

Military Science Track in CJS: Rationale

Creating a new Military Science track (MIL SC) in the Crime and Justice Studies major within the Department of Sociology and Anthropology serves two purposes. First, including MIL SC courses into the CJS program major highlights and sets apart the CJS program at Wright State from other CJS programs around Dayton and the Miami Valley. Why? No other local universities possess such a specialized track. Second, the uniqueness track will increase the number of students enrolled in CoLA classes, specifically sociology and political science. Although this track helps recruit students into the MIL SC program, the Sociology department will benefit from these new enrollments because courses in the Sociology department compose the foundation of the CJS program. In addition, it displays that the Sociology department works collaboratively across academic programs because of its emphasis on ongoing and emerging social and cultural issues. Finally, the creation of this track assists MIL SC students with employment opportunities in the criminal justice system and sociology upon graduation, especially CJS/MIL students opting for the reserves rather than a commissioned military post.

These MIL SC courses are *minor* courses that would replace 6 CJS elective courses within the major. The MIL SC courses would be absorbed in the CJS major: MIL 3010/11 in CJS Foundation Area 1, MIL 3020/22 in CJS Foundation Area 2, MIL 4010/11 in CJS Foundation Area 3. The CJS Foundation Area 4 (Ethics and Diversity) would not be changed and still require two courses from a list of classes in SOC, PLS, PSY, PHL (see attached check sheet for options). The final 9 hours of the MIL SC minor would be counted in the Advanced CJS electives section of the major. The MIL SC minor requires MIL 4020/22, a choice of HST 3600 or HST 4550, and PLS 4720, PLS 4720, PHL 3110, and CLS 3700. So, in essence, only 4 MIL SC courses will be enveloped into the CJS major. Lastly, this proposed MIL SC track would enable us to expose more students to our unique courses in sociology. Our SOC courses are crucial, as these folks will most likely be working in law enforcement in our communities.

Of significant import is that our 5 Core CJS classes would stay the same: 1 Crime Essentials course (SOC 3700 or SOC 4700); 1 Discipline Overview course (SOC 2700, SOC 3710, PLS 4420, or URS 4280); 1 Legal Foundation course (PLS 3420, 3430, 4360, 4370 or 4400); the required Research Methods (SOC 3410-IW), and Internship (SOC 3000, PLS 4821, or URS 4850---SOC 3000 is the most common internship course taken here). Criminal Justice Studies courses in Deviance, Criminology, Juvenile Delinquency, Criminological Theory, and Victimology, are firmly rooted in traditional and contemporary sociological theories and issues of inequality (age, race, sex, class, disability, and sexuality.) Core CJS courses and the other CJS foundation courses will be taught by current SOC, PLS, and URS faculty, not military science faculty/staff. The MIL SC faculty will only teach the MIL courses (i.e., 3010, 3020, 4010, and 4020).

Crime and Justice Studies is currently the most popular major among our MIL SC students at Wright State. This track will recruit students directly from high school, which will assist in maintaining solid enrollment numbers in SOC courses. More important is that this academic track will appeal to students wishing to complete their BA in CJS or SOC, join the military reserves, and seek employment in the criminal justice field. Our department is uniquely qualified to take advantage of this opportunity to build and grow both SOC and CJS.