

Executive Summary for the Department of Criminal Justice & Sociology: Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice

Major Findings of the Program's Quality and Productivity

The Columbus State University criminal justice program is among the most popular programs in the College of Letter and Sciences and in fact, it ranks second in number of majors. Criminal Justice majors participate in extracurricular activities and honors programs that are recognized nationally. Through internships, students are given opportunities to network with various professional leaders and practitioners in the field of criminal justice. These networks will aid continued success as they go beyond graduation.

Program's Strengths in the Area of Quality

- Recently hired three full-time tenure line faculty members from universities where criminal justice programs are rated in the top-tier
- This fall a consultant will evaluate current program for relevance, competency and accessibility
- New internship opportunities available for all majors
- Forthcoming statistics class requirement adds to the integrity of the program
- Improved synergy with sociology creating a multicultural perspective
- Improved course-embedded assessment tools

Program's Strength's in Area of Productivity

- Very good retention and graduation rates
- Alternative delivery models

Program's Weaknesses in the Area of Quality

- Over dependency on part-time faculty
- Lack of diversity among faculty
- Curriculum that is relevant, contemporary, and rigorous

Program's Weaknesses in the Area of Productivity

- Create better balance with online and face-to-face offerings

List of Recommendations for Improving Program Quality

Over dependency on part-time faculty

- We have hired three new full-time tenure-track faculty members and we plan to continue to hire more

Lack of diversity among faculty

- We will advertise in newsletters and visit regional and national conferences to generate a very diverse candidate pool

Curriculum that is relevant, contemporary, and rigorous

- We are in the process of re-examining our curriculum and we expect a new curriculum in place by next fall
- We are working with an external consultant to effect this

List of Recommendations for Improving Program Productivity

Create better balance with online and face-to-face offerings

- Presently over 60 percent of our course offerings are online. By hiring additional tenure-track faculty, we will be able to teach more face-to-face courses, especially in light of the fact that we are building a new student residence hall with over 500 beds.

Program Improvement Plan

Improvement Initiatives

- Continue to hire new tenure-track faculty. Convert two existing lecturer lines to tenure-track lines
- Hire consultant to assist in creating new curriculum
- Provide every major with an internship experience
- We have hired a full-time internship coordinator

Conclusions about the Program's Viability at CSU

Without a doubt, the Criminal Justice program at CSU has shown growth, and in fact, criminal justice will soon become the largest program in the College. We have hired new faculty and an internship coordinator to increase the probability for our majors to find meaningful work upon graduation.