

Executive Summary of Program Assessment

The summary, including this page, should be no more than three pages.

Campus: UMKC

College/School: College of Arts and Sciences (if applicable)

Academic Unit: Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology

Date Submitted: 15/03/19 (dd/mm/yy)

Person Responsible for Success of Program: Lori Sexton, Chair

Submitted by: Office of the Provost

Degree Programs

Degree (e.g., BS, MA, PhD)	Degree Program	Enrollment		Number of Degrees Awarded	
		Most Recent Fall Semester (provide year) 2017	5-Year Fall Semester Average	Most Recent Academic Year (provide year) 2017-18	5-Year Average
BA	Criminal Justice and Criminology	207	217	46	47
Minor	Criminal Justice and Criminology	61	42	NA	NA
MS	Criminal Justice and Criminology	27	23	6	7

Changes Since Last Review

- The BA program has been offered fully online since Fall 2017. Student can complete the program in person, online, or through a combination of formats.
- Over the past few years, the MS-CJC program has begun to offer two required courses in online or blended formats: Intermediate Statistics, and Policy and Decisionmaking. These courses are taught by tenure-track faculty who have carried over their strong classroom-based pedagogy to an online format. We have also recently begun to offer new elective courses online, which both broadens the scope of material to which students are exposed and allows our students (most of whom work full time) increased flexibility in their program of study.

Strategies or Plans for Improving Program

- The BA program identified critical milestone courses and realigned the curriculum to ensure that foundational courses that allow students to learn “the language” of the discipline were offered early in the first two years.
- The data (distributive headcount), shows that CJC BA is the fourth largest major in the College with 245 majors in 2016. In 2016, CJC awarded 53 undergraduate majors and 15 minors. Our goal is to produce between 90 and 100 majors a year. While we are concerned with the program’s 2016 retention rate data (65% after the first year, and 49% after the second year) and years to degree data (4.8 for first time students, and 2.9 for transfer students) we are showing some improvement over time. Further improving this data remains among our highest priorities as a department.

- As a result of ongoing review of assessment results, the undergraduate program has further developed and expanded our internship program and offer greater flexibility in course offerings, including more evening, summer, and online classes. Students' requests for an increased emphasis on some of the SLOs in earlier CJC coursework led us to elucidate the links between theory, research, and policy in foundational courses and provide more opportunities for students to improve their writing and speaking skills.
- In order to further strengthen our graduate program, we are committed to developing our students' applied writing skills and increasing their exposure to applied research and community engagement opportunities. To achieve this goal, we are exploring two curricular changes that will have ripple effects throughout the MS-CJC program of study. The first is the addition of a Graduate Writing Seminar to our program of study. This course is envisioned as an intensive writing experience in which students learn (or relearn) the basics of academic writing for a public audience and then hone these skills through a writing assignment. Students will have the opportunity to "workshop" a paper through engagement with classmates and their professor. Emphasis in the course will be on disseminating research results to a lay audience, in order to better prepare students to bridge the gap between academic and practitioner communities in criminal justice.

Other Comments

- The MS-CJC program is strong and growing. Our SCH generation has increased over the past few years (AY15 = 277, AY16=324, AY17=323, AY18=369)and we are slated to graduate more students in AY18 than we have in years (AY15 = 5, AY16=6, AY17=5, AY18=13anticipated).
- Our graduate program's first place ranking for campus-based graduate degrees in Criminal Justice² has brought many students to us, and the basis for this ranking has left our graduates with the valuable knowledge, skills, and networks necessary to excel in their chosen field.

²<https://www.criminaljustice.com/best-masters-criminal-justice-programs/>