

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST FOR NEW PROGRAMS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA:  
BACHELOR OF ARTS AND BACHELOR OF SCIENCE PROGRAMS IN  
CRIMINOLOGY, LAW AND JUSTICE**

**Action Requested:** Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to establish new Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science Programs in Criminology, Law, and Justice in the Department of Sociology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

**Executive Summary:** The proposed programs will transition from a track in Criminology in the Department of Sociology to standalone programs. This proposal was reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. No concerns were raised when it was presented to the Iowa Coordinating Council for Post-High School Education. The proposed program addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priorities to “provide educational excellence and impact as well as economic development and vitality” and Goal #8 – “Iowa’s public universities and special schools shall be increasingly efficient and productive.”

**Background:**

- ◇ **Description of proposed program.** The proposed programs will require a more extensive academic exploration than the track which will better prepare students for careers in law, criminal justice, social services, government, and public policy. The required courses will teach students about the important data sources on crime in the United States and internationally; the various sociological explanations for crime and criminal justice; and the operation of law and the criminal justice system and their complex interplay with other social institutions, such as the economy and politics. The program includes introductory courses on criminology, criminal justice and law and society. It also includes more advanced courses on criminology and the causes of crime, such as juvenile delinquency, interpersonal violence, white collar crime, and global criminology. The program also offers courses on law and the criminal justice system, including courses on the criminal legal system, juvenile justice system, corrections and criminal punishment, comparative legal systems, and the sociology of law.
  
- ◇ **Academic objectives.** The proposed programs will be located in the Department of Sociology. Therefore, many courses will focus on social inequalities and their role in shaping criminal behavior and criminal justice system experiences. Some courses will focus on key dimensions of social inequality, including courses on women, crime and justice, race, crime and justice with the theme of inequality reflected in most of the courses. The student outcomes include the following:
  - ⇒ Conduct research and analyze data – Learn both qualitative and quantitative research methods; recognize trends and patterns and produce related social statistics.
  - ⇒ Communicate skillfully – Learn how to convey ideas effectively in writing and presentations.
  - ⇒ Practice critical thinking – Learn to look beyond the surface of issues to discover the “why;” build analytical skills; solve problems and identify opportunities.
  - ⇒ Gain a global perspective – Learn about different cultures and how to analyze the interactions of groups and societies through a global and historical perspective.

- ⇒ Prepare for graduate school or for a first career step – Prepare for employment and/or for graduate study in a wide range of fields, including criminology, criminal justice, sociology, law, business, social work, medicine, public health, and public administration.
- ◇ Need for proposed program. The Department of Sociology offers a track in criminology which prepares students to pursue careers in criminological research, law, policing, probation, parole, and other areas. There are currently 294 undergraduate students majoring in sociology; of those, 149 students are in the criminology track. The growth in the track and student demand led the department to propose a standalone program in Criminology, Law and Justice. Students, parents, and potential employers have difficulties understanding a track because it appears only on the transcript and not on the degree award. A major will allow strengthening the student's preparation for a first career or additional professional study.
- ◇ Link to institutional strategic plan. Goal 1 of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) strategic plan is focused on student success, with a primary aim of providing a "rich and challenging undergraduate experience that develops in students the skills and understanding that contribute to rewarding personal lives, satisfying and productive work, and informed participation in a diverse multi-cultural society." Like all liberal arts majors, the proposed program encourages students to acquire experiences and transferable skills that are useful in many professions, with a particular focus on understanding diversity; data and its application to societal concerns; critical thinking and problem solving; and oral and written communication skills.
- ◇ Relationship to existing programs at SUJ. The proposed program will be the second major offered by the Department of Sociology which currently offers a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science Program in Sociology. The Department of Sociology currently offers a track in criminology, which prepares students to pursue careers in criminological research, policing, probation, parole, the law, and other areas. About 50% of the 300 majors in sociology are in the criminology track. The department a demonstrated expertise in this area, with faculty specializing in research related to criminology and with a long history of teaching courses in the field. If the proposed major is approved, the track will be closed. Continuing students will be allowed to complete the track or will have the option of moving to the major.

Because this major is located in the Department of Sociology, many of the courses focus on social inequalities and their role is shaping criminal behavior and criminal justice system experiences. Some courses focus explicitly on key dimensions of social inequality, including courses on women, crime and justice, and on race, crime and justice with the theme of inequality running through most of our courses. As such, the major will examine issues related to race and ethnic diversity, gender, and poverty, heightening awareness of these important topics. This major will be attractive to students preparing for law school as well and will function as some as a second major, with combinations such as political science, ethics and public policy, philosophy, anthropology, and economics all making excellent combinations that will deepen a student's education.

The Center for Criminology and Socio-Legal Studies complements the proposed program because it also has a focus on criminology, law and justice which gives students an opportunity to participate in some of the Center's activities for graduate students, including research.

- ◇ Relationship to existing programs at other colleges and universities. The curriculum for the proposed program draws on research by current faculty at the University and has a strong theoretical dimension. Many of the courses look at the reasons behind criminal behavior and criminal justice system experiences, especially focusing on economics and social inequality, and on race, crime and justice with the theme of inequality running through most of the offered courses.

The other Regent universities also offer programs in criminal justice or criminology. The Bachelor of Arts Program in Criminology at UNI is in the College of Social and Behavioral Science and offers a special interest in the police, courts, corrections, and public policy related to controlling or reducing crime. UNI also offers a crime mapping certificate using GIS tools to map criminal activity and patterns in geographical areas. In February 2016, the Board approved a Bachelor of Arts Program in Criminal Justice (ASAC 4) at Iowa State University in the Department of Sociology that has an applied orientation dealing with the study, treatment, and supervision of criminal offenders within the criminal justice system. Each program at the Regent universities has a unique focus, curriculum, and outreach. Discussions about curricular changes and opportunities for sharing strengths, and collaborating with each other led to the development of a Memorandum of Cooperation (Appendix A).

- ◇ Unique features. Because this major is located within the Department of Sociology, many of courses focus on social inequalities and their role is shaping criminal behavior and criminal justice system experiences and related theoretical issues based on faculty research. Some courses focus explicitly on key dimensions of social inequality, including courses on women, crime and justice, and on race, crime and justice with the theme of inequality running through most of the courses. Therefore, the major will examine issues related to race and ethnic diversity, gender, and poverty, heightening awareness of these important topics. This is an important strength of the proposed program and is key for persons working in the field of criminology, criminal justice, and related areas. The program will encourage but not require an internship related to the student's career or a research experience with a faculty member. The department will create many opportunities with local and state agencies, which will give students an opportunity to view the discipline from a range of perspectives.
- ◇ Duplication. Many of the four-year colleges in Iowa also offer programs in criminal justice. For example, Mount Mercy University offers a major (B.S.) and minor in criminal justice, with a focus on applied knowledge. Other private colleges in Iowa offering the B.A. in criminal justice include Buena Vista University; Graceland University; Iowa Wesleyan College; Saint Ambrose University; and Simpson College. Buena Vista University and Loras College also offer the B.S degree. These programs tend to be focused on current contexts, leading students to entry-level positions in policing, corrections, and related areas. The programs are also flexible and can be used for students for a range of goals, including preparation for law school or other professional programs. Grinnell, Cornell, Coe, and Drake do not offer this major.
- ◇ Resources. The personnel, facilities, and equipment in the sociology program and the criminology track will support the proposed program. The department anticipates that additional students can be accommodated in the new programs without extra cost.

- ◇ Student demand. The students currently enrolled in the criminology track will likely transition to the Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science Program in Criminology, Law and Justice (Fall 2014 = 132). The proposed program will also attract students who complete and associate of arts degree from Iowa community colleges, such as Kirkwood Community College and Des Moines Area Community College. Community colleges that do not offer a program in criminal justice offer advising in the criminal justice area to help students to complete the prerequisites for transfer to a criminal justice program at a Regent university. Therefore, the proposed program will be eligible for the 2+2 Plan, a university and community college agreement to ensure a smooth transfer of credits and the completion of a baccalaureate degree. The community college have requested that the university develop a major in criminology and criminal justice to meet the 2+2 Plan and to accommodate student interest.
  
- ◇ Workforce need/demand. A major in Criminology, Law and Justice will better meet the demonstrated employment needs in this area. The major will prepare students for employment in police organizations (local, state and federal), public and private investigative work, private security work, corrections and community corrections, private treatment facilities for adults and juveniles, crime and justice research, as well as in other types of human services, sales, public relations, advertising, personnel, applied social research, community organization, and teaching social science in secondary schools.  
  
Careers in the area of protection services as a group are projected to rise by around 10% through 2022 (Occupational Handbook, Employment Trends, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics). According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the employment of police and detectives in the public sector is projected to increase 5% between 2012 and 2022, and importantly, jobs in policing are expected to become more competitive overall and having a B.A. degree will become increasingly important. According to PoliceLink, a website for the nation's law enforcement community, the employment of private detectives and investigators is projected to grow 22% over the next 10 years, much faster than the average for all occupations due to an increase in security concerns and the need to protect property and confidential information. The same website notes that experts predict a 19% increase in opportunities for probation officers and correctional treatment specialists, positions that typically require a B.A. in criminal justice or social services.  
  
Generally, a more deeply educated workforce with a stronger research and theoretical background in criminology and criminal justice will enhance performance in the field and profession, a benefit to Iowa's communities. According to the Director of the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA), who was consulted about this proposal, a four-year degree means that students can take a 'fast-track' to become certified as a police officer for any organization in the state. In other words, most officers are hired, and they must complete a 14-week "police academy" before they can begin on-the-job training.
  
- ◇ Consultation with representatives of other programs. Appendix B includes a letter of support from UNI; Appendix A includes a Memorandum of Cooperation among the three Regent universities. The MOC addresses the areas of cooperation – the faculty in the respective departments at the three universities have expressed interest in cooperation among the programs to strengthen each program and leverage the expertise available on each campus to benefit students and faculty on all campuses. The three faculties have agreed to the following collaboration activities with the option to develop future collaboration ideas where appropriate.

- ⇒ Referral of prospective students – Prospective students may have different needs and interests in criminal justice and criminology. The universities agree that each program should refer prospective students deemed more appropriate for another program to that program to provide maximum benefits to students.
  - ⇒ Articulation of courses - Transfer of equivalent courses is an opportunity already available to students at each institution. The programs agree that a student enrolled in any of the criminology/criminal justice programs at the Regent institutions may take up to six credits of approved non-equivalent courses (offered online or face to face) in the other programs for credit toward the home program; students will pay the tuition to the institution that offers the articulated courses at the rate of the offering institution. The approved course list should be determined, published, and maintained by each institution independently.
  - ⇒ Online course offerings – Each January, the programs at each institution will provide information about anticipated online course offerings in this area for the coming summer and academic year to the programs at each institution. This information will be made available to advisers at each institution so that students are aware of course offerings available to them around the state.
  - ⇒ Sharing of intellectual resources - Interested faculty from each institution will seek opportunities to exchange ideas and create opportunities for student learning and for faculty development through invitations to present guest lectures, to communicate about course development and pedagogical strategies, to work together on outreach to criminal justice practitioners and to share information about internship and employment opportunities.
- ◇ Cost. The new costs for the proposed program are expected to be \$91,500 in Year One, increasing to \$375,630 by Year Five. No new additional expenditures are anticipated after Year Five. The total costs for the next three years will come from internal reallocation of funds in CLAS which will be covered by the increased revenue generated by additional credit hours. The costs include a lecturer in Years One and Four; additional teaching assistants in Years One through Five; and a tenure-track line in Year Three.
  - ◇ Projected enrollment. The enrollment is expected to be 50 undergraduate majors in Year One, increasing to 175 by Year Seven.
  - ◇ Anticipated sources of students. The department is anticipating that approximately 50% of the students in the criminology track will move to the proposed program. Other students will be new undergraduates.
  - ◇ Articulation agreement. The proposed program will attract not only first-year students but also students earning the AA degree from Iowa community colleges, such as at Eastern Iowa Community College and Kirkwood Community College. If these colleges offer advising in the criminal justice area to help students to complete the prerequisites for transfer to a criminal justice program at a Regent university, the program will be eligible for the 2+2 Plan, a UI and Iowa community college agreement to insure a smooth transfer of credits and the completion of a baccalaureate degree. The community colleges have been pressing for the University of Iowa to develop a separate major in criminology and criminal justice to help meet the 2+2 plan and accommodate student interest.

- ◇ Off-campus delivery. Off-campus delivery is not planned initially.
- ◇ Opportunities for internships. Students will be strongly encouraged to complete an internship related to the student's career or a research experience with a faculty member. The department will create many of these opportunities with local and state agencies. All Criminology, Law and Justice students will complete a capstone course, which illustrates their accomplishments and which helps to prepare them for job search or graduate school. It will likely to be taken during the student's last two semesters of course work and will include assembling a portfolio.
- ◇ Marketing plan. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences will work with the Office of Admissions and the Office of Strategic Communication to develop a marketing plan. A new program is added to the application, to all relevant materials, and university web sites to inform students. Campus visit days highlight new program as do special open houses and visits with high school counselors. The Office of Admissions will plan special events for future students to attend, such as talks and research discussions. Faculty will meet with future students to discuss the program. The professional advisor in Sociology will also meet with future students who will be invited to attend class on campus.
- ◇ Evaluation plan. Each year, every major at the University participates in campus-wide assessment of programs, with departments submitting their annual plans and steps taken for improvement to the Office of Assessment. Additionally, the College reviews new programs after the third year, asking the department chair or the program director to review with the Undergraduate Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee (UEPCC) the enrollments, course offerings, progress toward degree, assessment outcomes, and other details. UEPCC makes recommendations to the College on any needed changes to the program of study. Departments are also reviewed every five years by the College and by outside reviewers who are experts in the field and, at that time, all existing majors within a department are also reviewed, with curricular offerings and requirements discussed, with changes recommended.
- ◇ Date of implementation. Creation of the proposed program will become effective upon approval by the Board of Regents and will be included in the University's General Catalog. The anticipated implementation date is Fall 2016.

Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology



Helena Dettmer  
Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
University of Iowa  
Iowa, City, IA. 52242

Dear Dr. Dettmer,

Brenda Bass, Dean of College of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI), requested that I send you a letter describing the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology's (SAC) response to the proposal for a BA and BS in Criminology, Law, and Justice from the Department of Sociology at UI. I am happy to do so as Department Head of SAC at UNI.

I distributed the "Proposal for a Major in Criminology, Law and Justice (BA, BS)" written by Dr. Heimer to the SAC faculty and we discussed it at our most recent faculty meeting. The faculty are happy to support the proposal. As I am sure you are aware, it is not duplicative of our BA in Criminology program or our proposed BS in Criminal Justice program. Dean Bass also has been consulted and came to the same conclusion.

We hope that there will be some coordination with our programs in lines of accepting our courses and making transfers easy both ways. If you would like to discuss this, please let me know.

Thank you for consulting us.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Baker  
Professor and Department Head  
Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology  
University of Northern Iowa  
Cedar Falls, 50614  
319-273-2786

BOARD OF REGENTS EDUCATION AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE 4b  
STATE OF IOWA ATTACHMENT A

Memorandum of Cooperation on Criminal Justice Programs  
April 12, 2015

University of Northern Iowa College of Social & Behavioral Sciences 319 Sabin Hall Cedar Falls, IA 50614	Iowa State University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences 202 Catt Hall Ames, IA 50011	University of Iowa College of Liberal Arts and Sciences 240 Schaeffer Hall Iowa City, IA 52242
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**1. Background**

Criminal justice is one of the largest and fastest growing majors within the liberal arts and sciences across the United States. Whether within departments of sociology, anthropology, criminology, or in other areas, criminal justice programs are now essential for training undergraduates in law enforcement and judicial careers, corrections, substance treatment, mental health counseling, and related occupations.

To meet the growing demand for graduates and professionals in criminology and criminal justice, the University of Northern Iowa (UNI), Iowa State University (ISU), and the University of Iowa (UI) have developed undergraduate programs related to criminal justice as appropriate to their institutional missions. The University of Northern Iowa's major in criminology started in 1985 and has been the only one at the Regents' institutions. Its historical focus was on sociological, theoretical, and critical criminology but the program has evolved and is now both applied and theoretical. The proposed criminal justice major at Iowa State University has a criminal justice and practitioner focus that is consistent with the land-grant mission of the university while the proposed program at the University of Iowa focuses on sociological explanations and research about crime and law within the state, nation, and global community. Given the distinctive missions of these particular institutions, it is appropriate that each program offers a different curricular choice for students and a different focus related to faculty research; at the same time, there are areas of overlap that provide opportunities for collaboration.

**2. Areas of Cooperation**

The faculty in the respective programs have expressed an interest in cooperation in order to leverage the expertise available at each campus to benefit the students and faculty on all campuses. The three faculties have thus agreed to implement the following collaborative activities.

**2.1 Referral of Prospective Students**

The institutions currently refer a prospective student to another institution offering a more appropriate program to meet the student's goals and needs. This has been an established practice for many years, with our mutual goal of student success, regardless of institutional affiliation, guiding this action. We agree to continue this practice while being aware more of its importance for students and for their career goals. A better knowledge of the programs and of their faculty will help to guide this advising and referral process.



**2.2 Articulation of Courses**

The transfer of courses is an opportunity already available to students at each institution and one that this memo strongly endorses. The programs agree that students enrolled in a criminology/criminal justice program at one of the institutions may be encouraged to take credit hours from the other institutions, as appropriate for each individual student's plan of study. Students will be encouraged by their advisors and faculty mentors to explore offerings at the other institutions in order to expand choice and coverage of academic topics in a thoughtful way that encourages an intellectual exchange.

**2.3 Online Course Offerings**

Once a year, mostly likely in January, the coordinator or department chair of each program will provide information to the other programs about anticipated online offerings for the upcoming summer and academic year. This information will be made available to advisers at each institution so that students are aware of course offerings available from other schools, allowing students to comprehensively plan their course selection. By clarifying this as a workable strategy for students, we hope to encourage better academic planning and a wider selection of courses for students as well as a healthy exchange program among institutions.

**2.4 Sharing of Intellectual Resources**

Interested faculty from each institution currently seek opportunities with others for student and faculty development. These exchanges benefit students and strengthen professional ties.



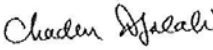
Faculty and/or departmental leaders will continue this informal practice by the establishment of a more formal annual meeting to discuss matters such as internships, outreach and exchange activities, pedagogy, and related issues. The annual meeting might take place in conjunction with articulation discussions with the Iowa community colleges, thus encouraging state-wide partnerships as well.

**3. Additional Provisions**

This memorandum reflects the intent of the parties to deepen professional relationships and to share information about the curriculum and other related matters in order to create student and institutional success. This memo entails no legal obligation. Institutional admissions and graduation requirements are not affected by this memo nor are current tuition policies.

This memorandum is in-place for a period of five years and may be renewed thereafter by mutual consent.

Signed and Dated this day, April 15, 2015:

		
Brenda Bass, Dean Social & Behavioral Sciences University of Northern Iowa	Beate Schmittmann, Dean Liberal Arts & Sciences Iowa State University	Chaden Djalali, Dean Liberal Arts & Sciences University of Iowa