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Criminal Justice Minor
Department of Sociology, Social Work and Anthropology
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Utah State University
CIP Code: 43.0107

Section I: Request

The Sociology, Social Work and Anthropology (SSWA) department in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences proposes a minor in Criminal Justice (CJ). The minor contains a five-course requirement (described below) which will give students a background to pursue a major in several disciplines as well as marketable skills for a wide range of employment possibilities in the criminal justice arena. Section II describes the need and current interest in the criminal justice discipline. There is also a description of the course sequence to be taken for this minor. Section III outlines the minimal impact this minor will have on the staff and institution, while attracting additional students to the University through various sites. Criminal Justice has been rated in the top 10 popular areas of study at Universities across the nation for several years. The current USU Criminal Justice program, located on the Eastern campus, is one of the top USU Eastern programs, comprising 5-10% of graduates at USU Eastern annually.

Section II: Need

The Criminal Justice field across the United States employs over 2.4 million individuals spending over \$2.5 billion each year (2007 US Bureau of Justice Statistics). With the exception of the past few years during the economic recession in the U.S., there has consistently been a demand for individuals to work in the various criminal justice fields, including Courts, Corrections, and Police. There is a strong demand for employees in the Corrections field, where employment has grown over 500% in the last two decades. Average starting wage for corrections officers across the nation is approximately \$40,000.

There are several CJ programs throughout the state of Utah, all of which focus on face-to-face instruction. USU Eastern (formerly College of Eastern Utah) has offered a two year associates degree program for over 10 years and it has grown to be one of the largest programs on the Eastern campus. The CJ program now serves USU Eastern students with face-to-face instruction and students on other USU campuses through interactive broadcast. In spring 2012 the first CJ course was broadcast to the USU Logan campus. With strong distance education technology and support, the USU Criminal Justice program has the ability to expand instruction in this field. In addition to the CJ Associate Degree now offered across the USU campuses, USU is well positioned to offer a Criminal Justice minor that will provide criminal justice emphasis for students across a wide range of majors. Students in many undergraduate majors, including Social Work, Family Life, Psychology, Journalism, and Political Science, among others, would find focused criminal justice training valuable both academically and in terms of employment opportunities after graduation.

One difference between the current programs in Utah and the Criminal Justice minor proposed here is that this program is located in the Department of Sociology, Social Work and Anthropology and includes several criminal justice related Sociology courses in its curriculum, including Criminology, Social Deviance, Juvenile Delinquency, and Criminal Law and Justice. This offers additional educational opportunities in theoretical and research-related topics central to Sociological Criminology beyond the more applied courses in the Criminal Justice curriculum

Below is a listing of the existing criminal justice programs in Utah and any emphasis they have in their degree:

University of Utah

No criminal justice degree

Utah Valley University

A.A., A.S. Pre-Major in Criminal Justice and in Forensic Science

These degree programs focus largely on training individuals to move into the criminal justice field of law enforcement. The program degree description includes a job opportunities list *all* of which are law enforcement oriented. All courses are on campus delivery of instruction.

Dixie State College of Utah

A.S. in Criminal Justice B.A., B.S. in Criminology Emphasis (new program in 2011) B.A., B.S. in Digital Forensics Emphasis (new program in 2011)

All courses are on campus delivery of instruction. The emphasis is strongly towards the digital forensics.

Southern Utah University

AAS in Criminal Justice B.A., B.S. in Criminal Justice B.A, B.S. in Criminal Justice Forensic Science Emphasis

This B.S. degree program has a strong focus on Forensic Science, specifically criminal laboratory work. It is associated with the Political Science & Criminal Justice department.

Snow College

A.A., A.S. in Criminal Justice.

Salt Lake Community College

Associate of Applied Science Degree in Criminal Justice

Salt Lake Community college (SLCC) has a strong connection between their two year program and the four year degrees available at Weber State.

Weber State University

AS/AA Criminal Justice BS/BA Criminal Justice with one of the following concentrations:

- Corrections
- Forensic Science
- Law and Justice
- Law Enforcement

Weber State University does offer an AS/AA in Criminal Justice, however they rely heavily on the two year program from SLCC for the base of their 4 year CJ degree. The minor in CJ requires a similar course work to USU with 18 hours total credits hours required, 12 of which are required from four classes. The entire 18 hours comes from the CJ discipline.

Utah State University Proposed CJ Minor

The proposed requirements for a minor in Criminal Justice include five courses totaling 15 credit hours. Two courses are required, with one additional course selected from a set of three courses on different aspects of the criminal justice system, and two courses chosen as electives from a set of courses in the Criminal Justice and the Sociology curricula.

The first required course is CJ 1010: Introduction to Criminal Justice. It is designed to give students a broad understanding of the criminal justice system in the United States. It reviews the current practices of law enforcement, the courts, and corrections. The second required course is SOC 3420: Criminology. This is an upper division Sociology course focused on analysis of theories of crime causation, different types of crime, and methods of research in the field. The third required course will be a choice by the students of one of three CJ courses focused specifically on law enforcement ("Police and Society" course currently being developed), corrections (CJ 1300: Introduction to Corrections) or criminal law and the court system (CJ 1330: Criminal Law).

The student will then have the choice of two more elective courses from the list below, including a second upper division Sociology course and a Criminal Justice course.

CJ 1010 Introduction to Criminal Justice (Breadth Social Sciences)

Designed for all students. Introduces students to the history, processes and functions of the American criminal justice system and its primary components, namely law enforcement, courts, and corrections. Students will generally understand the history, process, and functions of the police, courts, and corrections as they relate to the operation of our criminal justice system and key constitutional provisions.

CJ 1300 Introduction to Corrections

Examines the history and the administration of corrections in America. Emphasis will be placed on the philosophies of punishment, sentencing strategies, prison community, alternatives to incarceration, and various reform efforts. Critical issues facing corrections will also be examined. Students will generally understand the evolution and administration of corrections in America.

CJ 1330 Criminal Law (prerequisite CJ 1010)

Designed mainly for, but not limited to, the student majoring in Criminal Justice. It surveys the American criminal justice system. Elements of crime, defenses, historical foundation, limits, purposes and functions of criminal law are discussed. Students will understand the key general principles that relate to criminal law, criminal liability, complicity, uncompleted crimes, defenses to criminal liability and the various crimes in our legal systems. They will also learn how to read and use statutes and analyze fact situations in light of the law.

CJ 1340 Criminal Investigations (Prerequisite CJ 1010) Introduces students to the criminal, investigation process. Legal, scientific, and administrative aspects of this process will be explored and students will come to appreciate the complexity of conducting a thorough investigation and be able to deal with potential obstacles that are commonly encountered. Course is a valuable precursor to taking Criminalistics. Objective is to acquaint the student with the fundamentals of criminal investigations.

CJ 1350 Introduction for Forensic Science (Prerequisite CJ 1010)

Mainly designed for the student majoring in Criminal Justice. Includes interrogation and interview, sources of information (electronic/traditional), crime scene procedure, introduction to identification, collection and

preservation of evidence, laboratory techniques and case preparation. Students will understand the functions and duties of the forensic scientist and learn basic skills that related to evidence collection, preservation and analysis.

CJ 1355 Crime Scene Processing (Prerequisite CJ 1010 - USU Eastern Campus only) Covers the duties and responsibilities of a crime scene technician at the scene of a crime. Includes instruction on the proper collection, handling and storage of evidence. Report writing, proper requests for examination as well as laboratory methods are an integral part of this course.

CJ 2110 Security

Designed as a requirement mainly for the student majoring in Criminal Justice. Examines the diverse components which make up the security function, as well as principles and concepts in physical security, loss control and crime prevention. Students will know and understand the historical and professional principles of public and private security and crime prevention, as well as risk management and loss control principles.

CJ 2330 Juvenile Justice

Designed mainly for the student majoring in Criminal Justice. Studies the origin, philosophy, and development of the juvenile justice system, particularly the juvenile court. Emphasis is placed upon laws, detention, adjudication, probation, after-care, foster homes, and other alternative correctional practices. Students will understand the nature and origins of juvenile law and the guiding principles that drive the system.

CJ 2340 Survey of Criminal Procedure (Prerequisite CJ 1010)

Introduces students to the following concepts; historical development of laws and crime causation, historical development of the Justice System, the arrest, the initial appearance, pretrial proceedings, place and time of trial, the trial, confrontation and assistance of counsel, pretrial motions, hearings and plea negotiations, the trial and the roles of major participants, the jury, trial procedure, the jury instructions and deliberation, the verdict, appeals and appellate citations, the sentence and correctional procedures, sentencing philosophy and clemency, extradition process, juvenile system focus and victims' rights.

CJ 2350 Laws of Evidence (Prerequisite CJ 1010)

Designed mainly for the student majoring in Criminal Justice. Deals with the principles and rules of law emphasizing evidentiary problems related to criminal cases. An introduction and overview of the court process and problems related to the fact finding process of juries. Explores the courtroom procedures as they relate to evidence and its uses in the courtroom, with emphasis upon the introduction of evidence and the rules pertaining thereto. Students will understand the value of the rules of evidence in the law and be able to understand and apply them to fact scenarios.

CJ 2360 Juvenile Law and Procedure

Designed mainly for the student majoring in Criminal Justice. Covers the juvenile justice system emphasizing Utah law and procedure. Studies differences between juvenile and adult systems, delinquent acts, juvenile treatment as adults and role and function of probation, youth corrections, family services and the community. Students will generally understand the nature and origins of juvenile law, the principles and laws that pertain to juvenile delinquency; neglect, abuse and dependency proceedings; and status offenses. They will also learn how to read and use statutes and analyze fact situations in light of the law.

CJ 2370 Child Abuse and Neglect

Overview of causes, identification, reporting, and legal issues pertaining to children who are abused and/or neglected. Cycle of domestic violence and its effects on children will be discussed. Primary objectives are to assist students in gaining an insight of what constitutes child maltreatment and domestic violence, assess underlying causes of abuse and neglect, and how it is addressed within the criminal justice system.

CJ XXXX: Police Operations (In proposal process)**SOC 3410 Juvenile Delinquency**

Focuses on nature, extent, and causes of delinquent behavior, Examines workings of juvenile justice system and programs for delinquency prevention,

SOC 3420 Criminology

Examines theoretical explanations for crime in the U.S. Describes characteristics of major forms of criminal behavior.

SOC 3430 Social Deviance

Examination of sociological perspectives on deviance as they apply to lifestyles, commitment, and social control in American society.

SOC 4420 Criminal Law and Justice

Sociological analysis of relationship between law and social control and social change, especially regarding law enforcement, courts, and corrections.

Section III: Institutional Impact

The proposed minor will offer the first focused education and training program in the field of criminal justice across the entire USU set of campuses. Building largely on existing resources, including instructional capacity and distance learning technology, the program will provide excellent training of both academic and professional career value to students across a wide range of majors in the social and behavioral sciences, education, law, and social services. It will enable students to tap largely existing courses and educational experiences to develop a clear criminal justice emphasis in their undergraduate training and credentials.

Section IV: Finances

Support for the Criminal Justice Minor will come from a combination of USU Eastern and USU's Regional Campus and Distance Education program. The cost for delivery of the program will be instructional labor. The necessary technology and infrastructure are in place.