

# **Program Review Executive Summary**

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## **Western Oregon University: Criminal Justice Sciences**

### **Majors Reviewed:**

- B.S. in Criminal Justice

### **Certificates Reviewed:**

- Homeland Security and Community Preparedness

### **Minors Reviewed:**

- Homeland Security and Community Preparedness
- Forensic Anthropology for CJ Majors
- Forensic Anthropology for All Other Majors
- Forensic Anthropology for Anthropology Majors
- Youth Crime Studies

**Dates of Program Review: Academic Year 2019-20**

**Report Submitted: March 2020**  
(External review waived due to 2020 pandemic)

**Date of Executive Summary: October 2021**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: CRIMINAL JUSTICE SCIENCES DIVISION**

The Criminal Justice Sciences Division conducted a formal program review during the 2019-20 academic year, submitting its self-study report in March 2019. An external review originally scheduled for Spring 2020 was initially postponed due to the pandemic crisis and, once it was determined that the shutdown would last much longer than anticipated, the external review was waived altogether. Meanwhile, from June 2020 through April 2021, the campus underwent an Article 15 retrenchment process that resulted in the phase-out of the Homeland Security and Community Preparedness certificate and minor, making the reviews of those programs a moot point.

The program review emphasized the following programmatic strengths:

- a. Outstanding faculty members and leadership; NTT faculty with significant workforce experience and contacts
- b. Cohesive programmatic culture
- c. Programs well aligned to evolving workforce needs
- d. Newly developed online pathway
- e. Program aligned to American Criminal Justice Sciences guidelines
- f. New senior capstone seminar
- g. Innovative and abundant high-impact practices, including an outstanding practicum program
- h. High number of majors, strong enrollments, and high public profile in Oregon
- i. Highly successful annual Criminal Justice Day to promote student career readiness
- j. Favorable student-faculty ratio
- k. Most ethnically diverse division at WOU
- l. Strong industry advisory board
- m. Specialized minors that are attractive to students and employers
- n. Increasing emphasis on social justice
- o. Extensive opportunities for high-impact practices (field trips, guest speakers, etc.)

The following challenges were identified\*:

- a. Need to increase practicum access to more students
- b. Desire to boost capacity in juvenile delinquency studies
- c. Inadequate administrative support at division level
- d. High number of majors and relatively low number of tenure-track faculty

*\*Note that the program review preceded both the pandemic crisis and the retrenchment process; thus, both new challenges and opportunities have developed since the report was written. In particular, the gradual retirement of three TT faculty, none of whom has yet been replaced, creates a need for additional TT faculty in the future.*

Opportunities include:

- a. Continued job growth, especially with regard to social justice
- b. Additional recruitment of online students

c. Continued opportunity to collaborate with other disciplines

Following the program review report, Criminal Justice Sciences also engaged in several initiatives that had not been specifically mentioned in the report, such as forming the new Western Restorative Justice and Re-entry Center, and establishing a new Master’s degree in Justice Studies. The matrix below shows some of the key developments in Criminal Justice since the time the self-study was completed. The matrix includes initiatives that were contemplated within the self-study, as well as initiatives that were developed subsequently and are not explicitly mentioned in the study.

**IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX**

<b>New Program-Driven Initiatives</b>	<b>Completed/ Ongoing</b>	<b>Underway (Target Completion Date)</b>	<b>To Be Done (Will be Ongoing)</b>
Revise Practicum program to encourage higher level of student participation	X		
Establish a Master of Justice Studies program	X		
Lobby for the hiring of replacement TT faculty, thinking carefully about appropriate specialties to maximize enrollments			X
Establish a Center for Restorative Justice and Re-entry	X		
Establish new program in Cybercrime Investigation	X		
Obtain necessary course releases to support student advising and administrative support	X		
Increase instructional capacity in area of juvenile studies	X		

<b>Continuation of Ongoing Effectiveness</b>	<b>Completed/ Ongoing</b>	<b>Underway Target Completion Date)</b>	<b>To Be Done (Will be Ongoing)</b>
Continue to offer substantial online coursework	X		
Continue to engage with community partners and create high-impact learning experiences	X		
Continue to offer exemplary curriculum	X		

LAS Dean Recommendations	Completed/ Ongoing	Underway Target Completion Date)	To Be Done (Will be Ongoing)
Keep web site and marketing materials updated		X	
Continue to engage in marketing efforts for new Cybercrime and Justice Studies programs		X	

Because the Criminal Justice program review was completed right “on the heels” of the 2020 pandemic, the timing and implementation of various recommendations was staggered, especially since the program did not have a chance to undergo external review. Despite this timing problem, Criminal Justice has done an excellent job of identifying potential growth areas and shifting its resources accordingly. Criminal Justice continues to be one of WOU’s strongest, most exemplary programs and is a model of adaptability and continual improvement. Many of the latest initiatives were not even contemplated in the report but were wise ideas and were undertaken in a timely fashion, demonstrating that a program need not wait for formal program review in order to make beneficial changes. As LAS Dean, I enjoy working with Criminal Justice leadership and appreciate their strong contributions to the overall health of the campus.