

Graduate Program Change Proposal

Form Procedure

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Department/Committee Information

The main contact person for the Graduate Curriculum Committee should fill out this form.

Requestor Name: * Kristine Artello

Members of the Graduate Curriculum Committee:
David Weiss, Program Chair
Randall Grometstein
Eileen Kirk
Richard Wiebe
Kristine Artello

Department / Unit Developing: * Behavioral Sciences

Department Chair: * Dr. Richard Wiebe * rwiebe@fitchburgstate.edu

Academic Dean : Dr. Sara Levine slevine@fitchburgstate.edu

Program Chair The Program Chair for this request is among the people listed above.
* Yes
 No

Program Information

This proposal refers to a (check all that apply): Certificate Program Teacher Licensure Program Degree Program

Does the program run on a cohort model? Yes No Will additional faculty be needed, day/adjunct? Yes No

Briefly describe program change to the existing program as it will appear in university catalog:

*The Master of Science in Criminal Justice was created in three separate programs: Criminal Justice, MPTC Concentration, MS (online), Criminal Justice, M.S. - Professional Studies Concentration and Criminal Justice, M.S. - Community Justice Concentration. They have different missions, program goals, and curriculum requirements. However, they share a core program. To streamline and clarify the program, we propose that we create one Criminal Justice M.S. with two concentrations. We will have one main program with shared goals and core curriculum. This change allows students to select a concentration if they wish and move between the concentrations easily.

Population/anticipated enrollment/staffing plan (i.e., Who/how many will program serve?)

*We do not anticipate any increased need for faculty in the immediate future. We anticipate the continued enrollment numbers with steady growth over time. We hope to increase student recruitment with a more holistic approach to justice through this program and two concentration options.

Rationale and expected outcomes for program change:

*The Master of Science in Criminal Justice developed organically over several years. The Criminal Justice, MPTC Concentration, MS started in 2015 as part of FSUs 4 + 1 program where undergraduate students may earn a bachelors and masters degrees in 5 years and complete the police academy. At first, the program included a face-to-face component but in the first year, it became clear that it would not work. Recent graduates were becoming employed by police departments and did not necessarily have regular schedules. By the fall of 2019, the program adapted to asynchronous online that allowed students to take fewer courses at a time, again because graduates were working full time law enforcement positions.

By 2018, it became clear that a second path was needed for the 4 + 1 master program because some students did not want to complete the academy. In 2019, the Professional Studies concentration began and substituted CJ 9840, the Capstone project, for CJ 8200, the Recruit Officer course. These programs were listed under Criminal Justice Police Certification Concentration, MS until 2022-2023 catalog.

In 2022, the catalog listed these two programs separately as Criminal Justice Police Certification Concentration, M.S. and Criminal Justice, M.S. - Professional Studies Concentration, respectively, allowing graduates from other universities to enter the professional studies program. In 2023, FSU added another concentration- Community Justice concentration, M.S. Criminal Justice to the catalog. These programs developed organically to meet students' needs that could not be anticipated until the programs started.

This proposal will streamline the program, allow for a better assessment program to be developed, and to provide a clearer

message about the program to potential students. It also allows for an easy transition from one concentration to another should a student choose to do so.

How does this change affect the departments Learning Outcomes for the program? List any changes that need to be made.

New Mission of Master of Science in Criminal Justice:

This program provides students with practical knowledge and skills based on current research in the field while also providing an understanding of ethical issues and dilemmas related to the profession. The program focuses on building student's problem solving skills and their ability to analyze and understand data to assist with decision making, especially in a culturally diverse community.

Program outcomes

- 1) Students will use their knowledge about the criminal justice system applying theoretical frameworks to solve problems in an ethical manner.
- 2) Students will critically analyze and address real life scenarios using social science research and data to ascertain the community impact.
- 3) Students develop oral and written skills to communicate effectively with a culturally diverse public about justice and policy issues.

Concentration Option 1--MPTC (36 credits; available only to Fitchburg State undergraduate students in the 4+1 Police Program)

Mission:

The role of the police officer is intellectually demanding, requiring officers to possess knowledge and skills in both substantive and procedural law, police procedures, problem solving, crisis management, written and oral communication, technology, and professionalism.

Additional program goal:

Students will demonstrate how policing as an institution works in a culturally diverse democratic society.

Concentration Option 2--Community Justice (30 credits)

Mission: As social justice philosophies and practices become more embedded in the fabric of society and even into the fabric of the overall criminal justice system, this concentration provides graduate students with a broader, more holistic, socially-just, systems approach to crime causation, deterrence, and cessation. This concentration offers students ways to engage the community to prevent crime and reduce the harmful consequences of criminal justice-related activities.

Additional program goal:

Students will critically examine the traditional justice system to find alternative community justice approaches.

Students will analyze communities to identify stakeholders and partners to improve justice at the community level.

Implementation plan (what semester will new policy/policy change begin; will change be phased in)

*We propose to have this change implements in Fall 2025. We are simply moving all of the different concentrations under one Master in Criminal Justice. The requirements do not change.

An old and new plan of study must be included with this proposal (Please use template for program revision).

If new courses are proposed or major changes are made to existing courses, submit a Graduate Council New Course Approval form.

Old Plan of Study Attached here.

New Plan of Study Attached here

Criminal Justice, MS.docx

Attach any letter(s) of support from professional agencies or others within or outside the university.

Signatures

...3238343635

Kristine Artello

02/21/2025

Requester Signature: Date

...3731353833

Sara Levine

02/28/2025

Academic Dean Signature: Date

...3032373933

Richard Wiebe

02/27/2025

Department Chair Approval: Date

...3336353131

Becky Copper Gleng

02/28/2025

SGOCE Dean Signature: Date

Graduate Council

The Graduate Council Chair Signature indicates that the Council has discussed this proposal and has decided it should move forward.

Graduate Council Chair Signature Date

Notifications

Approval of the President

Date

SGOCE Dean Initials

Date

Reviewed by the Registrar:

Date

Master of Criminal Justice Program (Professional Studies Concentration) become Master of Criminal Justice (Core Curriculum)

Old Plan of Study			New Plan of Study		
Required Courses	Pre-practicum Hours	Credits	Required Courses	Pre-practicum Hours	Credits
Course number: Title of Course			Course number: Title of Course		
CJ 7240 Criminal Justice Process (3 credits) or Students with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice can take an elective course in place of CJ 7240		3	CJ 7240 Criminal Justice Process (3 credits) or Students with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice OR five or more years of work experience in the Criminal Justice field can take an elective course in place of CJ 7240		3
CJ 7320 Crime Causation (3 credits)		3	CJ 7320 Crime Causation (3 credits)		3
CJ 8100 Program Evaluation (3 Credits)		3	CJ 8100 Program Evaluation (3 Credits)		3
CJ 8580 Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice (3 Credits)		3	CJ 8580 Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice (3 Credits)		3
CJ 9680 Cultural Diversity and Communication (3 Credits)		3	CJ 9680 Cultural Diversity and Communication (3 Credits)		3
Electives (between 15-18) Credits		15	Electives (between 15-18) Credits		15

TOTAL CREDITS FOR PROGRAM		30	TOTAL CREDITS FOR PROGRAM		30

Master of Criminal Justice Program (MPTC Concentration)

Old Plan of Study			New Plan of Study		
Required Courses Course number: Title of Course	Pre-practicum Hours	Credits	Required Courses Course number: Title of Course	Pre-practicum Hours	Credits
CJ 7250 Applied Concepts in Policing (3 credits)		3	CJ 7240 Criminal Justice Process (3 credits) or Students with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice OR five or more years of work experience in the Criminal Justice field can take an elective course in place of CJ 7240		3
CJ 7320 Crime Causation (3 credits)		3	CJ 7320 Crime Causation (3 credits)		3
CJ 7370 Advanced Criminal Law and Procedure (3 credits)		3	CJ 8100 Program Evaluation (3 Credits)		3
CJ 8100 Program Evaluation (3 credits)		3	CJ 8580 Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice (3 Credits)		3
CJ 8200 Recruit Officer Course (12 credits) **Must be completed first and is a prerequisite for registration into the other courses within the Police Certification Concentration.	12		CJ 9680 Cultural Diversity and Communication (3 Credits)		3

CJ 8580 Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice (3 credits)		3	Concentration Requirements CJ 7250 Applied Concepts in Policing (3 credits)		3
CJ 9680 Cultural Diversity and Communication (3 credits)		3	CJ 7370 Advanced Criminal Law and Procedure (3 credits)		3
			CJ 8200 Recruit Officer Course (12 credits) **Must be completed first and is a prerequisite for registration into the other courses within the Police Certification Concentration.	12	
Electives		6	Electives		6
TOTAL CREDITS FOR PROGRAM	12	24	TOTAL CREDITS FOR PROGRAM	12	24

Master of Criminal Justice Program (Community Justice Concentration)

Old Plan of Study			New Plan of Study		
Required Courses	Pre-practicum Hours	Credits	Required Courses	Pre-practicum Hours	Credits
Course number: Title of Course			Course number: Title of Course		
CJ 7240 Criminal Justice Process (as required)		3	CJ 7240 Criminal Justice Process (3 credits) or Students with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice OR five or more years of work experience in the Criminal Justice field can take an elective course in place of CJ 7240		3
CJ 8580 Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice		3	CJ 7320 Crime Causation (3 credits)		3

CJ 7320 Crime Causation		3	CJ 8100 Program Evaluation (3 Credits)		3
CJ 8100 Program Evaluation		3	CJ 8580 Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice (3 Credits)		3
CJ 9680 Cultural Diversity and Communication		3	CJ 9680 Cultural Diversity and Communication (3 Credits)		3
CJ 7400 Community Justice Approach to Criminal Justice		3	Concentration Requirements: CJ 7400 Community Justice Approach to Criminal Justice		3
CJ 8350 Community Reentry and Integration		3	CJ 8350 Community Reentry and Integration		3
CJ 7260 Social Relations and the Legal System		3	CJ 8250 Restorative Approaches to Justice		3
Electives 2 or 3 electives		6	Electives 2 or 3 electives		6
TOTAL CREDITS FOR PROGRAM		30	TOTAL CREDITS FOR PROGRAM		30