Assessment Plan

Program: Criminal Justice – BA
Executive Director: Dr. James Drylie
College: Business & Public Management
School of Criminal Justice & Public Administration
Kean University

Mission:
The mission of the Department of Criminal Justice is to prepare students as criminal justice academics and professionals who will contribute to the community, profession and discipline through critical thinking, research and participation in the criminal justice system or academia. Students in the program will develop a broad understanding of the criminal justice system including the correctional, courts, and juvenile justice systems; the application and substantive nature of the law, and policing.

Criminal Justice students have 9 core courses to take as part of the requirements for the major. These core courses provide a sound backbone of the discipline with regard to the research and theoretical aspects of criminological and organizational theory as well as the various areas of study within the field. As such, the core courses are the primary vehicle for assessing the knowledge of our students. Beyond the 9 core courses, students take 3 other courses offered within our program that focus on 4 concentrations. Each core course has assessment tools as part of the evaluation process; however, culminating assessment is done in the Senior Capstone course. In this course, assessment data is collected from an assignment that requires students to provide evidence of meeting program goals. Each semester, composite data from scored student assignments will be collected and analyzed to address areas of program strengths and weaknesses and to inform our decisions ultimately resulting in program improvements. Each May, CJ faculty will spend a day analyzing assessment data, evaluating the success of current pedagogy & recent interventions, and charting initiatives for the coming academic year.

Assessment of Student Learning

Students who graduate with a BA in Criminal Justice should be able to:

SLO1: Understand the main principles of the United States Constitution, specifically related to individual rights and due process.

Direct Measure: An original instrument (exit exam) is in the process of being developed by CJ faculty under the leadership of Dr. Connie Hasett-Walker. The exam will include questions on the Constitution. It will be piloted in CJ 4600 in Fall 2011.
Indirect Measure: Graduating Student Survey completed in the capstone course: Senior Seminar.

8/12/2011
SLO2: Identify the main components of the criminal justice system, and summarize the salient issues related to each component.

Direct Measure: An original instrument (exit exam) is in the process of being developed by CJ faculty under the leadership of Dr. Connie Hassett-Walker. The exam will include questions on the criminal justice system. It will be piloted in CJ 4600 in Fall 2011.

Indirect Measure: Graduating Student Survey completed in the capstone course: Senior Seminar.

SLO3: Use theory to explain why people commit crimes and how offenders can be deterred.

Direct Measure: An original instrument (exit exam) is in the process of being developed by CJ faculty under the leadership of Dr. Connie Hassett-Walker. The exam will include questions on causes and deterrents of crime. It will be piloted in CJ 4600 in Fall 2011.

Indirect Measure: Graduating Student Survey completed in the capstone course: Senior Seminar.

SLO4: Students will design and conduct an original research study on a topic related to the study of CJ.

Direct measure: Term papers, graded with a rubric, in CJ 4600 (Senior seminar).
Indirect Measure: Graduating Student Survey completed in the capstone course: Senior Seminar.

SLO5: Students will communicate effectively.

Direct Measure: Oral presentations, and term paper, assessed with rubrics in CJ 4600.
Indirect Measure: Graduating Student Survey completed in the capstone course, CJ 4600.

Assessment plan summary

In Capstone Course (CJ 4600):

1. Comprehensive knowledge exam (SLOs 1, 2 & 3)
2. Oral presentation/rubric (SLO 5)