


MEMORANDUM
Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work
Oakland University

TO: The University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction

FROM: Albert J. Meehan, Chair 
Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work

RE: Response to Questions Regarding the Criminal Justice Major Proposal

DATE: February 10, 2012

On behalf of the department, thank you for your review of our proposal for the BA major in Criminal Justice. The committee has sought clarification on six issues that we address below. For ease of presentation, I have replicated the committee's question in bold typeface, followed by our response. If you need additional clarification, please do not hesitate to ask.

1. Could you please provide enrollment information for other criminal justice programs in Michigan that you cite?

The following table provides the information requested by the committee. This was assembled in the vast majority of cases by searching the institutional research websites of these universities. As the committee will note, each university has different reporting systems and metrics for data on majors (e.g., number of majors vs. number of majors awarded degrees). In addition to our own search, we requested the assistance Oakland's Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA) to contact their counterparts at several universities (e.g., Eastern Michigan, Lake Superior State) to obtain these data, unfortunately with no success.

Where total numbers of majors are available, we report this figure. Please note that some universities listed in the table do not have a criminal justice major. However, some universities choose to report majors by the number of degrees awarded each year. But even here, the data are uneven. Some institutions report one year only, others have longer trend data. When we found these data, we consulted the OIRA who utilizes a model to predict majors based upon number of degrees earned. We report these data under "estimated majors." Please note that OIRA staff caution that "the estimate is likely to have a very large confidence interval." We thank the OIRA staff for their kind and timely assistance.

Table 1

Criminal Justice Majors/Criminal Justice Degrees Awarded at Other Michigan Universities

2010/2011 Data from Institutional Research Offices (Unless Otherwise Noted)

Michigan University	Number of Undergrad Majors	Degrees Awarded (1)	Estimated Majors (2)
<u>Central Michigan</u>	Not Applicable No CJ major		
<u>Eastern Michigan</u>	Not Available		
<u>Ferris State</u>	795		
<u>Grand Valley State</u>	734		
<u>Lake Superior State</u>	Not Available		
<u>Lawrence Tech.</u>	Not Applicable No CJ Major		
<u>Michigan State</u>	112 in 2010 freshman class		
<u>Michigan Tech.</u>	Not applicable No CJ Major		
<u>Northern Michigan</u>	428		
<u>Saginaw Valley</u>	300 (3)		
<u>U of D - Mercy</u>	130 (4)		
<u>U of Michigan</u>	Not Applicable No CJ Major		
<u>U of M - Dearborn</u>	Not available	33/year (2006-2011)	100-150
<u>U of M -Flint</u>	Not Available	24 (2010)	75-125
<u>Wayne State</u>	Not Available	76 (2005)	350-500
<u>Western Michigan</u>	Not Available	129/year (2001-11)	350-500

- (1) When total major data was not available, the number of degrees awarded for the academic year is provided in parentheses
- (2) Estimates of major enrollment based upon degrees awarded, provided by OU OIRA
- (3) Data taken from department website
- (4) Data provided by department chairperson.

2. Five new full-time faculty members is a substantial number. Could you please give more justification for needing that many full-time faculty?

Pages 20-21 and pages 46-47 in the proposal discuss the programmatic need for faculty and how these will be phased in as the program grows. Without restating what is already written, in general, the justifications offered for the number of faculty currently are: 1) the current number of full time/part-time faculty would be insufficient to sustain a growing major; 2) faculty will be needed to, in some instances, strengthen and in other instances, develop, core areas of the major that will be initially covered by part-timers (e.g., homeland security); 3) a research and policy-focused major that culminates in a rigorous capstone project will require additional faculty to supervise such capstone projects; and 4) based upon our experience creating a highly successful social work major in the department, the proposed number of faculty parallels what was needed for that program.

3. Will students be expected to find their own internships? Could you elaborate on the anticipated process?

Pages 69-70 in the proposal contain our response to the College of Arts and Sciences Committee on Instruction, addressing a number of issues about internships (including this one raised by the UCUI). Drawing from our social work program as a model, students will be assisted by an administrative professional (written into the budget) who is tasked with the development and oversight of field placement opportunities in addition to providing advising for students.

4. When you indicate that external courses will serve as the Exploratory for CAS, is that correct or do the Exploratory courses need to come from the College?

The CAS exploratory requirement allows for a “pre-approved” thematic set of courses from outside the college. The approval process is governed by the College’s Committee on Instruction (COI). To quote from the college’s requirement:

“Courses taken to fulfill the College exploratory requirement must be at the 100 level or above and must be in a subject taught within the College of Arts and Sciences, with the exception of non-College courses that are part of pre-approved thematic sets.” See <http://www.oakland.edu/exploratory>.

Upon approval of the criminal justice major, we will submit a formal request to the COI for approval of the MIS classes listed in the proposal to meet the

exploratory requirement. Please note that the COI has, in effect, recognized this by virtue of their approval of the proposal.

5. Could you please clarify the role of the faculty in the oversight of the internships? Please comment on how that will impact workload.

Our response to question #2 above is also relevant here. The faculty who are assigned to teach the internship class will have the assistance of the field placement director/advisor who identifies and maintains internship sites and supervisory relationships (including interviewing prospective students, conducting student orientations, facilitating appropriate site-student match and troubleshooting placements). This individual will be responsible for developing all policies and procedures related to the internship including establishing policies regarding professional standards and expectations of the student as well as guidelines and requirements for the internship site. Furthermore, the field placement director is responsible for monitoring the entire internship program to insure the instructional integrity of the experience for students in the field.

In this model, a faculty member assigned to teach the internship class is able to focus almost exclusively on the academic and learning components tied to an internship experience. For example, one of the required written assignments will ask students to discuss ethical concerns identified during the course of their internship and describe how they relate to criminal justice ethics more broadly.

6. Will the major courses for the Criminal Justice program only be taught at AFC or will they also be taught on campus?

On page 46, where we discuss classroom space requirements, we note that courses will be offered both on campus and at the AFC:

“Classes will be offered both on campus and at the AFC in Mt. Clemens thus minimizing demand for classroom space on campus. The one required lab class (SOC 203) utilizes an already existing computer lab in Varner Hall. In addition, the program will utilize an already existing computer lab space to offer this course at the AFC in Mt. Clemens.”

The criminal justice concentration already schedules classes on campus, and we will continue to do so as a major. Over the years, these offerings have been well balanced by time of day (including 8am and evening offerings) and days of

the week. Beginning Fall 2011, the concentration also began offering criminal justice classes in Mt. Clemens at the AFC. Criminal Justice courses are currently scheduled for the AFC and on campus for 2012-13 using the SOC 395 special topics rubric as schedule placeholders until a new rubric (CRJ) can be assigned. The courses in Mt. Clemens had very good enrollment. We anticipate balanced enrollments in courses on campus and the AFC.