

Criminal Justice Program AS Assessment 2018

Criminal Justice Program Assessment Plan

The Utah State University Criminal Justice Program strives for the highest quality education. To reach this goal the program has set standards to assess the program outcomes. Competencies have been determined and are updated at irregular intervals as needed. Each individual course contains student learning objectives and outcomes that link back to program competencies. The Criminal Justice program uses its assessment information to affirm or improve our course content in relation to our learning objectives and accreditor-derived competencies. The assessment process is new (2018) to the Criminal Justice program which just added a 4-year degree option. Outcomes will be reported in the spring of 2019.

Criminal Justice Mission

The criminal justice program's guiding philosophy is based on the land-grant university heritage. The program mission is to prepare criminal justice professionals to begin work in a diverse society and to equip students with the knowledge and skills essential to promoting social welfare in institutions such as education, health, employment, housing and criminal justice. The program provides grounding in fundamental knowledge and skills, such as critical thinking, clarification of personal values, awareness of diversity, professional use of self, and communication and interpersonal relationship skills.

Criminal Justice Competencies

The Criminal Justice faculty have identified competencies that are relevant to working in the various fields tied to Criminal Justice. These competencies will give graduating students the tools they need to develop Criminal Justice careers. These competencies are identified as:

- Intellectual and practical skills – to include critical thinking, challenging current practices, and seeking methods to enhance these practices.
- Human rights – to include understanding the human and constitutional rights of all citizens. Also, to have an understanding of the changing societies as it deals with diversity.
- Natural world – to include an understanding of how the world is changing as cultures and laws change.
- Ethics – to include an understanding of the responsibility Criminal Justice professionals have when using discretionary decisions that makes changes in the lives of people in the criminal justice system.

Criminal Justice Program Assessment Goals

The Criminal Justice program will assess the learning outcomes of the students by giving assessments in the beginning stages of the student education process. The initial class taken by all criminal justice students is the CJ 1010 Introduction to Criminal Justice. In this CJ 1010 class, an assessment will be administered at the beginning of the class to determine the student's entry level capacities in relation to

the competencies. The competencies will be targeted throughout the criminal justice curriculum. A second assessment will be administered at the end of the final criminal justice course required for the A.S. degree, CJ 2350 Laws of Evidence. This assessment will measure students' competency levels as the students complete their Associates in Criminal Justice degree.

At the end of the student's completion of the Baccalaureate degree of Sociology with a Criminal Justice emphasis, the student competency levels will be measured again, this time in connection with the Soc/CJ Internship class, SOC 4470. The supervisors of the internship will evaluate the student's ability to display desired competencies at the levels of: well below expectations, below expectations, meets expectations and exceed expectations.