

Docket Item:

Community College Approval: Umpqua Community College, Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice within 43.0402 – Criminalistics and Criminal Science.

Summary:

Umpqua Community College proposes a new Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice. Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) staff completed a review of the proposed program. After analysis, HECC staff recommends approval of the degree as proposed.

Staff Recommendation:

The HECC recommends the adoption of the following resolution:
RESOLVED, that the Higher Education Coordinating Commission approve the following degree: AAS in Criminal Justice.



Umpqua Community College seeks the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission's approval to offer an instructional program leading to an Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice.

Program Summary

The Criminal Justice Program is offered completely online. Students will begin to explore the field of Criminal Justice, which includes areas such as human services, social work, juvenile justice, law enforcement, corrections, parole and probation, criminal law, and the courts. Criminal Justice is a multi-faceted field and the Criminal Justice Program provides students the opportunities to acquire and practice desired career skills such as empathy, active listening, and cultural competency to engage in ethical practices that promote human and professional growth, dignity, respect and self-determination. Candidates entering the program should have excellent organizational skills, the ability to work in a team (collaborative) setting, and a genuine desire to help others.

Students will receive courses which have been approved by current Douglas County experts who compose the CJ Advisory Committee, from numerous disciplines, within the field of criminal justice.

1. *Describe the need for this program by providing clear evidence.*

The Criminal Justice Program is a program in an occupation field that has a very high demand of employment opportunities. Almost all criminal justice career paths have openings throughout the country as well as in our local area. This program has an impact on those who are wanting to begin their careers in the field as well as for those who are already in the field and wish to advance in their profession. The Criminal Justice program is currently a UCC AAS program which has been restructured with the assistance of a newly created advisory board. The Criminal Justice AAS can be used as a pathway to further education, or directly associated with those currently working in the field to increase their promotability or successfully obtain salary increases

2. *Does the community college utilize systemic methods for meaningful and ongoing involvement of the appropriate constituencies?*

The AAS in Criminal Justice was already a program offered at UCC, however it had not been updated or evaluated for many years. A criminal justice advisory committee was formed and met on 11-05-20 to evaluate and ensure the program was a true criminal justice program. This committee was composed of individuals from local criminal justice departments including juvenile, corrections, law enforcement, parole and probation, department of human services and the district attorney's office. Several of the members are also adjunct instructors in the current CJ program. This committee approved these updates and changes to the program and will meet at a minimum of twice per year to ensure their

needs continue to be met.

3. ***Is the community college program aligned with appropriate education, workforce development, and economic development programs?***

This program is aligned with the Natural Resources AS Conservation Law Enforcement; the AS has articulation with SOU; there is credit for prior learning which can be obtained through the Police Reserve Academy offered through workforce development.

For those currently in the CJ field, this program will help with advancement, pay and step increases, and certification levels. For those entering the CJ field, this program will provide them an advantage for entry level positions.

The CJ advisory committee approved the updates to the program so the program fulfills their needs for the skills and education needed for employment in the CJ field. Because there are no certifications provided upon completion of this course, the advisory committee's approval was critical in ensuring the program was properly updated so employers would be confident in the quality of education which was received by the students.

4. ***Does the community college program lead to student achievement of academic and technical knowledge, skills, and related proficiencies?***

The criminal justice advisory committee fully reviewed the courses offered in the program and made changes to ensure the needs of their departments were being met. Students who graduate with this degree have the core competencies needed to be successful in introductory criminal justice positions.

The program outcomes have been updated to be more assessable and measurable as well as meet the needs of the CJ community. All the courses have been moved online and their outcomes are being addressed to match current curriculum and trends in the field. In order for the courses to be moved online, they went through a vigorous quality check before they were signed off to be taught. This move online allows students to participate at the time of day their choice which allows more freedom and flexibility for working adults. All the courses utilize some combination of discussion boards, Flipgrid, Zoom, and other activities that allow direct participation with the learning community.

The instructors of the CJ classes are all current professionals in their fields and would be considered subject matter experts.

The program has been structured in a more logical manner for students to take 100 level classes in year one and 200 level classes in year two. The number of times some of the courses were offered each year were reduced to create a quasi-cohort effect and reduce the chances for low enrolled courses.

The program outcomes are measured in the fall, winter and spring terms. The data collected from these assessments is utilized to help make needed changes and updates as necessary to improve the program.

Cooperative work experience is available as an option for students.

5. Does the community college identify and have the resources to develop, implement, and sustain the program?

This program has been offered for multiple years and completely utilizes adjunct instructors including the program coordinator role. Adjunct instructors are experts in their field with years of field work, additional education, training and instruction experience. This program remains within the budget each year and only foresees normal cost increases related to annual personnel step increases. The program has been moved fully online and does not have an impact on campus facilities.

Assurances

Umpqua Community College has met or will meet the four institutional assurances required for program application.

1. *Access.* The college and program will affirmatively provide access, accommodations, flexibility, and additional/supplemental services for special populations and protected classes of students.
2. *Continuous Improvement.* The college has assessment, evaluation, feedback, and continuous improvement processes or systems in place. For the proposed program, there will be opportunities for input from and concerning the instructor(s), students, employers, and other partners/stakeholders. Program need and labor market information will be periodically re-evaluated and changes will be requested as needed.
3. *Adverse impact and detrimental duplication.* The college will follow all current laws, rules, and procedures and has made good faith efforts to avoid or resolve adverse *intersegmental* and *intrasegmental* impact and detrimental duplication problems with other relevant programs or institutions.
4. *Program records maintenance and congruence.* The college acknowledges that the records concerning the program title, curriculum, CIP code, credit hours, etc. maintained by the Office are the official records and it is the college's responsibility to keep their records aligned with those of the Office. The college will not make changes to the program without informing and/or receiving approval from the Office.