

PROGRAM REVIEW CERTIFICATION

Institution: University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Academic Unit: School of the Arts and Professions
Department of Criminal Justice

Program Reviewed: Bachelor of Science – Criminal Justice

**Year in which the review
Process was completed
And name of the External
Reviewer:** April 2008
This program was reviewed by
Dr. Jay Albanese, Certified Peer Reviewer,
Academy of Criminal Justice Services,
Virginia Commonwealth University.

Submitted by:



Charles Williams, Ph.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs

**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS AND PROFESSIONS
DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**PROGRAM REVIEW - 2008
EXTERNAL REVIEWER SUMMARY**

Overview:

The Criminal Justice (CRJS) Program leads to the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) Degree in criminal justice. The four-year course of study was developed by blending the various disciplines--history, sociology, political science, psychology, social work, and law. The curriculum at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore is interdisciplinary, which enables the student to understand more clearly the interrelationships among justice systems and the impact of these systems on society. Students in the Criminal Justice Department complete the UMES general education requirements, acquiring knowledge and skills in general areas such as languages, the social sciences, the humanities, and health and physical education.

Five year Enrollment and Degree Data

	2002-3	2003-4	2004-5	2005-6	2006-7
Enrollment	249	268	321	394	462
Graduates	55	43	48	69	83

Summary of Internal and External Reviews:

This summary reflects an analysis of information reported by faculty on the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) Faculty questionnaire and the MHEC departmental review questionnaire. It also reflects, to a large extent, the results of measuring the program against the standards employed by the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) in their program certification reviews. Lastly, a cursory review of the responses from a recent survey of graduates provided information in significant areas.

Summary of Significant Findings

1. **Curriculum** - The current curriculum address those areas proscribed for the Criminal Justice discipline by ACJS. Over the life of the program, (since 1989), new courses have been added. The program underwent its last major curriculum revision in 1999. The curriculum is currently under review.

2. **Learning Outcomes Assessment** - The department has a learning outcome and assessment plan which comports with ACJS standards. The department's plan is incorporated in the Student Learning Outcome Assessment Report (SLOAR) of the University. The implementation of the department plan is evolving. A major component of the plan is the development of a Capstone Course. It is anticipated that this course will be developed and incorporated in the revised curriculum, referenced above.
3. **Resources** - The department has seven tenure-track faculty lines which includes the line designated as department chair. Six of the lines are currently filled and an active search is being conducted to fill the seventh. The current chair is in a "acting" capacity. It is anticipated that the chair's position will be filled in the Fall 2008 semester with someone other than the incumbent. It is also anticipated that the vacant faculty line will be filled by Fall 2008. The lack of adequate faculty resources is the most significant review finding. The last time that the department was awarded a new faculty line was in 1999. At that time the department had less than 200 students. Criminal Justice is currently the second largest department on campus with approximately 478 students. Additionally, in 2001 the department initiated, without an increase in faculty resources, a graduate degree program which now has approximately 35 students. Neither has there been an increase in administrative support. There is one administrative assistant position assigned to the department. There are three adjunct instructors teaching a total of five sections of undergraduate courses. For the Fall 2008 semester three faculty members are scheduled to teach overloads. The department competes with others on campus for funds to cover such things as scholarships, library holdings, faculty development, computers, IT support, etc.
4. **Alumni Satisfaction** - The results of a short alumni survey due March 31, 2008 are still arriving. There were 700 surveys mailed and we have received, as of this writing, 55 replies. A cursory review of the survey results reveals that students were generally satisfied with the criminal justice program. They expressed a need for more emphasis in the areas of internships and career placement.

Specific Recommendation from the External Examiner:

1. **Curriculum** – Although the current curriculum meets the ACJS standards there is a need for a system of continuous review by an active curriculum committee. It is anticipated that the current revision project will fix problems relating to course sequencing and course pre-requisites. The external reviewer recommended that the department consider whether a separate course on ethics in criminal justice is needed. Also, the current curriculum requires 45 hours of criminal justice courses. According to

ACJS standards, not more than one-third of semester hours in a Bachelor's degree program should be in criminal justice and related cognates. He also recommended that the faculty carefully review their elective choices in Criminal Justice to insure that they include only courses which are offered with some regularity.

2. **Learning Outcome Assessment** – The department needs to continue implementation of its learning outcome assessment plan. Critical to the plan is the development and implementation of a Criminal Justice Capstone course.
3. **Resources** – The shortage of faculty lines not only adversely affects class sizes, course offerings, retention and graduation rates but also the time and energy available to faculty for grant writing, community and university services, and professional development. The administrative matters within the department have been adversely affected by personnel turbulence and the shortage of administrative personnel. Increased faculty lines and administrative assistant support are recommended. Further, the program and the university should provide incentives to insure that all full-time faculty attend one national or regional professional campus each year.
4. **Alumni Satisfaction** – The results of a recent survey have not been fully analyzed. However, a cursory review reveals an overriding need for increased departmental emphasis in the area of Internship availability and Career Placement.

Department's Plan for Addressing Recommendations

1. **Curriculum** – The Curriculum is currently under review. Findings and recommendations resulting from the internal/external review will be considered in the process.
2. **Learning Outcomes Assessment**: Development of a capstone course will be part of the curriculum review. Implementation of the department's learning outcome assessment plans will be elevated in priority.
3. **Resources** – The acquisition of additional faculty lines is beyond departmental control.
4. **Alumni Satisfaction** – Recently acquired survey data will be analyzed with a view towards improving the CRJS program, consistent with the information provided. Special attention will be devoted to internship and career placement issues.