

Review of Major Field Assessment Results
A.A. Criminal Justice
Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice

Revd

3/24/03

A review of the results of assessment activities for the Associates of Arts degree in Criminal Justice indicates areas which are strong and areas which need improvement.

Level of knowledge of core curriculum. Fifteen hours of criminal justice courses 101, 201, 202, 204 and 205 make up the core curriculum. The strength of these courses is in the breadth of fundamental concepts and applications to the field of criminal justice. The assessment is curriculum-embedded in all of the 200-level courses require demonstrated competency in library research and oral communication. The students' major GPA averages above 2.0, indicating most complete these courses with a grade of C or better.

Satisfaction with curriculum. Our curriculum at the associates level is strong. To assess satisfaction with the program and the curriculum students are asked questions on the exit survey. Nearly 85% of the students ranked the quality of the department at the level four or five, with five being very satisfied. The same results occurred when asked about the quality of the A.A. degree in Criminal Justice. These results lend support to the strength of the program.

Basic skills needed in the criminal justice field. The core curriculum provides the foundation of the basic concepts of modern criminal justice. This includes introductions to the judicial process, criminal law, law enforcement, and corrections. In assessing our students, we agree that they receive the fundamental skills in criminal justice. The area in which our A.A. students continue to remain weak is in verbal communication. While writing skills vary among the students, the average student writes poorly. Clear, concise language usage is a critical skills in all areas of criminal justice. The faculty have proposed ways to address the problem, such as including a mandatory writing component in 200-level courses and offering "writing across the curriculum" courses with other departments.

To provide students with a cultural or global perspective. With the limited number of hours required in the Associates degree, the faculty could not add additional courses. Sociology 101, a required course for the A.A. degree, covers cultural differences, theoretical perspectives on globalization and stresses the need for a broad view. A.A. students have received a thorough introduction to the global perspective in this course.