3-Year Academic Assessment Plan

Program Assessed: Criminal Justice, Graduate Program
Department: Criminal Justice (CRJ)
College: Urban Affairs (GUA)
Department Chair: Joel Lieberman
Assessment Coordinator: Emily Troshynski; Alexis Kennedy
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I. CRJ Graduate Student Learning Outcomes (“G1-G5”): By the end of the Traditional Master’s Degree Program, graduate students will be able to:

1. **Nature of Crime**: Demonstrate advanced theoretical knowledge of the nature of crime, and understanding regarding patterns of criminal activity.
2. **Law and Society**: Demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of the law and the legal system, as well as decision-making in the criminal justice process, the social and political context of the legal system, important constitutional issues, and how criminal law differs from other forms of law.
3. **Criminal Justice Administration**: Demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of criminal justice institutions and processes, and current criminal justice policy.
4. **Research Method**: Demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of research methods, statistics and program evaluation.
5. **Application**: Demonstrate the basic theoretical, empirical, and substantive knowledge and skills required for graduate education at the doctoral level, teaching at the community college level, or for research and social policy positions in criminal justice related fields.

Curriculum map for CRJ Graduate Student Learning Outcomes: In a review of 13 graduate courses taught, overall all five (5) Graduate Student Learning Outcomes are successfully met. Specifically, the Criminal Justice Department excels in providing graduate students opportunities to fulfill department graduate learning outcomes in Application (G5) and Law and Society (G2). The CRJ department does an excellent job providing graduate students opportunities to successfully meet graduate learning requirements. Please see Appendix 3 for CRJ faculty assessment of courses emphasizing Graduate Student Learning Outcomes (G1-G5, as noted above).

Department Graduate Student Learning Outcomes Assessed: Similar to previous years, CRJ annual assessment plans include the following: 1) an analysis of course grades in CRJ 700, 701 and 705 where learning outcome G1 will be measured. Expected measures (i.e. results that would indicate success) are the amount of students completing these three courses with a final grade of “B” or above; 2) an analysis of course grades in CRJ 700, 704 and 705 where learning outcome G2 will be measured. Expected measures (i.e. results that would indicate success) are the amount of students completing these three courses with a final grade
of “B” or above; 3) an analysis of course grades in CRJ 700 and 705 where learning outcome G3 will be measured. Expected measures (i.e. results that would indicate success) are the amount of students completing these three courses with a final grade of “B” or above; 4) an analysis of course grades in CRJ 700, 702, 703, and 705 where learning outcome G4 will be measured. Expected measures (i.e. results that would indicate success) are the amount of students completing these three courses with a final grade of “B” or above; 5) an analysis of course grades in all required courses where learning outcome G5 will be measured. Expected measures (i.e. results that would indicate success) are the amount of students completing these three courses with a final grade of “B” or above. This assessment will occur during Year 1, 2, and 3.

In addition, learning objectives G1-G5 will also be measured via Cumulative GPA and Thesis where the expected measures/results that indicate success are a cumulative GPA above a 3.0 and the satisfactory completion of a thesis. This assessment will occur during Year 1, 2, and 3.

Please note: An analysis of the Professional Master’s Degree Program will also ensue. The learning outcomes for this program is the same as the Traditional Master’s Degree Program except that G5, Application, states “Demonstrate enhanced knowledge, skills, and performance among practitioners already employed in federal, state, and local criminal justice organizations.” Department Graduate Student Learning Outcomes Assess are the same as the above, except that, instead of “satisfactory completion of a thesis,” Professional MA students will be assess on the Comprehensive Exam where expected measures are successfully passing. This assessment will occur during Year 1, 2, and 3.

Outcomes Related to Graduate Level Requirements: These forms of annual assessments, for both the Traditional and Professional Master’s Degree Programs, will also assess graduate outcomes related to: student engagement in research (via thesis assessment), creative expression and/or appropriate high-level professional practice (via comp assessment and CRJ 700), activities requiring critical analysis (CRJ 700, 702, 703, 705), and the development of knowledge in the field under study (an analysis of course grades in all required courses). This assessment will occur during Year 1, 2, and 3.

Plan for Sharing Assessment Results: The results of all assessments, for Department Undergraduate Learning Outcomes (“D1-D8”), University Undergraduate Learning Outcomes (“U1-U5”), and Department Graduate Learning Outcomes (“G1-G5”) will be shared with all faculty within the Department, course instructors, and the Departmental Committees on: 1) Assessment; 2) Undergraduate Coordination; and 3) Graduate. This will be done to help “close the loop,” make better and well-informed decision for future improvements, for keeping students better prepared for course work (and retention, progression, and completion of undergraduate and graduate programs), and for recruitment of qualified students into the graduate program (Traditional and Professional MA) and newly created PhD program.
Appendix 1: DEPARTMENT GRADUATE OUTCOMES

- **G1. Nature of Crime**: Demonstrate advanced theoretical knowledge of nature of crime and crime patterns
- **G2. Law & Society**: Demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of law and the legal system
- **G3. CJS Administration**: Demonstrate advanced knowledge of criminal justice institutions and processes
- **G4. Research Method**: Demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of research methods/statistics/program evaluation
- **G5. Application**: Demonstrate basic theoretical, empirical, and substantive knowledge and skills required for graduate education, for teaching, research, and positions in CJS fields

**KEY**
- 1 = minor emphasis (less than a quarter of course content/assignments dedicated to this learning outcome)
- 2 = moderate emphasis (one-third of course content/assignments dedicated to this learning outcome)
- 3 = significant emphasis (over half of course content/assignments dedicated to this learning outcome)

### DEPARTMENT GRADUATE LEARNING OUTCOMES (G)

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**Averages**: G1 (1.62); G2 (2.23); G3 (1.62); G4 (1.77); G5 (2.38)

**Summary**: CRJ excels in providing graduate students opportunities to fulfill department graduate learning outcomes in Application (G5) and Law and Society (G2); Overall CRJ does
an excellent job providing graduate students opportunities to successfully meet graduate learning requirements.