

Assessment Plan

Western Michigan University

Criminal Justice

Mission Statement: The criminal justice major provides the necessary skills and knowledge for students to pursue careers in criminal justice and/or professional or graduate work in law, criminology, or other related areas. More generally, the criminal justice major aims to produce citizens capable of informed decisions about criminal justice policy issues. Consistent with Western Michigan University's mission as a student-centered research university, as well as the mission of the College of Arts and Sciences to foster the development of disciplinary, core knowledge and to develop critical thinking, communication, research, aesthetic and creative abilities, problem solving, and multiple learning skills, the general goals, quality objectives, expected learning outcomes, and learning outcome assessments of the criminal justice major are encompassed within the following goals:

1. To foster acquisition of disciplinary, core knowledge in the field of criminal justice.
2. Develop critical thinking, communication, and research skills

Outcome: Goal 1. Student Learning

Foster acquisition of disciplinary, core knowledge in the field of criminal justice.

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Baseline/Capstone Assessment (SOC 2600 & SOC 4660) Survey of Student Production (SOC 4600) Student Internship Report (SOC 4960) Internship Supervisor Report (SOC 4960) Focus Groups with Graduating Seniors			Yes
Assessment Method Category: Course-Embedded Measure			

Outcome: Goal 1a. Student Learning

Provide comprehensive understanding of the organization and operation of the criminal justice system in the United States. Criminal justice majors will have fundamental knowledge about the four key parts of the criminal justice system-law, law enforcement, courts, and punishment-the interrelationship between these parts, and the process which connects them together. This is core knowledge necessary for all professionals working within the criminal justice system.

Outcome Status: Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Baseline/Capstone Assessment (SOC 2600 & SOC 4660) Survey of Student Production (SOC 4600) Student Internship Report (SOC 4960) Internship Supervisor Report (SOC 4960) Focus Groups with Graduating Seniors			Yes
Assessment Method Category: Course-Embedded Measure			

Outcome: Goal 1a1. Student Learning

Demonstrate knowledge of the parts of the criminal justice system-law, law enforcement, courts, and punishment-and how these interrelate.

Outcome Status: Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Baseline/Capstone Assessment (SOC 2600 & SOC 4660) Survey of Student Production (SOC 4600) Student Internship Report (SOC 4960) Internship Supervisor Report (SOC 4960) Focus Groups with Graduating Seniors			Yes

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active

Outcome: Goal 1b. Student Learning

Promote familiarity with current policy issues related to criminal and social justice. Students will develop an understanding of criminal justice policy, including its history and underlying theoretical and ideological assumptions. They will also become familiar with the issues of social justice and controversies that currently permeate the criminal justice system.

Outcome Status: Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Baseline/Capstone Assessment (SOC 2600 & SOC 4660)			Yes
Survey of Student Production (SOC 4600)			
Student Internship Report (SOC 4960)			
Internship Supervisor Report (SOC 4960)			
Focus Groups with Graduating Seniors			

Outcome: Goal 1b1. Student Learning

Demonstrate knowledge of current policy issues in the field of criminal justice.

Outcome Status: Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Baseline/Capstone Assessment (SOC 2600 & SOC 4660)			Yes
Survey of Student Production (SOC 4600)			
Student Internship Report (SOC 4960)			
Internship Supervisor Report (SOC 4960)			
Focus Groups with Graduating Seniors			
Assessment Method Category:			
Course-Embedded Measure			

Outcome: Goal 1c. Student Learning

Provide knowledge of trends and patterns and explanations of criminal behavior, victimization, and punishment. Knowledge of the historical trends and patterns in crime, victimization, and punishment will dispel widely-held myths about these issues. Students will develop a theoretical understanding of the sociological and social psychological causes of criminal behavior, and trends and patterns of crime.

Outcome Status: Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Baseline/Capstone Assessment (SOC 2600 & SOC 4660)			Yes
Survey of Student Production (SOC 4600)			
Student Internship Report (SOC 4960)			
Internship Supervisor Report (SOC 4960)			
Focus Groups with Graduating Seniors			

Outcome: Goal 1c1. Student Learning

Demonstrate knowledge of trends and patterns in crime, victimization, and punishment.

Outcome Status: Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Baseline/Capstone Assessment (SOC 2600 & SOC 4660)			Yes
Survey of Student Production (SOC 4600)			
Student Internship Report (SOC 4960)			
Internship Supervisor Report (SOC 4960)			
Focus Groups with Graduating Seniors			
Assessment Method Category:			
Course-Embedded Measure			

Outcome: Goal 1c2. Student Learning

Demonstrate ability to explain these trends and patterns, and causes of criminal behavior, victimization, and punishment using multiple sociological and social psychological theoretical perspectives.

Outcome Status: Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Baseline/Capstone Assessment (SOC 2600 & SOC 4660)			Yes
Survey of Student Production (SOC 4600)			
Student Internship Report (SOC 4960)			
Internship Supervisor Report (SOC 4960)			
Focus Groups with Graduating Seniors			
Assessment Method Category:			
Course-Embedded Measure			

Outcome: Goal 2 Development

Develop critical thinking, communication and research skills.

Outcome Status: Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Survey of Student Production (SOC 4660)			Yes
Student Internship Report (SOC 4960)			
Internship Supervisor Report (SOC 4960)			
Focus Groups with Graduating Seniors			

Outcome: Goal 2a. Development

Foster critical thinking skills. Be able to think critically is the mark of an educated person. These skills are especially important for professionals working within the criminal justice system. Criminal justice majors will develop these skills in their required courses.

Outcome Status: Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Survey of Student Production (SOC 4660)			Yes
Student Internship Report (SOC 4960)			
Internship Supervisor Report (SOC 4960)			
Focus Groups with Graduating Seniors			
Assessment Method Category:			
Survey-Faculty			

Outcome: Goal 2a1. Development

Demonstrate the ability to assess criminal justice issues from multiple political/ideological perspectives

Outcome Status: Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Survey of Student Production (SOC 4660) Student Internship Report (SOC 4960) Internship Supervisor Report (SOC 4960) Focus Groups with Graduating Seniors			Yes
Assessment Method Category: Survey-Faculty			

Outcome: Goal 2a2. Development

Demonstrate the ability to critically assess an argument, including underlying assumptions, reasoning, evidence, and conclusions.

Outcome Status: Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Survey of Student Production (SOC 4660) Student Internship Report (SOC 4960) Internship Supervisor Report (SOC 4960) Focus Groups with Graduating Seniors			Yes
Assessment Method Category: Survey-Faculty			

Outcome: Goal 2b. Development

Develop effective oral and written communication skills. Criminal justice majors will develop the ability to communicate well in both written and oral form. These skills are essential for professionals working in the criminal justice system. These skills will be developed in required courses in the major, particularly, but not exclusively, in the capstone course.

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Survey of Student Production (SOC 4660) Student Internship Report (SOC 4960) Internship Supervisor Report (SOC 4960) Focus Groups with Graduating Seniors			Yes
Assessment Method Category: Survey-Faculty			

Outcome: Goal 2b1. Development

Demonstrate the ability to communicate research results in a clear manner to an audience.

Outcome Status: Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Survey of Student Production (SOC 4660) Student Internship Report (SOC 4960) Internship Supervisor Report (SOC 4960) Focus Groups with Graduating Seniors			Yes
Assessment Method Category: Survey-Faculty			

Outcome: Goal 2b2. Development

Demonstrate the ability to summarize coherently information, develop a thesis, and support it with evidence.

Outcome Status: Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Survey of Student Production (SOC 4660) Student Internship Report (SOC 4960) Internship Supervisor Report (SOC 4960) Focus Groups with Graduating Seniors			Yes
Assessment Method Category: Survey-Faculty			

Outcome: Goal 2c. Development

Acquire knowledge of research methods and analytical techniques to allow analysis of crime and criminal justice trends and to inform decisions about crime and criminal justice policies. The ability to collect, analyze, and write about data is an important skill required of many professionals working in the criminal justice system. Criminal justice majors acquire these skills in their required research methods and statistics courses.

Outcome Status: Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Survey of Student Production (SOC 4660) Student Internship Report (SOC 4960) Internship Supervisor Report (SOC 4960) Focus Groups with Graduating Seniors			Yes
Assessment Method Category: Survey-Faculty			

Outcome: Goal 2c1. Development

Demonstrate the ability to evaluate critically research on criminal justice topics.

Outcome Status: Active

Means of Assessment			
Assessment Method	Criterion	Schedule	Active
Survey of Student Production (SOC 4660) Student Internship Report (SOC 4960) Internship Supervisor Report (SOC 4960) Focus Groups with Graduating Seniors			Yes
Assessment Method Category: Survey-Faculty			