

Assessment REPORT - AY 2012-13

BA in Criminal Justice

School of Criminal Justice

College: Business and Public Management

Kean University

Program Learning Goals:

SLO1: Understand the main principles of the United States Constitution, specifically related to individual rights and due process.
(KU2, KU4, GE-V1, GE-V3, GE-V4)

SLO2: Identify the main components of the criminal justice system, and summarize the salient issues related to each component.
(KU2, KU3, KU4, GE-S4, (GE-V1, GE-V2, GE-3, GE-V4, GE-V5)

SLO3: Use theory to explain why people commit crimes and how offenders can be deterred.
(KU3, KU4, GE-K2, GE-S4, GE-V1, GE-V2, GE-V3, GE-V4)

SLO4: Students will design and conduct an original research study on a topic related to the study of CJ.
(KU 2, KU3, KU4, GE-K2, GE-S3, GE-S4, GE-S5, GE-V5)

SLO5: Students will communicate effectively.
(GE-S1, GE-S2, GE-V 5)

Program Level Student Learning Outcome	Assessment Measure(s)	Assessment Criteria <i>(Describe how data is collected--rubric, survey, etc.)</i>	Results of Assessment <i>(Data Collected)</i>	Action Taken <i>(Closing the Loop: New action or follow up from last Assessment Report)</i>
Knowledge of Substantive and Procedural Criminal Law	Comprehensive knowledge test in capstone course	Multiple choice exam in Qualtrics, requirement for CJ 4600. The questions will be changed in the summer of 2013, to make them different from those that were asked during academic year 2012-13.	The students are assessed on 5 key areas relative to law. The mean for this SLO in 2013 overall is low, 2.86 (N=96), and less than in previous years. The mean from FA/11-SP/14 is 2.986.	The analysis of the data over the period from FA/11-SP/13 reveals that native Kean students score higher than transfer students in this area. A common factor is the transfer of law related courses from 2- year colleges as an equivalent of the major core course. Recommendations include re- assessing transfer equivalencies, and requiring all students to complete law related courses as a part of the core requirement at Kean.
Knowledge of Criminal Justice System	Comprehensive knowledge test in capstone course	Multiple choice exam in Qualtrics (new questions each academic year), requirement for CJ	The students are assessed on 5 areas of general knowledge of the criminal justice system. Overall, the students demonstrate adequate	Overall, students, regardless of where their studies originate, should be well versed in the criminal justice system. One likely factor for the mean being less than 100% is the spread of time from initial learning to

		4600	knowledge with a mean of 3.22. This is an improvement over the mean from FA/11-SP/14, which is 3.06.	overall assessment (2-3 years). The content of the instrument will be evaluated to identify any deficiencies.
Knowledge and application: Crime causes and deterrents	Comprehensive knowledge test in capstone course	Multiple choice exam in Qualtrics (new questions), requirement for CJ 4600	The students are assessed on 5 areas of general knowledge of the criminological theory. This area reveals the lowest level in terms in mean scores, 2.06 in SP13. This is an improvement over the mean from FA/11-SP/14, which is 1.98.	The proficiency of students in this area is far below acceptable levels associated with general knowledge. A common factor is the transfer of criminology related courses from 2-year colleges as an equivalent of the major core course. Recommendations include re-assessing transfer equivalencies, and requiring all students to complete la related courses as a part of the core requirement at Kean. Assessment will be shifted to a major core course, Juvenile Justice, and will focus on theory and causation.
Research design & implementation	Term assignment in capstone course	Papers, graded with rubric, in Fall 2012 & Spring 2013. Also multiple choice exam in Qualtrics (new questions), requirement for CJ 4600.	The students are assessed on 5 areas of general knowledge of the research design & implantation. This area demonstrates increased student knowledge with a mean of 3.46. This is an improvement over the mean from FA/11-SP/14, which is 3.25.	This is one 3 areas that students must complete course work at Kean, transfer equivalents do not apply. This course is intensive, hands-on, with increased student-faculty interaction. Specific areas in need of improvement include student writing, the impact of student research, and demonstrating evidence of methodological issues. Recommendations include; adding a 1-credit lab component to the course that emphasizes student writing; limit the vast number of topics to more timely and relevant criminal justice topics in an effort of reducing the saturation of specific topics commonly used by students over the course of time; and strengthen the students' knowledge and use of relevant statistical models used in social science research.
Effective communication	Presentation & paper graded with rubrics in	Oral & written communication of CJ 4600 students. Oral	This is an area that is examined in CJ 4600, Senior Seminar, and students demonstrate	The assessment of written communication shows a logical progression of improvement over the course of the

	<p>capstone course.</p>	<p>communication assessed with rubric developed by GE staff (1-5 rankings), and written communication assessed with an original rubric (1-3 rankings).</p>	<p>proficiency through in-class presentations. In SP13 students (N=85) scored highest on content of the presentations and in explaining the issues. Deficiencies were noted in basic writing skills with grammatical and spelling errors among the more common found in student writing. Additionally, students scored lower in areas related to the evidence found within the research. The grading rubric ranged from 0 (not acceptable) to 3. (Skilled or completely done).</p>	<p>semester, with students averaging a mean of 2.659 in the established range (0-3) when submitting the final written assignment. The recommendation of adding a 1-credit lab to this course is expected to improve overall communication skills.</p>
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