

Department of Criminology
Criminology Master of Science
College of Social Sciences

Student Outcomes Assessment Plan (Soap)

I. Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Criminology Master of Science Program to create a learning environment that prepares qualified students for professional and research careers in Criminology, Victimology, Criminal Justice, law and academia. Faculty support the graduate learning community through education, research, and application of theory, policy, methodology, administration, and law. The Department of Criminology Master of Science mission includes participation in faculty research, community outreach, professional associations, and mentoring for graduate students. The Department of Criminology's graduate mission complements the undergraduate mission and the missions of the College of Social Sciences and that of California State University, Fresno.

II. Goals and Student Learning Outcomes

- A. Graduate Students will be provided with advance discipline-related knowledge and the skills necessary to convey this knowledge in written form.**
1. Students will demonstrate advance level knowledge, as well as advanced research and writing skills that meet the criteria as described in the Graduate Writing Skills Rubric.
- B. Graduate Students will demonstrate knowledge of and the ability to apply discipline-related knowledge to the criminal justice system.**
2. Students will be able to define or answer questions related to key terms and concepts related to the criminal justice system and will show an increase in knowledge and the ability to apply this knowledge to the analysis of specific situations and problems.
- C. Graduate Students will demonstrate professionalism and an ability to communicate effectively.**
3. Students will demonstrate their ability to give oral presentations at, either in class or at conferences, which reflect extensive content knowledge and meet the standards of professionals in the field.

III. Curriculum Map (Matrix of Courses X Learning Outcomes)

Graduate Courses:	Outcome 1 Skills (Writing)	Outcome 2 Knowledge	Outcome 3 Professionalism/Communication
Core Courses:			
CRIM 200	I	I	I
CRIM 201	I	R	R
CRIM 202	R	R	E
CRIM 203	E	E	E
CRIM 204	E	E	R
Electives:			
CRIM 205	R	R/I	A
CRIM 220	R	R/I	A
CRIM 252	R	R	A
CRIM 265	R	R/I	A
CRIM 275	R	I/R	A
Culminating Experience:			
CRIM 298 OR 299	E	E	E

IV. Assessment Methods

A. Direct Measures

1. Research Paper Analysis – Students will submit a graded research paper proposal in CRIM 200 (Research and Methodology) by the end of the first month of instruction. Students will be given specific feedback on their paper and students who submit papers with significant weaknesses will be referred to the Graduate Writing Studio and other resources. Students

will revise this paper and submit an abstract and a final version of the paper at the end of the semester. The initial draft will be compared to the final version in order to measure the extent to which the paper has been improved as a result of the specific comments of the instructor and other assistance provided.

2. Oral Presentation assessment – Students will be assigned an oral presentation in CRIM 202 and CRIM 203 that require students to demonstrate their ability to effectively communicate verbally. A rubric will be handed out to each student and included in the Graduate Handbook so that students will have the specific criteria in advance. After students have given their presentation it will be graded using the rubric and faculty will make specific suggestions for improvement. A comparison of the grades and evaluation of the presentations given by each student in 202 and 203 will be kept and compared in order to see if students received higher grades on their second presentations.
3. Project/Thesis – The culminating work submitted by students will be analyzed in order to determine the degree to which students have demonstrated the level of content knowledge, ability to conduct independent research, and level of written work that meets the standards set by the department and university.

B. Indirect Measures

1. Alumni Survey – A survey will be developed by the Fresno State Alumni office in collaboration with the Criminology Department. This survey will measure the perception of professionals regarding the extent to which graduates were provided with appropriate knowledge, required skills related to the field and the opportunity to have applied discipline-related knowledge since graduation.
2. Employer Survey – A survey will be developed by the Fresno State Alumni Association in collaboration with the Department of Criminology and sent to employers. This survey will evaluate the extent to which graduates can apply discipline-related knowledge, communicate effectively in verbal presentations and written reports, and exhibit professionalism.

V. Student Learning Outcomes X Assessment Methods Matrix

Measures:	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3
Direct			
Research Paper Analysis	X	X	X

Oral presentations	X	X	X
Project/Thesis evaluation	X	X	X
Indirect:			
Alumni Survey	X	X	X
Employer Survey	X	X	X

VI. Timeline for Implementation of Assessment Methods and Summary Evaluations
<p>Year 2011 to 2012</p> <p>The pre and post tests will be created</p> <p>A rubric to evaluate oral and writing assignments will be created</p>
<p>Year 2012 to 2013</p> <p>An Alumni Survey will be developed</p> <p>Assessment of Projects and Theses using rubric</p> <p>Initiate collaboration with Fresno State Alumni Association</p>
<p>Year 2013 to 2014</p> <p>Oral Presentation Assessments</p>
<p>Year 2014 to 2015</p> <p>Research Paper Analysis</p> <p>Initiate employer Survey</p>
<p>Year 2015 to 2016</p> <p>Assessment of Projects and Theses using rubric</p> <p>Alumni Survey</p>

VII. Closing the Loop - Summary Evaluation, Curriculum Adjustment, and Reporting
<p>The Criminology Department has adjusted its learning outcomes and assessment measures in order to obtain more specific data on the extent to which students content and skills improve between their</p>

entry and graduation from the program. Furthermore, the department is developing both an alumni and employer survey in order to receive feedback from students and those employing our graduates on what specific knowledge and skills would be most useful for their post M.A. pursuits.

The criminology graduate faculty focused on creating rubrics for graduate writing skills and oral communication skills during the 2012 – 2013 academic year but has begun to actively assess students and will complete an assessment of graduate student's culminating works (projects and theses) during fall 2013 semester. The department will also pilot the alumni survey by sending it to the small number of graduates for whom we have current e-mail or postal addresses. We will begin to keep a list of graduate contact information in order to be able to administer the alumni survey to most of our graduate in the future. The department also has a time-line and specific plan for carrying out all of our measures within the next two years and beginning in the spring 2014 semester will analyze this data and use it to assess the program and consider changes.

**Fresno State Graduate Student Satisfaction Survey: M.S. in
Criminology (Prototype A)**

1. What was your undergraduate degree in and from what university/college?

2. What year did you graduate? _____

3. Check one of the following:

a. Thesis ____ b. Project ____ c. Comprehensives

4. How satisfied are you with the overall quality of your formal academic experiences in the core classes for an MS in Criminology?

CRIM 200. Research Methods in Criminology (3)

- 1 – Very dissatisfied
- 2 – Somewhat dissatisfied
- 3 – Neutral
- 4 – Somewhat satisfied
- 5 – Very satisfied
- 6 – Not applicable

CRIM 201. Advanced Criminological Theory (3)

- 1 - Very dissatisfied
- 2 – Somewhat dissatisfied
- 3 – Neutral
- 4 – Somewhat satisfied
- 5 – Very satisfied
- 6 – Not applicable

CRIM 202. Law and the Criminal Justice System (3)

- 1 - Very dissatisfied
- 2 – Somewhat dissatisfied

- 3 – Neutral
- 4 – Somewhat satisfied
- 5 – Very satisfied
- 6 – Not applicable

CRIM 203. Criminal Justice Systems (3)

- 1 - Very dissatisfied
- 2 – Somewhat dissatisfied
- 3 – Neutral
- 4 – Somewhat satisfied
- 5 – Very satisfied
- 6 – Not applicable

CRIM 204. Quantitative Methods and Analysis (3)

- 1 - Very dissatisfied
- 2 – Somewhat dissatisfied
- 3 – Neutral
- 4 – Somewhat satisfied
- 5 – Very satisfied
- 6 – Not applicable

How satisfied are you with the overall quality of your formal academic experiences in the MS in Criminology?

4. The quality of teaching?

- 1 -Very dissatisfied
- 2 – Somewhat dissatisfied
- 3 – Neutral
- 4 – Somewhat satisfied
- 5 – Very satisfied

IF you answered Very or Somewhat dissatisfied, please explain.

5. How satisfied are you with the overall quality of your elective courses for the MS in Criminology? (Both in Criminology and other departments.)

- 1 -Very dissatisfied
- 2 – Somewhat dissatisfied
- 3 – Neutral
- 4 – Somewhat satisfied
- 5 – Very satisfied

IF you answered Very or Somewhat dissatisfied, please explain.

6. Your informal out-of-class experiences (e.g., attending lectures, hearing speakers, having informal student discussions with peers and professors)?

- 1 -Very dissatisfied
- 2 – Somewhat dissatisfied
- 3 – Neutral
- 4 – Somewhat satisfied
- 5 – Very satisfied
- 6 – Not applicable

7. The extent to which faculty included diversity/multicultural perspectives in their class presentations, assignments, or discussions?

- 1 -Very dissatisfied
- 2 – Somewhat dissatisfied
- 3 – Neutral

- 4 – Somewhat satisfied
- 5 – Very satisfied
- 6 – Not applicable

8. Your opportunity to participate in an independent research projects, conferences, or community activities with a faculty member?

- 1 -Very dissatisfied
- 2 – Somewhat dissatisfied
- 3 – Neutral
- 4 – Somewhat satisfied
- 5 – Very satisfied
- 6 – Not applicable

If you participated in any of the above academic activities, did you request or receive financial assistance for conferences or necessary travel? _____ Yes _____ No
IF you answered "NO" please explain.

9. Your opportunity to participate in a Fresno State short-or long-term study abroad program?

- 1 -Very dissatisfied
- 2 – Somewhat dissatisfied
- 3 – Neutral
- 4 – Somewhat satisfied
- 5 – Very satisfied
- 6 – Not applicable

10. Your opportunity to participate in a Fresno State approved graduate internship?

- 1 -Very dissatisfied
- 2 – Somewhat dissatisfied
- 3 – Neutral
- 4 – Somewhat satisfied
- 5 – Very satisfied
- 6 – Not applicable

11. The opportunities to meet with faculty outside of classroom?

- 1 -Very dissatisfied
- 2 – Somewhat dissatisfied
- 3 – Neutral
- 4 – Somewhat satisfied
- 5 – Very satisfied
- 6 – Not applicable

12. Your sense of belonging at Fresno State?

- 1 - Very dissatisfied
- 2 – Somewhat dissatisfied
- 3 – Neutral
- 4 – Somewhat satisfied
- 5 – Very satisfied
- 6 – Not applicable

13. The safety and security at your campus?

- 1 - Very dissatisfied
- 2 – Somewhat dissatisfied
- 3 – Neutral
- 4 – Somewhat satisfied
- 5 – Very satisfied
- 6 – Not applicable

14. If you were starting your graduate experience again, would you choose to attend Fresno State Department of Criminology?

- 1 - Yes
- 2 - No
- 3 - Don't know
- 4 - Prefer not to answer

IF no, please explain why.

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