

# Dept. of Criminal Justice and Criminology

## Student Learning Outcomes

### 2013

The B.A. in Criminal Justice is designed to empower students as critical thinkers, creative evaluators, ethical actors, and effective communicators concerning matters of crime and administration of justice at the local, state, national, and international levels. The Program's undergraduate learning goals and outcomes are closely aligned with the WSU Seven Learning Goals of the Baccalaureate as well as with the standards posited by the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. Courses syllabi will be adapted to follow new UCore course syllabi requirements to include course objectives and measures linked to Student Learning Outcomes.

#### **Goal 1: Critical and Creative Thinking**

Think critically and creatively, apply logical reasoning, and use systematic and theoretically-based approaches to address and resolve complex problems associated crime, crime control, and the criminal justice system (**WSU Goals: 1, 2, 4, and 7**)

##### **Outcomes**

- Identifies and summarizes the problem, question, or issue presented.
- Communicates, assesses, and analyzes appropriate supporting data/evidence when considering a problem.
- Develops and communicates one's own perspective, hypothesis or position.
- Identifies and considers the influence of bias including the way ethics are shaped by context and assumptions.
- Addresses the issue using other (disciplinary) perspectives and positions.
- Demonstrates the ability to employ creativity to address deficiencies in the practice of criminal justice in the United States.
- Identifies artificially imposed constraints impacting a policy.

#### **Goal 2: Research and Information Literacy**

Read, understand, analyze, and synthesize relevant information, including qualitative and quantitative social scientific data and substantive and procedural legal doctrines relevant to criminal justice, and evaluate the public policy implications of such information (**WSU Goals: 2, 3, 4, and 7**)

##### **Outcomes**

- Applies fundamental research techniques, along with a working knowledge of computers and a command of written and oral communication, to the investigation of justice issues.
- Evaluate information and its sources critically.
- Identifies relevant data and analyzes contemporary issues in criminal justice employing local, state and national crime statistics.

- Accesses and uses relevant literature via library and internet database searches.
- Demonstrates knowledge of the essential elements of objective social science research methodology and design.

### **Goal 3: Administration of Justice**

Understand how criminal justice institutions are organized and managed (**WSU Goals: 7**)

#### **Outcomes**

- Demonstrates an understanding of the theoretical explanations for crime, and the needs of and challenges faced by suspects/offenders, crime victims, community members, and employees of the criminal justice system.
- Demonstrates a critical understanding of the impact of historical and contemporary criminal justice policies on society.
- Demonstrates a broad understanding of the operations of law enforcement, courts, and corrections.

### **Goal 4: Legal and Constitutional Protections**

Understand the legal and constitutional principles upon which individuals working within the criminal justice system must operate to protect the rights of all members of society, and upon which criminal justice policy and statutes are developed and evaluated (**WSU Goals: 6 and 7**)

#### **Outcomes**

- Integrates constitutional due process guarantees with the practices of law enforcement, prosecution, and corrections.
- Demonstrates an understanding of the protections provided by the fourth, fifth sixth, eighth, and fourteenth amendments to the Constitution.
- Demonstrates an understanding of legal precedent, the appellate process, and judicial review.
- Demonstrates an understanding of the substantive definitions and elements of Index crimes.

### **Goal 5: Theory of Crime**

Understand theoretical explanations for the nature, extent, and causation of crime from an interdisciplinary perspective (**WSU Goals: 7**)

#### **Outcomes**

- Demonstrates an understanding of the major theories and underlying premises regarding the causation of crime.
- Understands the relationship between theories related to causes of crime and the philosophical and practical approaches to punishment.

- Exhibits an understanding of and the ability to apply criminological theories (theories of the making and enforcing of the criminal law and theories of criminal and deviant behavior) in explaining the entire criminal justice process.
- Demonstrate critical reasoning ability through an evaluation and validation of theoretical concepts in criminological and administrative theory.

### **Goal 6: Communication**

Be able to effectively analyze, present, convey, and discuss ideas and issues orally and in writing  
(**WSU Goals: 4 and 5**)

#### **Outcomes**

- Demonstrates the ability to write analytical and persuasive essays.
- Demonstrates the ability to write a scholarly research paper that synthesizes his/her own ideas with ideas and information from sources.
- Demonstrates the ability to complete writing assignments without grammatical or spelling errors, and following an appropriate social science writing and reference style.
- Demonstrates the ability to effectively communicate his/her own ideas in individual presentations.

### **Goal 7: Diversity**

Understand and effectively articulate issues related to diversity and the criminal justice system  
(**WSU Goals: 5 and 6**)

#### **Outcomes**

- To employ a work ethic embracing effective and compassionate leadership as change agents with a focus on cultural competencies.
- Understands the significance of variations by race, ethnicity, class, gender, age and sexual orientation and other culturally relevant categories to crime and administration of the criminal justice system.
- Understands the social factors and processes through which prejudice and discrimination are created and perpetuated.

### **Goal 8: Ethics and Social Justice**

Understand ethics, social justice, and moral responsibility and their foundational role within the criminal justice system (**WSU Goals: 6 and 7**)

#### **Outcomes**

- Identifies and considers the influence of bias including the way ethics are shaped by context and assumptions.
- Demonstrates the ability to solve criminal justice ethical dilemmas by choosing sound courses of action.
- Demonstrates ability to justify courses of action by linking to theories of justice.