

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

**College Of Business and Behavioral Science
Department of Sociology and Anthropology**

TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

PROGRAM PLANNING SUMMARY

TO OFFER A NEW DEGREE

Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in Justice Studies

Date of Submission: February 15, 2014

James Clements, President

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Classification

College/Department: College of Business and Behavioral Science, Sociology and Anthropology

Name of Program: Justice Studies

Concentrations/Options/Tracks: (1) Criminal and Social Justice; (2) International; (3) Criminalistics

Designation, type, and level of degree: Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science

CIP Code: 45.0401

Implementation Date: Fall 2015

Number of Credit Hours: 121

Program Length (years): 4 years

Methodology (traditional, online, blended): Traditional

Site of delivery: Clemson University Main Campus

Qualifies for supplemental Palmetto Fellows Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship awards: NA

Purpose

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology is proposing a new major in Justice Studies. This proposed program will prepare students for careers in criminal justice and law enforcement as well as in policy, law, and human rights. The proposed degree will capitalize on the multi-disciplinary structure of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology drawing from courses in all departmental disciplinary specialties: Anthropology, Criminal Justice, Sociology, and Social Work.

The goal of the major is to provide students with the foundation needed to enter jobs in the criminal justice field or to pursue masters or doctoral level training in criminal justice, criminology, or forensics. The major is also intended to address an often stated desire on the part of our students who wish to pursue a major that focuses specifically on issues of justice and law enforcement.

Justification

Majors in fields related to criminology and criminal justice have risen dramatically in popularity. Students find the subject intrinsically interesting and there are excellent career opportunities in a wide range of venues including local, state, and federal law enforcement, private and corporate security, social policy, criminal law, and forensic science. Most public 4-year colleges and universities in South Carolina offer an undergraduate degree in criminology or criminal justice or, like Clemson, a criminal justice concentration within the sociology major. However, to our knowledge, no institution in South Carolina offers the type of degree proposed here, one that combines the study of criminal justice with that of social justice. Nor do the other programs in the state capitalize on the multidisciplinary design planned for this major.

Given that there are already several institutions offering similar majors across the state, what is the demonstrated need for a program at Clemson? First, an undergraduate degree is required

for many types of law enforcement. All positions in federal law enforcement, for example, require a bachelor's degree as a minimum qualification and often prefer a Master's Degree. Second, the field of criminal justice in general is becoming increasingly professionalized. Law enforcement and other employment fields suitable for this major are increasing rapidly in complexity and consequently law enforcement agencies of all types now recruit from four year institutions. Further, they increasingly want individuals who have critical thinking and problem solving skills, cross-cultural sensitivity, and an ability to relate to individuals of all levels of need and education. These are skills that this program, which combines the study of criminal justice with that of social justice, will be uniquely able to provide. Finally, students interested in this field will benefit from a major focused explicitly on issues of crime and social justice. The curriculum allows them to pursue issues of interest more deeply, to better prepare for internship opportunities, and to be more competitive for federal law enforcement opportunities and for graduate programs in criminology and forensic science.

Program Demand and Productivity

Over the past 10 years, the number of sociology majors has grown by 22%¹. Currently there are approximately 207 sociology majors and 240 sociology minors. Approximately 1/3 to 1/2 of these students choose the criminal justice concentration. Based on these figures, we anticipate initial enrollments of approximately 50-75 majors. On most college campuses, justice studies is a popular major and so some growth is also anticipated. Based on past growth rates within the department and in similar majors across the country, there are likely to be at least 100 majors within four years.

If this degree program is approved, it will likely draw many majors from the criminal justice concentration in sociology. The two faculty members currently supporting the criminal justice concentration in sociology can, over time, transition to teaching in the new major. Further, many existing departmental courses (e.g., deviance, substance abuse, criminal evidence, etc.) are relevant to the study of criminal and social justice. Thus, course loads and student credit hours should remain stable across all of the disciplines within the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

Employment Opportunities for Graduates

The fields of criminal justice, law enforcement, social policy, and law are a significant proportion of the job market nationally and in South Carolina. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), during 2012 over 55,000 people were employed in the legal or protective services fields in South Carolina. An additional 22,000 worked in related fields such as social services. The BLS forecasts moderate growth rates of 7 to 20% in these fields over the next 10 years. Students pursuing a Justice Studies major would be well qualified for positions in all of these areas or would be qualified to pursue graduate education leading to positions in these areas.

Another important element of employment opportunities for graduates is change in the nature of positions for which Justice Studies' graduates will be qualified. The complexity of the fields of criminal justice and law enforcement are growing rapidly and, consequently, demand is rising for well-educated applicants who possess the complex problem solving and critical thinking skills that come with a BA or BS degree. In South Carolina, for example, it is common for local law enforcement agencies to offer bonuses or salary supplements to candidates who possess an undergraduate degree. The Greenville County Sheriff's department, for example, offers a 10% incentive for employees with a bachelor's degree and 15% incentive for employees with a master's degree. Further, as noted earlier, a bachelor's degree is the minimum educational

¹ Source: Clemson University Institutional Research

qualification for a position in federal law enforcement. Thus, while the field of justice is anticipated to show about average job growth in the next ten years, candidates with at least a Bachelor's degree should be in higher demand.

Curriculum & Assessment

The goal of this program is to produce students with a sophisticated understanding of both the causes and consequences of crime and criminal behavior as well as grounding in the fundamentals of both criminal and social justice fields. The program will emphasize complex problem solving, critical thinking, and ethics through coursework, internships, mentorships, creative inquiry, and informal workshops. The curriculum is designed so that it can be offered with the current configuration of faculty but also can be expanded should additional resources become available. Students in the major will have three options: a general concentration in Criminal and Social Justice, an International concentration, and a Criminalistics concentration. All majors will take the same core courses which will cover the major academic areas of criminal and social justice: policing, corrections, criminology, poverty, and inequality. Students in the general concentration will take additional courses allowing them to study more deeply in these core areas. Those in the international concentration will focus on the international dimensions of crime and social justice and will study a foreign language. Those in criminalistics will study forensics and crime scene investigation and will complete a series of science electives that will qualify them for graduate training in forensics.

These are learning outcomes for the major:

- Students will identify theories regarding both causes and consequences of criminal behavior.
- Student will apply criminal and social justice theories to policy and current issues in the field.
- Students will analyze policies in policing, criminal law/evidence, and corrections.
- Students will be able to articulate the links between crime and justice.
- Students will analyze the relationships between and among human rights, economic and social inequality, and criminal activity.

We will assess the success of our curriculum in several ways. First, the Educational Testing Service Major Field Test in Criminal Justice, a national normed examination, will be used to assess students' mastery of the concepts and principles of the Criminal Justice field. Second, students' e-portfolio artifacts will be evaluated for evidence of critical thinking, problem solving, and the ability to apply abstract concepts to analyze and solve real world problems. Third, a survey of supervisors and mentors of students involved in internships and other engagement opportunities will assess the degree to which our students demonstrate professional preparation and competence. Fourth, alumni surveys will track students' success at attaining gainful employment and gaining admission to graduate school.

Articulation and Inter-institutional Cooperation

Since most state universities offer programs in related criminal justice fields, opportunities for articulations are available. Students can use SC TRAC to identify course transfer opportunities. We will work with the SC Technical College Board to develop an articulation for students interested in transferring to Clemson from the colleges within the system. Transfer students must meet the requirements for entry into the University. The University of South Carolina offers masters and doctoral degrees in Criminal Justice through its Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Students completing the Justice Studies degree at Clemson would be qualified for admission to graduate study in these programs.

Estimate of Costs

We can offer the program with our current faculty such that initially there will be only marginal increases in cost. New costs for this program are estimated at \$25,000 because of the overlap between our current activities and minor and the proposed program. We have two positions in the department that are assigned to the criminal justice concentration and the courses taught by the individuals in those positions (e.g., criminal evidence, corrections, etc.) would form the core of the new justice studies major. In addition, 10 faculty members in the department teach at least one course that would count towards the Justice Studies degree. Thus, initially, the cost of the major can be absorbed in our current departmental budget. If the demand for the two majors (Sociology and Justice Studies) reaches a total of 300 total majors, one additional faculty member would be requested to satisfy student demand.