

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
Curriculum Proposal Form #1
New Degree, Major, or Submajor

Effective Term: 2141 (Spring 2014)

Degree: BA/BS

Program Title: CRIMINOLOGY MAJOR

GPA Required in the Major/Submajor: 2.00

Sponsor(s): Larry Neuman

Department(s): SOCIOLOGY, ANTHROPOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

College(s): Letters and Sciences

Consultation took place: NA Yes (list departments and attach consultation sheet)

Departments: Political Science

Check if:

- New Degree: Intent to Plan *
- New Degree: Final Proposal
- New Major: Intent to Plan *
- New Major: Final Proposal
- New Submajor: Minor
- New Submajor: Emphasis/Track
- New Submajor: Certificate Program
- Module: Intent to Plan
- Module: Final Proposal
- Other (list):

Proposal Information:

[\(Procedures for form #1\)](#)

* *Note:* You must receive approval from System to plan a new Degree or Major (submajors not included)

New Degrees or Majors

EXPLANATION TO CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

UW-System instituted a new form and process for approval of new majors in September 2012. The new form, **Pre-Authorization: Notice of Intent**, is attached. In the past, the UW-System process required a year or more and required a great deal of detailed information in the **Intent to Plan** document that was prior to the next phase, **Authorization to Plan**, that was then submitted to the Board of Regents. In the past, UW-Whitewater campus curricular approval occurred at the same time as the **Intent to Plan** and was completed before an **Authorization to Plan**. The new UW-System process has two phases prior to approval by the Board of Regents, Notice of Intent that takes about two weeks and requires limited information, only the **Pre-Authorization: Notice of Intent** document then the **Authorization to Plan**. On January 8, 2013 UW-Whitewater received notice that UW-System approved the Pre-Authorization: Notice of Intent. The next step is on-campus curricular approval.

Description of the program, including:

1. Tentative catalog description of the program

In the Criminology Major, students study the nature and causes of criminal and delinquent behaviors and the operation of the criminal justice system in the United States. Students receive a solid foundation in criminology and develop their analytic, quantitative reasoning and communication skills relevant to the criminology field. They select additional courses on criminal behavior and victimization. Students pick one of two career tracks for specialization: law enforcement-investigation or adult-youth corrections.

2. A tentative list of courses to be included in the program (use * to indicate new courses)

CRIMINOLOGY MAJOR, 36 UNITS

GPA in Major: 2.00

1. SOCIOLOGY 276

2. SOCIOLOGY 295 (Satisfies Technological Literacy Requirement)

3. SOCIOLOGY 374

4. SOCIOLOGY 378

5. SOCIOLOGY 476

6. SOCIOLOGY 475 (Satisfies Writing Requirement)*

7. SOCIOLOGY 493 OR SOCIOLOGY 494 OR SOCIOLOGY 498R

8. SELECT 6-9 UNITS FROM THE FOLLOWING:

SOCIOLOGY 370, SOCIOLOGY 371, SOCIOLOGY 372, SOCIOLOGY 373 OR SOCIOLOGY 379

9. Select A or B of the following:

A. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND INVESTIGATION TRACK

1. CRIMJUST 321

2. SELECT 6-9 UNITS FROM THE FOLLOWING: CRIMJUST 322, CRIMJUST 325, POLISCI 316, POLISCI 415, POLISCI 419, SOCIOLOGY 426

B. ADULT AND YOUTH CORRECTIONS TRACK

1. CRIMJUST 327

2. SELECT 6-9 UNITS FROM THE FOLLOWING: SOCIOLOGY 375, SOCIOLOGY 426, COMM 424, COMM 328, SOCWORK 235

10. A MAXIMUM OF 6 UNITS OF SOCIOLOGY 493 CAN COUNT IN THE MAJOR, A MAXIMUM OF 3 UNITS OF SOCIOLOGY/CRIMJUST 498 CAN COUNT IN THE MAJOR

Unique Requirement:

SOCIOLOGY 265 OR SOCIOLOGY/RACEETHN 393 OR POLISCI/RACEETH 217 OR POLISCI/RACEETH 280

3. Goals and learning objectives of the program

Mission Statement: The Criminology Major offers students a range of social science and applied courses that 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 instructional curriculum and internship opportunities prepare students to pursue careers in law enforcement (local, state, and federal), juvenile and adult probation and parole, correctional counseling and group home work, private security and investigation, insurance claims, and criminal justice research.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES FOR CRIMINOLOGY MAJOR

1. Identify patterns and sources of U.S. crime data and examine trends and patterns of criminality and victimization revealed by the data.
2. Identify the basic general typologies of criminality and victimization.
3. Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of at least two typologies of criminality and victimization.
4. Demonstrate analytical reasoning skills through a familiarity with criminological theory and research as applied to crime prevention and control policies.
5. Identify causes of criminality and victimization for people of different class, racial-ethnic, gender, and age groups, and well as the different criminal justice responses to these groups.
6. Identify the key stages of the criminal justice system and the organizational processes and discretionary decision-making that occur at each stage.
7. Demonstrate knowledge of constitutional law as it relates to the operation of the criminal justice system.
8. Demonstrate knowledge of the U.S. policing system, current policing practices, and the role of police in communities.
9. Demonstrate knowledge of the U.S. correctional system and current correctional practices in secure and community settings.
10. Identify and apply theories of rehabilitative treatment to individual cases (applies only to Youth & Adult Corrections Track).
11. Apply communication skills in writing, speaking, and other forms of communication to the criminal justice field.
12. Apply basic quantitative literacy appropriate to the criminal justice field, including the interpretation of crime statistics.

Note on Unique Requirement: The Criminology Major has a unique requirement of a social science course on race and ethnicity relations in the United States. Almost all students in the major will have already completed such a course, but some may have fulfilled the university diversity requirement with other courses. Possessing a basic familiarity with U.S. racial and ethnic relations from a social science perspective is essential for students taking courses in the major and for anyone who plans a career in criminology.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES BY REQUIRED COURSES IN THE MAJOR

Course No.	Course Title	Learning Objective
Sociology 276	Introduction to Criminology	1, 2, 5, 6
Sociology 295	Basic Social Statistics	12
Sociology 374	Sociology of Police & Courts	6, 7, 8
Sociology 378	Sociology of Punishment & Corrections	9
Sociology 475	Criminological Theory	4, 5, 11
Sociology 493 OR 494 OR 498R	Applied Sociology (internship), Seminar in Sociology, Undergraduate Research	11

LEARNING OBJECTIVES BY ELECTIVE COURSES IN THE MAJOR (6-9 UNITS)

Course No.	Course Title	Learning Objective
Sociology 370	Juvenile Delinquency	3, 5
Sociology 371	Sociology of Homicide	3, 5
Sociology 372	White Collar Crime	3, 5
Sociology 373	Sociology of Terrorism	3, 5
Sociology 379	Women and Crime	3, 5

LEARNING OBJECTIVES BY TRACKS IN THE MAJOR

Law Enforcement Track		
Course No.	Course Title	Learning Objective
Crimjus 321*	Criminal Investigation	6, 8
Crimjus 322	Investigation of Child Abuse	6, 8
Crimjus 325	Forensic Documentation	8
Polisci 316	Police and Criminal Justice Administration	8
Polisci 415	Criminal Justice and the Constitution	7
Polisci 419	The Judicial Process	6, 7
Sociology 425	Minorities and the Criminal Justice System	5, 6, 8
Youth & Adult Corrections Track		

Course No.	Course Title	Learning Objective
Crimjus 327*	Community Corrections and Treatment	9, 10
Sociology 375	Restorative Justice	9, 10
Sociology 426	Minorities and the Criminal Justice System	5, 6, 9
Comm 424	Cross cultural Communication	11
Comm 328	Communication and Conflict Resolution	10, 11
Socwork 235	Child Welfare	9

* Required course for track

FOUR YEAR COURSE OFFERING ROTATION PLAN												
	YEAR 1			YEAR 2			YEAR 3			YEAR 4		
REQUIRED	Fall	Sprg	Sm	Fall	Sprg	Sm	Fall	Sprg	Sm	Fall	Sprg	Sm
Soc 276	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Soc 295	X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X	
Soc 374	X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X	
Soc 378	X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X	
Soc 475		X			X			X			X	
Soc 493	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Soc 494	X			X			X			X		
ELECTIVE												
Soc 370	X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X	
Soc 371	X			X			X			X		
Soc 372		X			X			X			X	
Soc 373		X			X			X			X	
Soc 379	X		X	X			X		X	X		X
Law Enforcement Track												
Crimjs 321	X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X	
Crimjs 322	X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X	
Crimjs 325	X			X			X			X		
Polisci 316			X						X			
Polisci 415	X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X	
Polisci 419	X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X	
Soc 426		X						X				
Youth & Adult Corrections Track												
Crimjs 327	X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X	
Soc 375		X			X			X			X	
Soc 426		X						X				
Comm 424	X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X	
Comm 328	X			X			X			X		
Socwrk 235	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	

X = course offered

Criminology Major Assessment Plan

Student achievement of the SLO's for the Criminology Major will be assessed with the following direct and indirect measures of student learning (also see chart below).

Collection of Assessment Data:

- (1) All Criminology Majors are required to complete a 45 minute Criminology Assessment Test administered twice a year. It has 30 multiple choice, 1 short-answer and 2 essay questions. A team of two Criminology faculty members will score and evaluate results of the CAT.
- (2) All Majors also complete an online survey with questions about self-assessment of their learning.

(3) Qualitative data will be gathered from two focus groups. Every other year, two randomly selected groups of 4-5 students in the major will be assembled and participate in a focus group session to discuss their learning in the Major, specifically for SLO #5 and #7.

(4) Data will come from embedded assessment by considering select questions measure SLOs from final exams and other tests in two required classes, Sociology 276 (Introduction to Criminology) and Sociology 375 (Police and Courts). These data will be used for on-going assessment and compared to CAT results to evaluate improvement in student learning over time.

(5) Qualitative data will also be gathered annually in the form of input from internship supervisors, internship reports, and the Criminology Advisory Board.

Evaluation and Use of Assessment Data

Each year a team of four faculty and instructional academic staff in the Criminology field will meet to examine SLO data from the required Sociology 276 and 374 /courses, CAT and exit survey results, compare CAT results to the Sociology 276 and Sociology 374 results, and consider indirect assessment measures and input with the Criminology Advisory Board. The team will make annual adjustments in the Criminology Major program based on their evaluation of the data.

SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT DATA BY STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVE		
SLO (Abbreviated)	Direct Assessment	Indirect Assessment
1. Identify patterns in U.S. crime data for criminality and victimization trends.	Three MC questions on CAT and one short-answer	Student self-assessment survey question on exit survey
2. Identify the typologies of criminality and victimization.	Two MC questions on CAT	Student self-assessment survey question on exit survey
3. Apply knowledge of two or more typologies of criminality and victimization to specific cases.	Two essay questions on CAT	Student self-assessment survey question on exit survey
4. Demonstrate analytical reasoning skills by comparing the implications and supporting research of criminological theories.	Three MC questions on CAT	Student self-assessment survey question on exit survey
5. Identify causes of criminality and victimization for people of different class, racial-ethnic, gender, and age groups.	Four MC questions on CAT	Outcome of student focus group discussion
6. Identify the key stages of the criminal justice system and the organizational processes	Three multiple choice questions on CEAT	Student self-assessment survey question on exit survey
7. Demonstrate knowledge of constitutional law as it relates to the criminal justice system.	Three MC questions on CAT	Outcome of student focus group discussion
8. Demonstrate knowledge of the U.S. policing system	Three MC questions on CAT	Feedback from internship supervisors for students with police placements
9. Demonstrate knowledge of the U.S. correctional system.	Three MC questions on CAT	Feedback from internship supervisors for students with corrections placements
10. Apply theories of rehabilitative treatment to individual cases.	Three MC questions on CAT	Feedback from internship supervisors for students with rehabilitation placements
11. Apply communication skills in writing, speaking, and other forms.	Essay questions on CAT	Feedback from internship supervisors, and/or from presentation made in 494 course
12. Apply basic quantitative	Three MC questions	Student self-assessment survey question

literacy to the criminology issues.	on CAT	on exit survey
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CAT = Criminology Assessment Test

4. The need for the program, including information on student demand and market demand for graduates; UW-Whitewater Criminology major program provides a broad-based liberal arts perspective more than programs typically offered by Criminal Justice departments elsewhere. The social science perspective of the program prepares student for both immediate entry-level criminal justice positions and for life-long career advancement. While majors will learn some applied, vocational skills, the program provides students with a background integrated into the liberal arts that prepares graduates to advance into managerial or high-responsibility positions. The number of entry-level positions in criminal justice in Wisconsin or nation-wide is not likely to grow significantly, but the number of more advanced technical positions and managerial positions above the entry level are likely to expand. Graduates with a BA only enter these positions after several years of experience or after some graduate school preparation. As the 2010 “Report of the ASA Task Force on Sociology and Criminology Programs” by the American Sociological Association stated, a majority of Criminology-Criminal Justice programs maintain a liberal arts orientation, while only 30% maintain a vocational orientation, with most vocationally-oriented programs in stand-alone Criminal Justice Departments. The report stated (p. 31-32) “That the majority of CCJ {Criminology or Criminal Justice} programs maintain a liberal arts focus, rather than a more vocational approach may be directly related to the extent to which CCJ programs remain affiliated with sociology programs. When these programs share resources, faculty, and students, it might be expected that the liberal arts orientation of sociology is reflected in the CCJ program as well.” The report noted that 38% of surveyed department chairs said that a conflict occurs “. . . between CCJ student expectations of a career-oriented program and their program’s liberal arts/social scientific orientation” (p. 33). Rather than abandoning a liberal arts/social scientific orientation, the Task Force report recommends ways departments can align student expectations with program goals, such as explicitly stating program objectives, building classes around a direct examination of criminological research findings, and integrating data throughout the curriculum. The Task Force report echoes the LEAP initiative’s emphasis on building on solid foundation in the liberal arts by focusing on analytic skills, communication abilities, and cultural understandings that prepare students for a dynamic 21st century work environment. As the report stated (p. 39), “The challenge for faculty in sociology, criminology and criminal justice is to better explain to students and future employers the specific types of skills that students receive in a liberal arts education . . .” The post-graduation careers of students with majors from the existing Sociology Major, Criminal Justice Emphasis UW-Whitewater program have pursued various careers. About 15-20 % of continue their education by going to graduate school or professional schools, either immediately or within a few years of graduation. Approximately 20-25% of graduates go into human service fields or into investigation fields (e.g., YMCA, Red Cross, group homes, rehabilitation services, DNR, consumer protection, insurance investigation, private detective agencies, etc.). About 10% of graduates enter federal government employment or military service (i.e., Homeland Security, Border Patrol, U.S. Department of Defense) or enter employment outside of Wisconsin, such as students from northern Illinois who return to Illinois upon graduation. About one half directly enter entry-level criminal justice occupations (police officers, probation officers, or correctional services).

5. An explanation of the relation of the proposed program to the institutional mission, strategic plan, goals and objectives; The existing program array includes the following related programs: a Sociology Major – No Emphasis (36 credits), Sociology Major – Global-Comparative Emphasis (57 credits), Sociology Major – Honors Emphasis (57 credits), and Sociology Major – Criminal Justice Emphasis (57 credits). There is also a Criminal Justice Minor (24 credits) and Forensic Science Minor (21 credits). The new major consists of sociology and criminal justice courses, along with some elective courses in political science and communication. The new 36 credit Criminology Major replaces an existing 57 credit Sociology-Major, Criminal Justice Emphasis that was created in 1992. It both updates and more sharply focuses the curriculum. At the same time, it will streamline progress to degree for students. There are no overlapping or duplicate programs at UW-Whitewater.

Institutional Mission: The new major is consistent with Item #1 of the UW-Whitewater Mission, “To provide a range of undergraduate programs and degrees, including interdisciplinary programs, in letters, sciences, and the arts as well as programs and degrees leading to professional specialization.” The program will meet the educational and career needs of students by offering them pre-professional preparation for entry-level positions in law enforcement, the criminal justice system, human services, and related fields.

Strategic Plan: The new major reinforces Item I of the UW-Whitewater Strategic Plan, “We will broaden accessibility to education and services through innovative and responsive curricula, instructional delivery methods and co-curricular programs, and focus on continuous improvement of programs and services through the assessment

of learning outcomes and evaluation of effectiveness of university services.” It is part of an innovative and responsive curriculum based on a review of current trends that incorporates input from potential employers and alumni. It offers students two career tracks after they have completed a comprehensive foundation of required courses.

6. A discussion of the relationship of the proposed program to other academic programs in the UW System, and region, and , if appropriate, the nation; The Criminology Major replaces, streamlines and more sharply focuses an existing UW-Whitewater Sociology Major, Criminal Justice Emphasis that has been in operation for over 20 years. Currently, over 350 students are enrolled in the Emphasis. Student enrollment in the Emphasis grew quickly due to the strong demand by employers in criminal justice, criminology, law enforcement, corrections, and related fields. The proposed Criminology Major has been designed with the requirements of a 21st century professional career in mind. It will provide students with a solid social science foundation and concentrates on sociological criminology, a focus that is relatively unique within the State of Wisconsin. Only Marquette University offers a degree called Criminology rather than Criminal Justice. Their program, affiliated with the Marquette School of Law, focuses on the study of law. Other Criminal Justice programs are offered through independent Criminal Justice Departments (UW-Milwaukee, UW-Parkside, UW-Oshkosh) or are affiliated with Political Science (UW-Eau Claire) rather than Sociology. The Criminal Justice program at UW-Platteville is more applied and has less of a social science focus. UW-Stevens Point offers a Criminal Justice emphasis within the Sociology Department but not a major.

7. The projected source of resources (reallocation, external funds, request for new dollars).

The courses and requirements of the new major are a reconfiguration of existing courses with one exception, the addition of Sociology 475, Criminological Theory. Three of the required core courses (Sociology 276, Sociology 285 and Sociology 476) and the capstone experience (SOCIOLOGY 493 OR SOCIOLOGY 494 OR SOCIOLOGY 498R) are current requirements of the SOCIOLOGY-Major, Criminal Justice Emphasis that is being replaced. No new resources are required to offer these courses. The new required course, Sociology 475, will be taught by a new tenure-track faculty hire that has been authorized and will begin in Fall 2013. Two existing courses (Sociology 374, Sociology 378) will be offered more frequently. An additional section of Sociology 374 will be staffed by reassignment, and additional section of Sociology 378 will be taught by a new tenure-track faculty hire that has been authorized and will begin in Fall 2013. There had been a Coordinator for the old Criminal Justice program. A Coordinator for the Criminology Major and Minor will require release time for student advising, career counseling, external constituency relations, and curriculum oversight.