

Department of Criminology  
Learning Outcomes Assessment Plan  
Approved March 2015, revised November 2015

**Mission Statement of the Department of Criminology**

The Bachelor of Arts program in Criminology is based on the study of criminal behavior and society's response to it, including the analysis of those policies and systems designed to control criminality. Through the in-depth exploration and study of both theoretical and empirical social science research students learn about many aspects of crime as a social phenomenon, including the correlates of crime and criminal behavior, victimization and victim's rights, the tools and methods used to study and prevent crime, and the institutions involved in the processing of offenders.

**Departmental Learning Objectives/Outcomes:**

Upon completion of the Criminology major,

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of how the various agencies that comprise the criminal justice system are structured and how those agencies function.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of various criminological theories about the etiology of crime, criminality, delinquency and victimization.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of how research, planning, and evaluation methods are used to expand knowledge in the field and discipline.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of how ideological, social, political and fiscal forces shape crime policies.
5. Students will develop oral and written communication skills with particular emphasis on persuasive argumentation supported by logic and scholarly research.
6. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the diverse and multicultural nature of society and how that might impact treatment by the criminal justice system.

**Assessment Mechanisms**

The Department's assessment approach will rely on several different measurement techniques, which will assess learning objectives at the introductory, mid-major and capstone levels. These measurement techniques include the following:

- Some content specific learning goals will be assessed by faculty assessing student writing assignments using rubrics tied to the specific Learning Objective(s) that we are assessing. For example, in CRI 205, our theory course, students read and learn about the various criminological theories that have been posited to explain criminality and delinquency. We will assess students' knowledge and understanding of these theories (Learning Objective #2) by selecting a sample of student writing assignments and having a faculty panel assess these writing assignments to determine whether the assignments demonstrate achievement of Learning Objective #2 using a rubric designed for this purpose.
- A Qualtrics survey administered to graduating seniors will ask them to self-report how well they achieved each of the Department's Learning Objectives using a Likert scale. Additional questions on the survey will ask respondents about student learning in the Department and things that the Department might do to foster student learning.
- Oral communication skills (Learning Objective # 5) will be assessed by examining a subset of graded evaluations of individual student work (using rubrics), in the Department's mid- and upper-level speaking intensive courses. These rubrics will be completed by the faculty members teaching these courses and will be reviewed by all faculty to determine the extent to which students have achieved Learning Objective #5.
- Learning Objective #3 (*Students will demonstrate an understanding of how research, planning, and evaluation methods are used to expand knowledge in the field and discipline*) will be assessed by examining a subset of graded evaluations of individual student work (using rubrics), from CRI306, the Department's Research Methods course. These rubrics will be completed by the faculty member teaching this course and will be reviewed by all faculty to determine the extent to which students have achieved Learning Objective #3.
- A second assessment of students' achievement of all of the Departmental Learning Objectives will be conducted through a faculty review of a select number of senior capstone final papers.

### Criminology Assessment Plan Cycle

Academic Year	Learning Objective(s) Assessed	Assessment Method	Locus of Assessment
2015/16	#1	A faculty panel will assess a sample of student writing assignments using a Learning Objective-specific rubric	CRI 306
	#1-6	Graduating Senior Survey	Pre-commencement student Qualtrics survey
2016/17	#2 #3	A faculty panel will assess a sample of student writing assignments using a Learning Objective-specific rubric	CRI 205 CRI 100
2018/19	#5	Oral Presentation Rubrics	CRI 202 CRI 498
2019/20	#1-6	Senior Capstone Rubrics	CRI498