

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: * Richard Wiebe

Members of the Graduate Curriculum Committee: Marcel Beausoleil, Randall Grometstein, David Weiss, Richard Wiebe

Department / Unit Developing: * Behavioral Sciences

Chair of Department for Policy: * Christine Shane

Chair Email: * Christine Shane cshane@fitch

Academic Dean of Department or Program for the Policy: * Sara Levine

Academic Dean E-mail: * <Dr. Levine> slevine@fitchbur

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:

* We are redefining our course requirements for both of our concentrations: Police Certification and Professional Studies. We need to do this because we are expanding our course offerings, and students will now have choices where previously they did not. The specific changes are reflected in our proposed new plans of study for both concentrations as set forth in the table prepared according to the Graduate Council's program revision template.

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

* As noted below, we have recently expanded our applicant pool, originally limited to the graduates of our undergraduate Police Program who would be attending the Fitchburg State University Police Academy, a joint venture with the Commonwealth's Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC). We began this incarnation of our graduate program with an initial class of six in the summer of 2017, and currently host 65 degree-seeking students. We anticipate continued growth as we reach out to new applicant pools and expand our course offerings. We currently have a large and impressive pool of instructors available to staff our additional course sections.

Rationale and expected outcomes for program change:

* Our current proposal would establish requirements to complete our program that were not needed previously, because we required eight courses and taught eight courses, with a strong focus on law enforcement. As we continue to expand our student body, we need to expand our course offerings to accommodate students with interests beyond law enforcement, and to specify which courses are required and which are elective.

A law enforcement-only curriculum is no longer tenable. Most of our graduate students to date have come from our undergraduate Police Program, which offers an undergraduate degree and police academy certification along with the graduate degree. However, as we reach beyond the Police Program to populate our graduate program, we are beginning to enroll students interested in other areas of CJ, as well as in the intersection of CJ with other fields.

At this time, the catalogue lists only eight 3-credit CJ courses plus the capstone as requirements for both the Police Certification and Professional Studies concentration, for a total of 36 credits, giving students no choices among courses. Several of these courses cover only policing topics. As we attract and serve students with other interests, we must teach more than those eight courses; we're currently offering one additional course this semester with another to follow in the Spring, both taken from our roster of courses that are still in the catalogue but have not been taught recently. As we reintroduce courses to our active roster, we need to distinguish between required and elective courses. In a companion proposal, we redefine our Capstone course as a 6-credit elective. We are retaining our requirement that students in all concentrations

complete 36 credits.

Why do we need this change now? When we reactivated the CJ graduate program in 2015, it was intended to serve only the students in our undergraduate Police Program who would be attending our newly-created Police Academy, run in conjunction with the MPTC, after earning their CJ bachelor's degrees. At that time, some graduate courses included content explicitly required by the MPTC for Academy certification.

After discovering that some Police Program students would not attend the Academy but still desired to pursue their master's degrees, we added a concentration in Professional Studies. As of the 2019-20 catalogue, Professional Studies students took the same eight 3-credit courses as Police Certification students, but completed a 12-credit capstone project in lieu of the Academy.

During the same period, the MPTC revised its statewide curriculum for all of its police academies, simplifying it somewhat. In response, we revised our curriculum so that all Academy content for which we were responsible would be taught at the undergraduate level. This means that we no longer need to require particular graduate courses for our Police Certification students to complete the Academy, but can grant even our Police Certification students a greater range of courses from which to choose.

After our graduate program thereby became less MPTC-specific, we were able to respond to interest among our non-Police Program undergraduates, as well as some CJ alumni and others, by opening the Professional Studies concentration to all of our graduating undergraduate majors and alumni, beginning in the summer of 2020. Our overall enrollments have risen from six students in our initial class to 65 students today, 18 of whom are in the Professional Studies concentration. We anticipate continued growth as we expand our applicant pool beyond the borders of Fitchburg State University. We are also exploring the market for a third concentration that would integrate community and social justice with criminal justice, whose appeal could extend beyond the professional boundaries of CJ.

What are the expected outcomes of this change? With an expanded curriculum to address the needs of students from outside the law enforcement field, we expect to be able to serve a wide array of potential students in working in areas such as corrections, community corrections, juvenile justice, specialized courts, crime and delinquency prevention, family violence, reintegration and re-entry, addiction, homelessness, community mental health, and in other fields concerned with the law, social and criminal justice, community safety, and the varieties of human suffering that intersect, for better or for worse, with the criminal justice system.

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

We intend this change to be implemented beginning with the 2022-22 academic year, and are phasing in new courses for our current students.

We could not attach the new and old plans of study - the links on the dynamic forms page appear to be broken. We will email them, using the Graduate Council's template, to the Council.

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

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

Signatures

...3733323135

Richard Wiebe

Requester Signature:

10/29/2021

Date

...3230313430

Christine Shane

Department Chair Approval:

11/29/2021

Date

Academic Dean Signature:

Date

SGOCE Dean Signature:

Date

Approval of the Graduate Council

Date

Approval of the President

Date

Notification

Reviewed by the Registrar:

Reviewed by the Library:

SGOCE Admin. Assistant
Signature

Electronically signed by Denise Bertrand on 11/29/2021 3:30:06 PM

**OLD AND NEW PLANS OF STUDY ASSOCIATED WITH
CJ GRADUATE PROGRAM CHANGE PROPOSAL
OCTOBER 2021**

Police Certification Concentration, Criminal Justice Graduate Program

OLD PLAN OF STUDY (CJ has no practicum)		NEW PLAN OF STUDY	
CJ 7250 – Applied Concepts in Policing	3		
CJ 7300 – Professional Responsibility & Community Relations for Law Enforcement	3	CJ 8580 – Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice	3
CJ 7320 – Crime Causation	3	CJ 7320 – Crime Causation	3
CJ 7350 – Advanced Police Patrol Operations	3		
CJ 7370 – Massachusetts Criminal Law & Procedure	3		
CJ 8010 – Leadership & Management	3		
CJ 8100 – Program Evaluation	3	CJ 8100 – Program Evaluation	3
CJ 8150 – Advanced Policy Seminar	3		
		CJ 9680 – Cultural Diversity & Communication	3
CJ 8200 – Recruit Officer Course (Capstone)	12	CJ 8200 – Recruit Officer Course (Capstone)	12
		Electives <i>Any Fitchburg State CJ grad course may be taken for CJ elective credit, as well as other graduate courses with the approval of the CJ Graduate Committee.</i>	12
TOTAL CREDITS FOR PROGRAM	36	TOTAL CREDITS FOR PROGRAM	36

Professional Studies Concentration, Criminal Justice Graduate Program

OLD PLAN OF STUDY (CJ has no practicum)	CR - OLD	NEW PLAN OF STUDY	CR - NEW
		CJ 7240 – Criminal Justice Process OR Undergraduate Criminal Justice Major	3 OR 0
CJ 7250 – Applied Concepts in Policing	3		
CJ 7300 – Professional Responsibility & Community Relations for Law Enforcement	3	CJ 8580 – Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice	3
CJ 7320 – Crime Causation	3	CJ 7320 – Crime Causation	3
CJ 7350 – Advanced Police Patrol Operations	3		
CJ 7370 – Massachusetts Criminal Law & Procedure	3		
CJ 8010 – Leadership & Management	3		
CJ 8100 – Program Evaluation	3	CJ 8100 – Program Evaluation	3
CJ 8150 – Advanced Policy Seminar	3		
		CJ 9680 – Cultural Diversity & Communication	3
CJ 8200 – Recruit Officer Course	12		0
		Electives <i>Any Fitchburg State CJ grad course may be taken for CJ elective credit, as well as other graduate courses with the approval of the CJ Graduate Committee</i>	21 OR 24
TOTAL CREDITS FOR PROGRAM	36	TOTAL CREDITS FOR PROGRAM	36