

## MEMORANDUM

September 3, 2007

To: Deans

From: Donna Dickerson, Vice Provost Academic Affairs

Re: Outcomes Assessment: Part 2

In preparation for our SACS reaffirmation, faculty were instructed to develop 4-6 Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for each course, incorporate those SLOs in their syllabi, and review them with students at the beginning of the semester.

Further, each faculty member was instructed to develop means of assessing whether those SLOs are being met.

### It is now time for Part 2 of the Outcomes Assessment Process.

Using the attached template, departments will write mission statements, program learning outcomes, course/outcomes matrices, and assessment methods for each degree offered.

#### **Due Date: Nov. 13**

- The mission statement is typically a brief statement (max. 150 words) about the purpose of the degrees offered (one mission statement each for undergraduate and graduate degrees). Mission statements should be specific and point toward 3-4 learning outcomes.
- Learning outcomes (3-4) should focus on specific knowledge, skills, attitudes, behaviors, values, etc. Each outcome should be measurable and attainable. Outcomes should also be progressive--moving the program and student forward--and include higher order thinking/learning. This is not meant to be an all-inclusive list of SLOs; only what can be assessed in the following semester.
- Departments need to create a matrix that matches learning outcomes to each course in the curriculum.
- Departments must develop 1-2 assessment methods for each learning outcome. Course grades may not be used for assessment.

Attached is an example of a good mission statement, student learning objectives, course/outcome matrix, and proposed assessment protocols. Programs should use this format for reporting mission statement, learning outcomes, course/outcomes matrix, and assessment methods.

#### **Suggested web sources**

<http://www2.acs.ncsu.edu/UPA/assmt/resource.htm> ---excellent, very complete list of resources

<http://www.tamu.edu/marshome/assess/HTMLfiles/oabooks.html> --TAMU

<http://www.provost.cmich.edu/assessment/resources/resources.htm>

<http://bss.sfsu.edu/bss/sloares.htm>

## ***Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice***

### **Mission Statement**

The Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice offers students a focused exposure to all aspects of crime and criminal justice from both a sociological and practice perspective. Courses in the program deal with crime, delinquency, police roles, courts, corrections and other organizations. The examination of institutional responses to crime entails an engagement with contemporary criminal justice issues, ethical concerns and research. Students are introduced to a variety of theoretical perspectives and competing viewpoints throughout the curriculum and are equipped with the analytical and research tools for understanding and exploring issues in crime and justice. The program is designed to provide students majoring in criminal justice with excellent preparation for further study in graduate or professional schools as well as for careers in criminal justice.

### **Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will be able to describe the historical and philosophical foundations of law enforcement.
2. Students will be able to explain how the criminal court system works
3. Students will be able to analyze and critique the role of punishments and the effect that punishment has on the individual, society and the law.
4. Students will be able to interpret current research in the criminal justice field.

### **Course/Outcome Matrix (partial example)**

Outcome	CRIJ 2301	CRIJ 3302	CRIJ 3241	CRIJ 3332	CRIJ 4301
#1	X	X	X	X	
#2		X		X	X
#3		X	X		X
#4	X		X		X

### **Assessment Methodology**

#1 Assessment committee will develop a series of embedded questions with increasing levels of difficulty for use in the finals exams for CRIJ 2301 through CRIJ 3332. Goal will be 80% achievement of the outcome as measured by correct answers.

#2 The final paper in CRIJ 3332 will be evaluated using a rubric defined by the assessment committee. The papers will be reviewed and scored by the committee. Goal will be 85% achievement of the outcome at the “good” or “excellent” level

#3: The final papers in CRIJ 3241 and CRIJ 4301 will be evaluated using a rubric defined by the assessment committee. The papers will be reviewed and scored by the committee. Goal will be 85% achievement of the outcome at the “good” or “excellent” level

#4: A portfolio will be developed by students in CRIJ 4301—Capstone course—and a rubric used by the assessment committee to review and analyze the portfolios. Goal will be 80% achievement of the outcome at the “good” or “excellent” level