

UW-W AUDIT AND REVIEW: CRIMINAL JUSTICE MINOR

submitted by
Ronald J. Berger, Coordinator
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I. ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT

A. Highlights/Initiatives

1. Overview of Current Curriculum

The Criminal Justice Minor is an interdisciplinary field of study that integrates career-development goals with a liberal arts curriculum. The Minor consists primarily of social and behavioral science courses that will enhance students' understanding of the nature and causes of criminal and delinquent behavior and the operation of the criminal justice system in the United States. The academic courses, as well as the internships that are available to students, help prepare graduates to pursue careers in law enforcement (local, state, and federal), adult and juvenile probation and parole, correctional counseling and group home work, private security, insurance claims, and criminal justice research.

The 24-credit Minor, which was begun in 1985, consists of a group of Core courses drawn mainly from Sociology and Political Science, but also from Social Work and Safety Studies. Students are required to select 15 credits from the Core. In addition, students are required to select 9 elective credits from specified courses in Sociology, Political Science, Psychology, Social Work, and/or Communication (see Appendix 1).

2. Curriculum Initiatives

a. During the 1990s, growth of the Minor and popularity of Criminal Justice nationwide created interest from the Provost and the Dean of the College and Letters and Sciences to develop a Criminal Justice Major at UW-W. In 1997 a proposal was written that was circulated through the UW-System. At that time, central administration did not support a Major at UW-W and the proposal was dropped. In its stead, a 54-credit Sociology Major with a Criminal Justice emphasis (which did not require external approval) was passed and then implemented in 1997. In 2000, at the request of the L&S Dean, another attempt to move the Major forward was advanced but was unsuccessful.

b. Underrepresentation of women faculty in the Criminal Justice curriculum has recently been remedied by the hiring of Jennifer Wingren in the Sociology Department, who has a specialization in gender, crime, and criminal justice. It is anticipated that Dr. Wingren will teach a new course that has been developed on "Women and Crime." In addition, Sheila Sealau of the Psychology Department has twice taught a special studies course on "Psychology and Law." Dr. Sealau plans to initiate approval of this course as a regular offering that will become part of the Core of the Criminal Justice Minor (as well as the Emphasis).

c. Bruce Wiegand of the Sociology Department and Wilfred Tremblay of the Communication Department have developed a proposal for a 12-credit "Comparative Crime Reporting Module" that will consist of courses in Journalism and

Sociology. In addition, Drs. Wiegand and Tremblay have developed a proposal on "Comparative Crime Reporting" that will consist of courses that can be taken as part of UW-W's exchange program with Deakin University in Australia.

d. Dr. Wiegand also developed a course on "International Perspectives on Crime, Justice, and Human Rights" that he offered once as a special studies course. Given his illness, the future status of this course is uncertain.

e. Inquiries were made with Dr. Daryle Waechter-Brulla of the Biology Department, who in the past expressed some interest in developing a forensics course. However, Dr. Waechter-Brulla's other commitments have prevented her from moving forward with this idea, and it is unlikely she will do so in the future.

f. Attempts were made to encourage the Social Work Department to allow non-Social Work majors in Criminal Justice to take the Social Work course, "Social Work Practice I." This is one of the courses required under Wisconsin State law to make non-Social Work majors eligible to take a state examination that would certify them as qualified for employment in jobs designated with the title "Social Worker." Criminal Justice graduates are likely to encounter jobs with this title as they progress in their occupational careers, and providing this course to our students would be in their long-term interests. However, the Social Work Department not been willing to open this course to non-Social Work majors, in part because the faculty in this department are philosophically opposed to allowing non-Social Work majors into these occupations.

3. Anticipated New Assessment Initiatives

a. Assessment has been one of the most problematic issues for a minor of this nature, since the curriculum is interdisciplinary and has no separate courses of its own, and the program has no budget for expenses. For the first time, in the Spring of 2001, the Office of the Provost invited the Criminal Justice Coordinator to include a survey that would be mailed out by the Alumni Center as part of its broader alumni survey program. A questionnaire was prepared by the Coordinator in May 2001, although it was not mailed by the University until August. In the future it is expected that surveys of Criminal Justice Minor graduates will be mailed through the Alumni Center program.

b. Due to the development of the Sociology-Criminal Justice Emphasis, Vice Provost Telfer suggested that in the future the Criminal Justice Minor Audit and Review should be conducted as part of the review of the Sociology program. The Sociology Audit and Review calls for its assessment data to be put on its web site in the next few years.

B. Educational Objectives and Assessment Techniques

a. In 1998 a Criminal Justice Advisory Committee was established to obtain input from professionals in the community. The Committee consists of:

Saleem El-Ameen, Director, New Horizons Center, a Milwaukee-based human services agency that provides programs for delinquent youths.
Christopher Frelka, Field Supervisor, Wisconsin Department of Corrections, Bureau of Community Corrections, Elkhorn.
June Gengler, Superintendent, Thompson's Correctional Center, Deerfield.
Lt. Jill Klubertanz, Madison Police Department, East District Chief of

Detectives.
Dennis Schultz, Director, Kenosha County Youth and Family Services.

The Committee met in 1998 to discuss the following subjects: opportunities and trends in criminal justice employment, education necessary to pursue careers in criminal justice, and adequacy of current UW-W Minor as well as future directions of the program. Overall, the Committee felt that the Minor's blend of liberal arts and practical (through the internship) educational experiences effectively prepared students for careers in criminal justice. Some expressed hope that the program could be expanded to a Major, but not all felt this was necessary. Some felt it would be important to provide our students with more counseling-related academic experiences, and expressed regret that the Social Work department was uncooperative in this regard (see IA.2f above).

b. Over 100 hundred surveys of Criminal Justice Minor alumni who graduated during the last three years were mailed in August 2001. Seventeen surveys were returned. Overall, the responses to this survey indicate that most students found the program to be quite valuable.

The courses I took as part of my Criminal Justice Minor helped me understand:

	1 not at all	2	3 some	4	5 very much
1. Sources of crime data and methods of criminological research.		6%	24%	41%	29%
2. Causal explanations of criminal behavior and their applications.			24%	47%	29%
3. Diverse patterns of criminality and victimization.			12%	53%	35%
4. The operation of the criminal justice system in the United States.			6%	53%	41%

The responses to these items can be supplemented by those of ten alumni who returned a survey of Sociology-Criminal Justice Emphasis graduates that was conducted by the Sociology Department:

The courses I took as part of my Criminal Justice Emphasis helped me understand:

	1 not at all	2	3 some	4	5 very much
1. Sources of crime data and methods of criminological research.			10%	50%	40%

(Emphasis survey, cont.)

	1 not at all	2	3 some	4	5 very much
2. Causal explanations of criminal behavior and their applications.			20%	30%	50%
3. Diverse patterns of criminality and victimization.			10%	40%	50%
4. The operation of the criminal justice system in the United States.			10%	40%	50%

In addition, the survey of Criminal Justice Minor alumni asked graduates to respond to the following items:

In general, I found the courses in the Criminal Justice Minor interesting and relevant.

	1 not at all	2	3 some	4	5 very much
		6%	6%	41%	47%

In general, the courses in the Criminal Justice Minor helped sensitize me to ethical issues in the field.

	1 not at all	2	3 some	4	5 very much
			47%	12%	41%

The Criminal Justice Minor helped prepare me for my occupational career.

	1 not at all	2	3 some	4	5 very much
	6%*		35%	35%	24%

(*this student took a job in a nursing home)

Finally, the Criminal Justice Minor survey sought to assess the need for undergraduate course work that would prepare non-Social Work majors for social worker certification (see IA.2f above): If you were not a Social Work major at UW-W, do you think that formal certification as a "social worker" would assist you in your occupational career? Among the nine respondents who were not Social Work majors, 44% responded "yes," 44% responded "no," and 1% responded "don't know."

II. STRATEGIC PURPOSES AND PERFORMANCE

A. Centrality

The Minor helps fulfill UW-Whitewater's primary mission of enhancing students' acquisition of basic proficiencies and critical thinking skills, providing opportunities for career-oriented development, and offering interdisciplinary programs leading to professional specialization.

B. Goals and Objectives

Specific learning objectives include developing a critical understanding of:

- sources of crime data and methods of criminological research
- causal explanations of criminal behavior and their applications
- diverse patterns of criminality and victimization
- the operation of the criminal justice system in the United States

C. Trend Data

Undergraduate Enrollment Headcount for Criminal Justice Minor

F96	205
F97	198
F98	141
F99	119
F2000	108

Undergraduate Degree Headcount for Criminal Justice Minor

95-96	63
96-97	79
97-98	77
98-99	85

The decline in Criminal Justice Minors (97 students) between 1996 and 2000 is primarily explained by the implementation of the Sociology-Criminal Justice Emphasis in 1997. Nearly all students who were previously Sociology Majors with Criminal Justice Minors are now Sociology-Criminal Justice Emphasis students.

In 1996, for example, prior to the implementation of the Emphasis, the Sociology undergraduate headcount was 170 students. In 2000, after the Emphasis was in place, the Sociology headcount declined to 99 students, but the Emphasis headcount rose to 151 students. Thus in 2000 the total number of students enrolled in either the Criminal Justice Emphasis or Minor was 259, an increase of 54 from the Minor headcount in 1996.

D. Demands for Graduates

Nationally, Criminal Justice is a growing field of academic concentration with expanding career opportunities. Locally, we routinely receive inquiries from law enforcement agencies about our program. Recently, for example, we were contacted by Janesville Police Chief George Brunner, himself a graduate of the UW-W Sociology Department, to work with him to implement a paid 20-hour-per-

week apprenticeship program with the Janesville Police Department that could

lead to a permanent position upon graduation. (A Criminal Justice student, Kimberly Niese, has just been selected to fill this position.)

Thus, we expect that the demand for students with training in Criminal Justice will remain high. Employment opportunities include careers in law and law enforcement, adult and juvenile probation and parole, correctional counseling and group home work, criminal investigation, private security, insurance claims, and criminal justice research. We anticipate a growth area especially in the field of corrections, which is likely to undergo increasing professionalization, making the Social Worker certification issue even more important for our students.

Systematic follow-up of Criminal Justice Minor graduates is monitored through students' majors. However, Appendix 2 lists examples of internships and job placements that UW-W Criminal Justice students have received.

E. Internships

Internships are available for all Criminal Justice students. See Appendix 2 for examples of placements.

III. Resource Availability and Development

A. Faculty and Staff Characteristics

The core teaching faculty include: Ronald Berger, Sociology (tenured)
Marvin Free, Sociology (tenured)
John Kozlowicz, Political Science (tenured)
Richard Salem, Sociology (tenured)
Bruce Wiegand, Sociology (tenured)
Jennifer Wingren, Sociology (recently
hired, non-tenured)

(A number of other faculty also teach the courses that are part of the Minor.)

The core faculty have had specialized training in criminology and criminal justice, have been active professionally (both in scholarly research and community service), and have had years of experience teaching and advising students interested in pursuing careers in criminal justice. Drs. Berger and Kozlowicz have won outstanding teaching awards, and Dr. Salem is considered a national expert on internship programming. The faculty are well published, and some are nationally recognized in their field (see Appendix 3). They frequently deliver papers at state, regional, and national conferences, and Dr. Wiegand has been involved in the international arena as well.

In addition to being active in university service, all the faculty have served on committees of professional associations and on the executive boards of state and regional groups. Drs. Berger, Free, and Wiegand have edited the journal of the Wisconsin Sociological Association, *Sociological Imagination*. Faculty also speak regularly before local community groups. Dr. Kozlowicz in particular has for many years organized the Fairhaven Lecture Series. He also serves as President of the Elkhorn Police and Fire Commission and has been an expert witness in legal proceedings.

With the recent hiring of Dr. Wingren, the program has begun to remedy the gender imbalance of its faculty (see IA.2b above). Involvement of Dr. Sealau from the Psychology Department will also improve this representation.

Unit cohesiveness in the program is good. The faculty frequently discuss course content and curriculum development, seek each other out on matters of expertise, and engage in collaborative research (see Appendix 3). However, the faculty are heavily concentrated in the Sociology Department. The program would be enhanced by an additional core faculty member in the Political Science Department who could teach the core course offered by that department. Diane Resch, Assistant Walworth County District Attorney, has occasionally been hired on a part-time basis to teach the political science course on "Criminal Justice and the Constitution," but a more permanent staff member is needed.

B. Resources for Students in the Program

The Minor has benefited from the addition of a new tenure track faculty slot in Sociology, the one filled by Dr. Wingren, that will meet the demands for existing course offerings in Sociology. As indicated in IIIA above, however, an additional faculty member in Political Science would help meet student demand for criminal justice courses in that area.

The College of Letters and Sciences provides a one-quarter time release in the Spring semester for the Coordinator of the Minor (who also supervises the Sociology-Criminal Justice Emphasis). Otherwise, there has never been a separate budget for the Minor. All clerical work has been handled by the Secretary of the Department of Sociology. Thus, additional resources budgeted for student help, capital, and services and supplies would be helpful.

C. Facilities, Equipment, and Library Holdings

Computer and library facilities are adequate, although the addition of hard copies of a couple important criminology/criminal justice journals (especially Justice Quarterly) would be helpful. The new modern classrooms in Hyer Hall are a welcome addition and a pleasure to teach in.

Appendix 3

RECENT FACULTY PUBLICATIONS
(last five years)

R. Berger. In press. *Fathoming the Holocaust: A Social Problems Approach*. Aldine de Gruyter.

R. Berger. 2001. "Teaching the Sociology of Law: Alternative Approaches to Course Organization." In L. Klein (ed.), *Syllabi and Instructional Materials in Sociology of Law*. Teaching Resources Center of American Sociological Association.

R. Berger, M. Free & P. Searles. 2000. *Crime, Justice, and Society: Criminology and the Sociological Imagination*. McGraw-Hill.

R. Berger, M. Free & P. Searles. 2000. "Instructors' Manual and Test Bank" for *Crime, Justice, and Society: Criminology and the Sociological Imagination*. McGraw-Hill.

R. Berger, C. Green & K. Kreiser. 1998. "Altruism Amidst the Holocaust: An Integrated Social Theory." *Perspectives on Social Problems*, Vol. 10. JAI Press.

R. Berger (ed). 1996. *The Sociology of Juvenile Delinquency*. 2nd ed. Nelson-Hall.

R. Berger, 1996. "The Politics of Collective Memory in Israel and West Germany." *Perspectives on Social Problems*, Vol. 8. JAI Press.

M. Free. 1999. "Minorities as Perpetrators and Victims of Crime." In *Encyclopedia of Violence, Peace, and Conflict*. Academic Press.

M. Free. 1998. "Racial Issues in Contemporary Textbooks: The Case of African Americans." *Contemporary Justice Review* 1.

M. Free. 1997. "The Impact of Federal Sentencing Reforms on African Americans." *Journal of Black Studies* 28.

M. Free. 1996. *African Americans and the Criminal Justice System*. Garland.

J. Kozlowicz. 2001. "Instructors' Resource Manual with Test Questions" for C. Barbour & G. Wright, *Keeping the Republic: Power and Citizenship in American Politics*. Houghton Mifflin.

J. Kozlowicz. 2000. "Test Bank and Web Site Practice Tests" for C. Barbour & G. Wright, *Keeping the Republic: Power and Citizenship in American Politics*. Houghton Mifflin.

W. Neuman & R. Berger. 1997. "Competing Perspectives on Cross-National Crime: An Evaluation of Theory and Evidence." In P. Beirne & D. Neklen (eds), *Issues in Comparative Criminology*. Ashgate.

W. Neuman & B. Wiegand. 2000. *Criminal Justice Research Methods*. Allyn & Bacon.

R. Salem (ed.). 2000. *The Internship Handbook: Development and Administration of Internship Programs in Sociology*. Teaching Resources Center of American Sociological Association.

B. Wiegand. 2001. "The Scholarly Literature on Money Laundering." *Encyclopedia of Criminology and Deviant Behavior*, Vol. 1. Brunner-Routledge.

B. Wiegand. 1999. *An Exploratory-Comparative Study of Ethnicity and Social Structure of Tax Compliance in Australia's Cash Economy*. ATO.

B. Wiegand & J. Kozlowicz. 1998. "Polonia Divided: Conflict and Deindustrialization in Taptown." *Polish Review* 43.