4313 Practicum in Policing is only offered in Summer. In summer 2023, 18 students enrolled the courses (not start until July 2023). It is expected that the passing rates for both courses remain 100% since the course required pre-screen for readiness for taking either course by the instructors.	Both CRIJ 4340 and CRIJ 4313 PIP have been highly appreciated by students and they are benefited from accessing a strong professional network among the Southeast Texas criminal justice offices, that the CJ program instructors taking time established over the past decades. The collaborated off-campus offices are pleased with the LU CJ interns working in their office.
Foster a strong emphasis on ethical standards and professional codes (social responsibility) to prepare students for their future roles as CJ professionals	Students should understand the professional code as working in the criminal justice field worker. They should demonstrate the understanding of social expectation on the profession	- Course materials that examine various cultural and social factors influence professional behaviors are emphasized in some CJ courses.	-Degree plans that require students taking courses have differentiate orientations and these courses are rotated annually. CRIJ 4311 Ethical	Undergraduate degree plans are reviewed annually to have CRIJ 4311, and CRIJ 4310 offered at least once a year with passing rate of 80% or higher. Students are expected to have high passing rates in both CRIJ	CRIJ 4311 main assignment had passing rates at 100% (23/23) in Spring 2023, which showed a significant improvement from the last academic year. The instructor encouraged more in classroom discussion might have promote the student success. CRIJ 4310 was not offer in the academic year due to	The additional data from CRIJ 4310 is expected for future evaluation of the SLO.

	and the importance of complying the expectations.		Issues, CRIJ 4310 Social Justice are offered annually.	4311 (required) and CRIJ 4310 courses.	lack of instructors. With a newly hired faculty member, CRIJ 4310 will be offered in Fall 2023.	
Effectively integrate knowledge from various social sciences and humanities disciplines to comprehend the implications of policies.	Students should apply what they learned from the required courses to examine various elective topic courses and do analytical assignments that integrate related subjects in discussion.	Written assignments from various elective criminological courses are examined to demonstrate students' capabilities of applying knowledge from various fundamental courses in the assignments.	Assignments from CRIJ 4312, 4313, CRIJ 4314, CRIJ 4330, CRIJ 4333, and CRIJ 4335 are examined for their passing rates.	The expected passing rates of these assignments are 80% or higher. The assignments can be a final paper, an analytical paper, or a class presentation.	The projected course assignments in 2022-23 course sessions had good passing rate varied from 80% to 95% while majority of them toward the higher ends.	Despite the changes in assignments between semesters, the passing rates of course assignments in different sessions consistently reflected high success rates. These obtained data provide valuable insights into the capability of CJ students to engage in comprehensive discussions concerning CJ issues with broader social implications. The data strongly indicate their aptitude for drawing well-rounded conclusions.

Table 2. Continuous Improvement Results Since Last Report

Stage 4: ACT		
Actions/Goals Based on Data Results <i>*Copy last cycle's actions/goals and report on progress toward continuous improvement on those here.</i>	Status <i>C=Complete P=Progressing N=No Action Taken</i>	Discussion of Status <i>If C, describe efforts that led to accomplishment of actions/goals. If P, provide update on progress made toward accomplishing actions/goals and what tasks remain If N, discuss why action toward accomplishing actions/goals has been delayed and what work will be initiated toward accomplishment.</i>
Annual review of program course rotation and degree plans.	Complete	Class schedule review and plan is critical for the success and the updated rotation increased enrolled credit hours which could contribute to students' timely degree completion.
The revised goal (from the last year) expands on the student learning outcomes (SLOs) related to critical thinking and analytical planning through a comprehensive block of courses and assignments. This broader approach aims to enhance students' abilities in critical thinking and analytical planning by examining them with a range of courses' assignments that promote these skills.	Complete	The data collected from various courses allowed for a more comprehensive evaluation of the student learning outcomes (SLOs).
Internship experiences facilitate students' access to the criminal justice career network locally and possibly beyond the southeast Texas region.	Complete	A strong and well-maintained professional CJ network through the internship courses well-prepared students to explore the potential career paths and develop their professional career beyond the classrooms.
The program has made a significant commitment to nurturing students' understanding of their roles and responsibilities as CJ professionals. An exemplary example of this is an student organization led event on the on-campus FBI domestic terrorism workshop in the summer of 2022, which was made available to CJ students. This workshop served as a valuable opportunity for students to learn from and observe exemplary role models in the field.	Progressing and seek for additional data	The program places great importance on upholding the expectations of being a CJ professional in both the curriculum and classes. Any instances of deviant behavior are promptly identified and addressed, although documenting these efforts may present challenges that could be addressed in the future. One of the program's strengths lies in the positive interactions between faculty and students. It is essential to recognize and express appreciation for the contributions of both faculty members and

<p>Additionally, faculty members have actively promoted and supported the mentoring of student organizations. Since the fall of 2022, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of activities initiated and organized by these student organizations (For example, Raise Our Voice to Stop Human Trafficking held on Jan. 26 of 2023 at Lamar Student Center Ballroom). This increase in student-driven initiatives has created meaningful opportunities for student engagement and development within the program.</p>		<p>students. Such acknowledgement serves to enhance the overall program climate and fosters improvement in various aspects.</p>
<p>Revised Goal: Effectively integrate knowledge from various social sciences and humanities disciplines to comprehend the implications of policies. A good number of topic courses that can demonstrate the achievement of the revised goals were added to the program assessment.</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>The selection of the courses to be included to assess the goal completion could be because they are all elective courses and may not offered in a specific academic year. However, the different combination of the block of courses should not be an issue since a collective selection of courses should downplay bias from subjective selection.</p>