

New Program Proposal

Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice (BSCJ)

II. General Information

- Institution Name: Plymouth State University
- Date of Proposal: March 2018
- Degree and Program Name: B.S. in Criminal Justice
- Name of Proposing Department: Criminal Justice Department
- 2010 CIP code and CIP title <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=55>
 - 43.0104 Criminal Justice/Safety Studies.
- Proposed Date of Program Implementation (effective term/year): Fall, 2018
- Primary Contact Person: Dr. Francis M. Williams, Program Coordinator, Criminal Justice Department, Justice and Security Cluster
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III. Program Demand / Current Offerings

Evidence of indicators of student demand, employer or community---based demand

The Criminal Justice Program at PSU currently offers a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice. The Criminal Justice program prepares students for careers in law enforcement, corrections, courts and social/rehabilitative services and/or graduate school, by teaching the theoretical, practical, and empirical aspects of criminal justice.

The rationale for the addition of a **BS degree for Criminal Justice** is to bring the program in line with student needs, creating a situation that would more easily allow students the ability to double major with other BS degree programs and earn a dual major within **120 credits**.

Furthermore, the addition would more closely align the program within the discipline.

The B.S. degree focuses heavily on career preparation. It includes a heavy emphasis on the CJ system itself, how the branches of the system operate together and independently, ethical conduct, where the field is going as a whole, etc. The writing course is more geared toward technical writing within the discipline (i.e. reports, etc.).

The BA focuses more on how the CJ system fits into our broader society, the functions it serves (or doesn't), how it relates to and interacts with other fields and systems, and how CJ policy is shaped and formed. The writing course is more geared toward skill sets used in research or grant writing.

The BA in Criminal Justice is a thriving academic program at Plymouth State University with, in the fall of 2017, 310 majors working towards a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Criminal Justice and 20 minors. It is anticipated that many of these new and current students will opt for the BS in CJ over the BA in Criminology (pending approval), depending on their interests and career path. Over the years, the chair of the CJ program, Stephanie Halter, has fielded many student complaints regarding not being able to double major with other BS programs within 120 credits and being required to earn the dual degree within 150 credits. This would provide students the opportunity to double major with a variety of other BS programs, providing our students more

opportunities for interdisciplinary work. This option allows students to tailor their degree to their specific interests and career path, which are wide-ranging in the field of criminal justice and are often overlapping with other programs at PSU that are both BA and BS. Here are a few examples of situations the former chair of Criminal Justice has seen during her tenure as chair:

- A current 5th Year Senior and double major in Computer Science (BS) and Criminal Justice (BA) is currently working on 150 undergraduate credits to earn the dual degree.
- A student majoring in Business Administration (BS) and Criminal Justice (BA) dropped CJ as a major under her CJ adviser's guidance, even though she had taken all the required courses to fulfill the major to avoid having to pay an extra year of tuition.
- A student majoring in Psychology and Law (BS) and Criminal Justice (BA) had to take an extra year worth of course work despite having fulfilled all the major requirements to earn the 150 credits required for the dual degree.
- A student majoring in Sociology (BA) and Criminal Justice (BA) earned both majors in 120 credits.

The impetus for these changes at this time is because the Criminal Justice Department is transitioning to a 4-credit model **Bachelor of Arts** in Criminology (BA) to better accommodate student demand.

Nationally, criminal justice programs tend to offer a BS degree (e.g. UMASS-Lowell, USNH, Westfield State, Bridgewater State, Northeastern University, ASU, UC, UM, UL, UO, UCF, Sam Houston, Penn State, Old Dominion University), with a few programs offering a BA in CJ.

However, it is more typical for a BA to be in Criminology than CJ or for it to be a joint Criminology/CJ program. For example, University of Maryland's Criminology and Criminal Justice degree is a BA. It is common for BA programs to be more liberal arts focused, less proscriptive in requirements, and require a proficiency in a foreign language. BS programs tend to be more proscriptive, focus more on technical or scientific aspects in the field, and do not tend to require a language. Enabling a BS option would put us on par with many of our comparators and the proposed curriculum would better accommodate transfer students. We have also seen situations where other social sciences at PSU offer both BA and BS degree options. For example, PSU's Psychology program has both BA and BS options.

IV. Program Characteristics

Appropriateness of the program to the institution's mission and goals

The proposed BS in Criminal Justice and pending curriculum changes align with our 5-year program review, which set goals to address retention and graduation rates in the major. Through some analyses of classes' withdrawal and failure rates, the CJ program identified problem courses for our majors and aims to address our retention and graduation rates with these curricular changes.

Consistent with the general mission of Plymouth State University, the Criminal Justice Department seeks to produce well-rounded graduates who are well-equipped to both continue their education and enter the work force. In addition, the department serves the surrounding community, not only by producing high quality graduates well prepared to enter their field, but also by partnering with local and regional agencies to provide academic and research support.

Criminal justice is a field of discipline that engages exceptionally well with a variety of other disciplines, many of which are offered at PSU. It is imperative that we provide students the opportunity to double major with a variety of other BS programs, providing our students more opportunities for interdisciplinary work. This option allows students to tailor their degree to their specific interests and career path, which are wide-ranging in the field of criminal justice and are often overlapping with other programs at PSU that are both BA and BS.

In addition, some of our courses are being redesigned to better serve the desires of our undergraduates, to better suit the needs of criminal justice employers, to take advantage of the emerging trends in the field of criminal justice, and to align with the goals of the university to increase our retention rate. For example, we are revising our introductory survey course (CJ1010) to appeal to those more service-minded students not just interested in law enforcement, and because as a faculty we are convinced that this will help retention. Indications from our students suggest that our current course as structured is; a) too content heavy, b) a good percentage of the course content is repeated later in the more directed courses, and c) a hindrance to students in other majors wishing to take other CJ classes.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate an understanding of criminal justice processes, terminology, and history,
- Articulate an understanding of the link between criminological theory, research methodology, and criminal justice policy,
- Formulate and appraise your moral, ethical, cognitive, and personal development in relation to the field of criminal justice,
- Demonstrate computing, verbal, and written communication skills,
- Describe and evaluate the principles of scientific methodology so that you may become informed consumers of criminal justice research, and
- Develop an esprit de corps among criminal justice majors while in attendance at Plymouth State University to facilitate contacts among criminal justice professionals and alumni.

Description of knowledge and/or skills students will be expected to demonstrate during the course of their participation in the program and at the completion of the program.

All of our required courses have specific course objectives that describe the knowledge and skills students are expected to demonstrate during the course of their participation in each course. Broadly, these course objectives encompass disciplinary knowledge in the three core areas of courts, corrections and policing as well as building critical thinking skills, presentation skills, written and oral communication, computing and technology in the discipline and understanding and awareness of diverse populations. Disciplinary knowledge includes innovative and best practices in the field, as well as historical knowledge of the development of the discipline.

Anticipated/planned transfer and articulation agreements or arrangements.

This curriculum has been revised to ease transfer students issues, but at present articulation agreements will need to be updated. Specifically, SO/CJ3090 Criminology has been an upper

level course, and has been revised to be an advanced theory course, and a lower level Criminological Theory course has been added (CJ/SO 2XXX Crime and Criminals). This will allow many transfer students to receive credit for CJ/SO 2XXX Crime and Criminals if they have taken a lower level Criminology course, which is common place in CJ programs as Criminological Theory is foundational for the Criminal Justice student and critical to have earlier on in their education. Additionally, historically we've had issues with the credit awarded for Criminal Law or Criminal Procedure, because our old course titled Criminal Adjudication was a combination of both. We also heard from many graduates of our program who joined law enforcement that they were at a disadvantage without having had a course specifically on criminal law. Hence, in the BS degree, we split the one course (Criminal Adjudication) into two, Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure, and only require them for the BS degree.

Certification, licensing, or accreditation requirements associated with program

Certification and licensing are not a component of criminal justice programs. The *Standards for Accreditation* are an articulation by the higher education community of what a college or university must do in order to deserve the public trust. They also function as a framework for institutional development and self-evaluation. The criminal justice program at PSU is part of the university and complies with requirements to meet that standard and goes through an evaluation process every ten years. Our CJ program was recently evaluated by an external reviewer as part of an ongoing process to ensure compliance. The Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) also has certification standards for criminal justice programs. However, this is solely a voluntary certification that is not necessary for any CJ program across the country to have. Certification means that a program has been reviewed according to specific standards by an authoritative external body (ACJS), and has been certified that it meets those standards. Certification is a step toward accreditation but again it's not required for any program. It's basically a way to provide a self-assessment of how a program is doing.

With regard to accreditation standards, although PSU's Criminal Justice program is not accredited, we seek to remain consistent with accreditation standards. The Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) certification standards identify 6 major content areas: administration of justice, corrections, criminological theory, law adjudication, law enforcement and research and analytic methods. Of these six content areas, all are fully met with the new BS in CJ. The administration of justice is covered in CJ1XXX: Criminal Justice in Action. Corrections is covered by CJ2XXX: Corrections, criminological theory by CJ2XXX: Crime and Criminals, law and adjudication by CJ2XXX: Criminal Law & CJ2XXX Criminal Procedure, law enforcement by CJ3XXX: The Law Enforcement Environment, and research/analytics methods by CJ3XXX: Research Methods in Criminal Justice and CJ3XXX Data Analysis for Criminal Justice. In addition, accreditation standards require that at least 2/3 of our core curriculum be taught by full time faculty, which we ensure. The CJ faculty are committed to teaching our core curriculum and would reduce involvement in teaching general education courses and elective courses to fulfill our commitment to our majors if necessary.

V. Program Design

We do not expect any special requirement, or additional admission standards and criteria, applied for potential application for this program.

As stated previously, the pending curriculum changes align with our 5-year program review which set goals to address retention and graduation rates in the major. Through some analyses of classes' withdrawal and failure rates, the CJ program identified problem courses for our majors and aims to address our retention and graduation rates with a number of curricular changes and the introduction of the BS in Criminal Justice. This curriculum specifically addresses several issues. First, eliminating SO2220 and CJ1010 which we identified as courses in which approximately 1 in 5 students were either failing or withdrawing. The new first year student experience of Criminal Justice in Action, and Technology in Criminal Justice as the WRCO will dually excite our students about the possibilities for career opportunities in the field of criminal justice and prepare them to be strong writers early on in our program. Additionally, eliminating the language requirement, which anecdotally we've seen hold back many students from graduating. Third, the curriculum changes will allow us to integrate more high impact learning experiences in courses to address our retention and graduation rates, as detailed in our 2014 program review. Fifth, we have a goal of connecting our students with alumni to share their experiences and expanding the network of working professionals in the field that current students have access to. This goal is addressed in the creation of CJ1XXX Criminal Justice in Action course, which has a speaker series as the 4th credit. The speakers for this will integrate our accomplished alumni. Our most recent program review is available upon request. In addition, when speaking to alumni, anecdotally, we heard that many felt unprepared in terms of their content knowledge of criminal law. Our current Criminal Adjudication course which was mostly procedure, didn't cover criminal law enough to prepare our majors for an easy transition to a job in policing. The program felt it important to expand this offering, making Criminal Law its own required course for the BS. The other major change this curriculum makes is providing our majors Criminological Theory as an entry level course (second year in proposed sequencing). This course is foundational knowledge for the discipline, and an upper level Criminology course was not meeting students learning needs early enough. This will also ease transfer credits, as many transfer students were ending up taking Criminology again, because they took a lower level Criminology course and our course is an upper level course. The switching of order for Methods and Data Analysis (a new course) will provide increased opportunities for project based and applied learning. Lastly, revising the capstone experience from a seminar course to an applied work experience either in the field off campus or a work experience on campus paired with a career search skills 1-credit toolkit course will better prepare our students for the transition to the work environment.

Proposed Degree Requirements	Credits
CJ1XXX Criminal Justice in Action	4
CJ 10XX Technology in Criminal Justice (TECO, WRCO)	4
CJ/SO 2XXX Crime & Criminals	4
CJ 2XXX Criminal Law	4
CJ 20XX Criminal Procedure	4
CJ 20XX Corrections,	4
CJ 3050 The Law Enforcement Environment,	4

CJ 3XXX Research Methods in Criminal Justice,		4	
CJ 3XXX Data Analysis for Criminal Justice (QRCO, TECO)			4
CJ/PY 31XX Society, Ethics and the Law (INCO)		4	
CJ 48XX Practicum or CJ 48XX Internship	3		
CJ 48XX Career Search Skills in Criminal Justice,		1	

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Criminal Justice Major Electives (Pick 1)

4

AN3600 Forensic Anthropology		4	
CJ3010 Forensic Science		3	
CJ3030 Forensic Science Laboratory	1		
CJ30XX Criminal Investigation		4	
CJ30XX Race, Class, Crime and Justice (DICO)		4	
CJ/SO30XXX Juvenile Delinquency	4		
CJ/SO 3XXX Explaining Crime		4	
CJ3015 Cybercrime	4		
CJ3025 Criminal Profiling	4		
CJ34XX Homeland Security	4		
CJ35XX Women and Crime (DICO/GACO)	4		
CJ3600 Restorative Justice Practice with Youth		4	
CJ3720 Topics in CJ	4		
IS4360 Cultural Diversity and American Society (DICO) (INCO)		4	
PO3630 Constitutional Law/Civil Liberties	4		
SO3180 Sociology of Deviance		4	
SO3370 Sociology or Race and Ethnicity(DICO)		4	
SO3380 Drugs and Society	4		

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Quantitative Reasoning (Math Foundations)

MA2300 Statistics I (QRCO)	4		
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General Education

EN1200 English Composition		4	
IS111 The First Year Seminar: Critical Thinking and the Nature of Inquiry			3-4
CTDI Creative Thought Directions	6-8		
PPTD Past and Present Directions	6-8		
SIDI Scientific Inquiry Directions		6-8	
SSDI Self & Society Directions		6-8	
GACO Global Awareness Connection			3-4
WECO Wellness Connection		3-4	

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Recommended Course Sequence:

First year

CJ1XXX Criminal Justice in Action,		Credits	
		4	
CJ 10XX Technology in Criminal Justice (TECO, WRCO)			4

IS1xxx FYS: Critical thinking and the Nature of Inquiry	3
EN1200 English Composition	4
MA2300 Statistics I	4
CTDI Creative Thought Directions	3-4
PPDI Past and Present Directions	3-4
SIDI Scientific Inquiry Directions	
<u>3-4</u>	
28-31	
Second year	
CJ/SO 2XXX Crime & Criminals,	
4	
CJ 2XXX Criminal Law	
4	
CJ 20XX Corrections	4
CJ 20XX Criminal Procedure	4
CTDI Creative Thought Directions	3-4
PPDI Past and Present Directions	3-4
SIDI Scientific Inquiry Directions	
3-4	
SSDI Self & Society Directions	
<u>3-4</u>	
	28-32
Junior Year	
CJ 3050 The Law Enforcement Environment	
4	
CJ 3XXX Research Methods in Criminal Justice	
4	
CJ 3XXX Data Analysis for Criminal Justice (QRCO, TECO)	
4	
SSDI Self & Society	3-4
WACO Wellness Connection	3-4
GACO Global Awareness Connection	
3-4	
Electives	8
	<hr/> 29-32
Senior Year	
CJ/PY 31XX Society, Ethics and the Law (INCO)	
4	
CJ 48XX Practicum or CJ 48XX Internship	
3	
CJ 48XX Career Search Skills in Criminal Justice	
1	
Electives	24-17
	<hr/> 32-25

Interdisciplinary program collaborations (if applicable).

While the BS program does eliminate some required courses that are not taught by our program (language requirement), the other course that is being replaced (SO 2220) are being replaced with a CJ/SO cross-listed course. In addition, the purpose of the proposal is actually to provide more opportunities for CJ students to collaborate across a greater variety of disciplines through the opportunities of double majoring. The revised curriculum still provides a great number of free electives for students to utilize to study abroad, double major, or minor. Most of our majors have at least 1 minor and many have 2 minors. This allows them to tailor their educational experience by their interests and for the intended job opportunities they hope to pursue. We continue to have a robust variety of upper level courses from a variety of disciplines to pick from for the upper level major elective requirement. Additionally, we continue to have a relationship with AS&C, who offer the Forensic Science course and Philosophy with whom the Society, Ethics and the Law course is cross-listed. The CJ program faculty are committed to developing mutually beneficial opportunities for our majors, and continuing to grow the Criminal Justice program for the good of our students and the university.

Procedures and criteria for assessing student learning outcomes beyond grading in courses, identifying: when, during the course of their participation in the program, students will be assessed; the assessment methods that will be used; and the criteria for determining success.

Student learning outcome # 1 is assessed via a pre-posttest in our Criminal Justice in Action course. This assessment is completed every 3-5 years in order to balance regular data collection with the desire to minimize the burden on incoming students who are administered the pre-test in the Welcome to the Major session of orientation and the post-test during the final exam period for our introductory course Criminal Justice in Action during assessment years. The criteria for determining success is, on average, an increase in the exam scores from Time 1 to Time 2. We also collect a survey in our capstone course, which has been Senior Seminar but will become the career preparation course in the new curriculum, capturing graduating CJ students' perceptions on how well they achieved the student learning outcomes. Students are asked to rate how well they achieved an understanding for each of the areas specified in the student learning outcomes. A copy of the survey is available upon request. The department aims to examine data for one-two student learning outcomes annually.

VI. Program Delivery Systems

The BS in Criminal Justice program will be offered entirely at the main campus in Plymouth NH. All the courses will be taught in a face-to-face classroom setting with individual instructors having the option to teach a course online if requested. Currently criminal justice classrooms are located in Hyde Hall and with the occasional exception all CJ classes are taught in the assigned classrooms.

VII. Enrollment Impact

We do not expect this pending change to significantly impact our overall enrollment numbers, except for possibly a small increase in transfer students. However, we do expect that it will positively affect our retention rates. It is hoped that the new curriculum will increase retention and aid majors and incoming transfer students in completing their degree in a timely manner. We will likely see an increase in double majoring, increasing the interdisciplinary development of our majors, while continuing to provide the existing BA options that our students are currently utilizing. With the course revisions to 4 credits, more high impact learning experiences were built into the course revisions and opportunities to connect with practitioners in the field including our alumni.

We expect that more students will opt for the BS in Criminal Justice as opposed to the BA in Criminology. Because the BS does not require a foreign language, Senior Seminar, or an upper-level theory class; it will prove more attractive to those students who are focused on law enforcement careers. However, students should note that it does require completion of all four content area courses, an internship, and Emerging Tech. We do expect that with the introduction of this major there will be a concurrent shift of students who are primarily interested in law enforcement; especially those in the second year of the program who have not taken the foreign language requirement yet. It is important to note that the CJ faculty feels strongly that it will also prove more attractive to those CJ majors, CJ minors and those from other disciplines who double-major in CJ and are not interested in law enforcement careers, because they will have the flexibility to take classes and engage with others in a more interdisciplinary manner that aligns with the university cluster model. We have every expectation that enrollments will stay consistent with the previous four years. However, because of these changes there is a strong possibility we will see an upward trend in students who are double-majoring with CJ the second major of choice for business students, Psychology, and Social Work in particular.

Declared Majors over last 4 years:

Department	Fall of 2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Criminal Justice					
BA Criminal Justice	297	283	277	261	297
No Option	297	283	277	261	297
Total	297	283	277	261	297

Current CJ students with fewer than 45 credits will be advised to switch to either the BA or BS in the 2018-2019 catalog. This decision came after concluding “In sum, second year BA students who switch to the new BS in Criminal Justice (CJ) requirements will see only an increase of 1 credit if they switch to the BS in CJ. We should strongly recommend 2nd year students to switch to either the new BA or BS, as the slight increase in credits is negligible and much less than if they were to stick to the old and have to take 4 credit courses to fulfill old requirements” (see Transition Analysis for specifics).

Students with 45-90 credits will be individually advised regarding whether it would be beneficial for them to switch to the new catalog or finish out their degree program with their current catalog with 4 credit courses. “In sum, this group is a bit messier as the possible courses taken or not varies more, but overall it seems that switching to the new catalog curriculum would benefit them or be at a minor increase in credits required, depending on which classes they'd taken yet or not. These students should be looked at on a case by case basis. (see Transitional Analysis).

Students with over 90 credits will be advised to remain with their current catalog and complete their degree requirements with the 4 credit courses based on the conclusions found in the Transitional Analysis: “In sum, we should recommend to our seniors to remain with current catalog and BA, especially if already completed language/desire to develop language skill, with 4 credit courses at an additional 2 credits required for the BA. For seniors who haven't completed the language and wish to switch to avoid, it would mean a remaining 3-4 4-credit courses to complete the new BS, for a total of 12-16 remaining credits. This is a net gain of 4-8 credits for those having taken the language already and a net gain of 0-2 credits if have not completed the language yet; thus, seniors who have not completed a language requirement may wish to switch.” Additionally, see substitution plan for the programs’ plan for students fulfilling the new program requirements and which courses would fulfill the new courses’ requirements. The CJ faculty are committed to easing our students through this transition and are committed to not increasing any costs to students or time to graduation. We would consider waiving the upper level elective requirement for the major in cases in which a situation arises that the number of credits a student would need to take is just not feasible and would either increase cost or delay graduation. We would also utilize student request forms to approve courses to fulfill requirements that are not covered in the blanket agreements as needed to make this transition smooth for our students.

Will this enrollment represent an increase in total FTE for the institution?

There is no anticipated increase in total FTE for the institution with this added option.

VIII. Institutional Resources

The criminal justice program is currently one full-time faculty member short of its minimal staffing requirements. The currently serving faculty members are capable of teaching the core courses in the required curriculum. However, it is a struggle to release faculty members to teach courses outside of the discipline (FYS, GenEds) though some do. We emphasize the necessity of full-time tenured track faculty to teach core courses as its extremely advantageous to our students and enhances our reputation in the discipline. We currently fill in the open spots for teaching our electives by contracting with several qualified practitioners, and/or retired legal experts.

What are the resource implications for the new program? There are no anticipated additional resources needed beyond the current level/need.

What new expenses are required for the program? There are no anticipated new expenses required for the BS in CJ. The new BS in CJ requires 48 credits, while the 2017-2018 BA in CJ requires 45 credits. Overall, for the university this is a negligible increase. While we have eliminated the SO2220 course, it has been replaced with a cross-listed CJ/SO course and the CJ program has gained Bob Heiner ½ time to teach for CJ. This helps off set the slight increase in credits to be taught by CJ faculty. Additionally, CJ4800 is eliminated for the BS and electives are reduced to 1 course. The internships are not supervised by full time faculty, and the department plans to continue to utilize outside resources to oversee internships. The CJ program is currently down one Tenure Track Faculty line, due to the loss of Danielle Lacorazza and a failed search in Fall 2017. This line does need to be filled for the program to be running smoothly.

IX. Course Syllabi

All course syllabi for this new major, BS in Criminal Justice, along with the course syllabi for the BA in Criminology have been revised to 4-credit courses and have been recently approved by both the curriculum and GenEd committees respectively. In order to effectuate the changes

several new courses were created, CJ1xxx Criminal Justice in Action, CJ3xxx Data Analysis, CJ2xxx Criminal Law, CJ2xxx Crime and Criminals (lower level theory course), CJ/SO3xxx Explaining Crime (upper level theory course), CJxxxx Practicum, and CJ4xxx Career Search in CJ. Syllabi will be provided upon request.

X. External Review and Response

The criminal justice program sought external reviews for its proposed BS in Criminal Justice from Dr. Danielle McDonald of Northern Kentucky State University, and Dr. Patricia Brougham at the University of Pittsburgh.

Both of the external reviewers agree that creating the new models will assist efforts to increase the retention and graduation rates of students while providing consistency across the university in regards to students taking minors and/or double majors.

Dr. Brougham expressed some concerns about the number of credits (48) required to complete the BS in Criminal Justice and suggested we consider reducing it to 40 or a more manageable 42 credits. Her concerns focus primarily on how the additional credits might negatively impact students since General Education requires 36 credits as currently structured. Dr. Brougham notes that a 42-credit model *“leaves more elective credits for students to double major or minor in a topic that will benefit their future career.”* She makes a suggestion to combine certain classes to eliminate 2 to 4 credits. For example, she notes that Criminal Procedure (Curriculum Change Proposal) and Criminal Law (New Course Proposal) could be combined. We note Dr.

Brougham’s concerns, however, part of the rationale for creating a Criminal Law class is to better prepare our students to understand the impact of the substantive criminal law. The faculty who teach our legal classes, through contacts with various external partners, as well as alumni studying to become police officers indicate that this knowledge is sorely lacking in our graduates. We are convinced that combining these two classes would prove to be too content heavy and untenable to teach in an effective manner. The Criminal Justice program is dedicated to helping students who are interested in double majoring achieve their goals and will consider student requests to achieve this end. Dr. Brougham’s perspective neglects to account for the flexibility students will have to double count certain electives across majors, which will help to address the issue she is raising. It also does not account for revisions to General Education that are underway, the fact that some courses have multiple General Education designations, and the fact that students may take up to 17 credits per semester without incurring an overload.

While acknowledging Dr. Brougham’s reaction re: credit requirements, the Criminal Justice faculty is staunchly committed to moving forward on the process as proposed. We strongly believe that the philosophical and practical reasons for this revision are thoroughly considered and this program revision will significantly benefit our students by increasing student retention, allowing our students greater flexibility to tailor their degree options to meet their varied interests and job opportunities in the field of criminal justice, and increasing opportunities for double majoring with other BS programs (e.g. Business, Accounting, Psychology and Law, Chemistry, and Computer Science).