



## Program Assessment Report (PAR)

### Crime and Justice Studies (CJS) Baccalaureate Degree

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**ACADEMIC YEAR COVERED BY THIS REPORT:** 2021-2022

#### I. PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

Crime and Justice Studies Program Outcomes (BA Degree): Outcome 1 Graduates will be able to explain the specific structures, operations, and roles of key participants within the US criminal justice system, including, but not limited to police, courts, corrections, and law. Outcome 2 Graduates will demonstrate effective writing skills conveying their overall knowledge of the components, policies, and research methods within the field of criminal justice. Outcome 3 Graduates will develop/hone career skills through experiential learning, which will enable them to transition into a career in criminal justice or related field.

#### II. PROCEDURES USED FOR ASSESSMENT

##### A. Direct Assessment

DIRECT measure of Learning Outcome 3: Direct Measure A: Transcript Evaluation of grades received in CJS procedure/knowledge courses: PLS 4420, 3420, 3430, 4360, 4370, 4400, 3410, 3440, or 4450 and SOC 3710, 3720, 3220, 3730, 3740, and URS 4280 for Sum 21, Fall 21, Spring 22. See the names of the courses below. Students needed a B or better in 70% of these specific procedures/knowledge courses to be considered successful. Graduating CJS students from both Lake and Main campuses were included in this analysis. The total sample size was 32. Two students were excluded from this analysis because they transferred in and had taken none of these courses here at WSU. Rather they took many of them at their previous institution. So, the sample included in the analysis was 30 graduating CJS majors. PLS 4420 (Criminal Justice System) PLS 3420 (Civil Liberties I) PLS 3430 (Civil Liberties II) PLS 4360 (Criminal Law) PLS 4370 (Criminal Procedure) PLS 4400 (Constitutional Law) PLS 3410 (Criminal Investigation) PLS 3440-IW (Police Procedures and Operations) PLS 4450-IW (Advanced Criminal Investigation) SOC 3710 (Comparative Criminology) SOC 3220 (Juvenile Delinquency) SOC 3720 (Policing in Society) SOC 3730 (Sociology of the Courts, Law, and Justice) SOC

3740 (Penology & Corrections: naught taught this academic year; so excluded) URS  
4280 (Criminal Justice Organizational Management)

## **B. Scoring of Student Work**

An Excel spreadsheet was created for each of the 14 courses listed previously. If the student earned a "B" or better a value of 1 was assigned, if not then a value of 0 was assigned, for each course. This procedure was done for each of the CJS graduates from the major in Summer 2021, Fall 2021, and Spring 2022. Students need a B or better in each of the specific courses to be considered successful. Averages for each course were calculated and an overall (grand) mean was calculated for all of those in this sample.

## **C. Indirect Assessment**

INDIRECT measure of Learning Outcome 1: Graduates will be able to explain the specific structures, operations, and roles of key participants within the US criminal justice system, including, but not limited to police, courts, correction, and law. Exit surveys are given to students prior to approval of their graduation check. Exit Survey of CJS graduates, Question 7 Section B \*How well has CJS helped you with: Overall understanding of the CJ system. Answer choices ranged from 1-poor...5-excellent

## **III. ASSESSMENT RESULTS/INFORMATION:**

DIRECT MEASURE of Learning OUTCOME 3 (measure A): Transcript Analysis Course = Percentage of CJS students (graduates who earned a B or better) PLS 4420 (CJ System)= .67 or 67% PLS 3420 (Civ. Lib I)= .67 PLS 3430 (Civ. Lib II)= .70 PLS 4360 (Crim. Law)= .67 PLS 4370 (Crim. Procedure)= .75 PLS 4400 (Const. Law)= 1 PLS 3410 (Crim. Investigation)= 1 PLS 3440 (Police Procedures)= 1 PLS 4450 (Adv. Crim. Invest.)= 1 SOC 3710 (Comp. Crim.)= 1 SOC 3220 (Juv. Delinq.) 1 SOC 3720 (Policing) = .93 SOC 3730 (Soc. of Courts) =1 SOC 3740 (Penology/Corrections: naught taught this academic year) URS 4280 (CJ Org. & Mgt.) = 1 Grand mean = .88 or 88% received a B or better in these specific courses indicating success on this outcome. PLS 4420, PLS 3420, and PLS 4360 were all under 70%. PLS 4420 is Criminal Justice System, PLS 3420 is Civil Liberties I, and PLS 4360 is Criminal Law. Total sample size was 30. INDIRECT MEASURE of Learning OUTCOME 1 The TOTAL sample size was 32 for this measure, with the grand mean = 4.41/5. Mean for Summer 21 (2): 5.00 Mean for Fall 21 (8): 4.25 Mean for Spring 22 (22): 4.41

For the DIRECT MEASURE of OUTCOME 3, 88% of CJS graduates earned a B or better in the specific courses indicated. This overall number indicates success on this

particular outcome. For the INDIRECT MEASURE of OUTCOME 1, the grand mean for all CJS graduates was 4.41/5. This overall number indicates success on this particular outcome. Again the sample for this assessment cycle included CJS majors from Summer 2021, Fall 2021, and Spring 2022 from both Main and Lake Campuses B.A. Crime and Justice Studies Programs.

The overall mean for AY 2019-2020 was 3.81, which indicates success on this measure for the entire sample of this year's graduates. However, the lower scores for Lake Campus students is very concerning. Their average of 2.44 is well below our success mark of 3.0/5.0. The CJS coordinator will share these results with Mr. Mark Ernst, the CJS coordinator of Lake Campus. Our goal is to get both programs to meet the standards established for this outcome. The sample of papers from Lake Campus was very small for this cycle, so specific conclusions cannot be made at the present. The overall positive results herein indicate no significant programmatic changes are necessary at this time. We do need to add more IW courses to the CJS curriculum in order to give students enough variety in the offerings they can take to complete their IW requirement. We also need to make sure that enough IW courses are being offered on a regular basis. These semester and grand means indicate that our CJS majors are meeting the outcome of being effective writers.

#### **IV. ACTIONS TO IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING**

Action Changes to Assessment Plan, etc. We discussed the previous year's assessment results at our fall 2022 (9/22/22) Crime and Justice Studies Advisory Committee meeting. Comments and suggestions for improvement were taken and completed. I have included the minutes from this meeting at the end of this document. Assessment results were also sent to Dr. Laura Luehrmann, Chair of the School of Social Science and International Studies, CoLA Dean, Dr. Gary Schmidt; and CJS Coordinator at Lake Campus, Mr. Mark Ernst. No specific changes to our CJS Assessment plant are needed/required this time. I will be reexamining our course offerings to see if any other CJS courses might need to be included in the measure of this particular outcome (i.e. Outcome 3 Direct Measure). Changes to the Curriculum The positive results herein indicate no significant programmatic changes are necessary at this time. I do think that more in-depth analysis is needed regarding the courses where less than 70% of the CJS students earned less than a B. But, overall, the results were very positive.

#### **V. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

Additional documentation, when provided, is stored in the internal Academic Program Assessment of Student Learning SharePoint site.