

COSS

Criminology B.S.

Student Outcomes Assessment Plan (SOAP)

I. Mission Statement

The general mission of the Department of Criminology at California State University, Fresno, is to offer high-quality educational opportunities to qualified students at the bachelor's degree level. The Department of Criminology's mission statement for undergraduate education includes 1) offering quality academic programs, 2) promoting and enhancing the teaching and learning experience of students and faculty, 3) preparing students for entry into criminal justice system agencies, and 4) preparing students for graduate education. The mission will be accomplished in an environment of mutual respect and support among students, faculty, and staff. The Department of Criminology's undergraduate mission will complement the Department's overall mission and the missions of the College of Social Sciences and California State University, Fresno.

II. Goals and Student Learning Outcomes

Goal 1: Discipline-related knowledge: Students will attain discipline-related knowledge and writing skills that prepare them for long-term careers in Criminology and Criminal Justice.

Student Learning Outcome 1

Graduates will be able to correctly and accurately define and describe key criminological terms, theories, and specific examples from criminal law, as well as various aspects of the criminal justice system.

Goal 2: Writing proficiency: Students will attain basic writing skills that prepare them for long-term careers in Criminology and Criminal Justice.

Student Learning Outcome 2

Graduates will be able to write a paper with appropriate use of skills in mechanics, organization, and format.

Goal 3: Information literacy: Students will be able to identify, locate, access, and use information relevant to their inquiries and be able to cite this information appropriately.

Student Learning Outcome 3

Graduates will be able to access the needed information effectively and efficiently and evaluate the information and its sources critically.

Goal 4: Critical thinking: Students will think critically and will apply specific knowledge and skills in order to evaluate situations according to professional values and ethics and make appropriate decisions.

Student Learning Outcome 4

Graduates will be able to demonstrate their ability to apply critical thinking to evaluate situations and make decisions in their specific field.

Goal 5: Methodological and statistical competency: Understand basic research and quantitative strategies for uses specific to criminal justice and criminology.

Student Learning Outcome 5

Graduates will be able to perform data analysis, interpret the findings, and make statistical conclusions.

III. Curriculum Map (Matrix of Courses × Learning Outcomes)

I = Introduced R = Reinforced E=Emphasized M=Mastered

Core Courses: All Options	Outcome 1 Knowledge	Outcome 2 Writing Competency	Outcome 3 Information Literacy	Outcome 4 Critical Thinking	Outcome 5 Quantitative Reasoning
Lower Division					
CRIM 1	I	I	I	I	
CRIM 2	I	I	I	I	
CRIM 20	I	I	I	I	
CRIM 50					I
Upper Division					
CRIM 100	D	D	D	D	
CRIM 100H	D	D	D	D	
CRIM 112	D	D	D	D	
CRIM 114	D	D	D	D	
CRIM 170	D	D	D	D	D
CRIM 170H	D	D	D	D	D
Senior					
CRIM 180	M	M	M	M	M

IV. Assessment Methods

A. Direct Measures: (minimum of three required)	
1. The students' discipline-related knowledge will be evaluated using 30 assessment questions as one of the internship requirements (Outcome 1)	Benchmark: 75% or more of the senior students will correctly answer 20 or more questions.
2. CRIM 170 research papers: Students will write APA-style papers in CRIM 170. Samples of these will be evaluated according to a rubric to assess writing competency and information literacy (Outcomes 2 and 3).	Benchmark: A mean score on the rubric of writing competency/information literacy is considered to have met the learning outcome. Seventy-five percent of students are expected to demonstrate writing competency.
3. CRIM 50 in-class work: Students will perform data analysis, interpret the findings, and make statistical conclusions using the SPSS software. Samples of these will be evaluated according to a rubric (Outcome 5).	Benchmark: A mean score on the rubric of quantitative competency is considered to have met the learning outcome. Seventy-five percent of students are expected to demonstrate statistical competency.
4. CRIM 112/114 in-class assignment: Students will write short paragraphs of three critical thinking questions after reading a newspaper article (Outcome 4)	Benchmark: A mean score on the rubric of critical thinking competency is considered to have met the learning outcome. Seventy-five percent of students are expected to demonstrate critical thinking competency.
B. Indirect Measure(s): (Departments are required to have one indirect measure. Examples of indirect measures are senior exit surveys, a focus group, written reflections by students, and, of course, alumni surveys that departments may choose to conduct.)	
1. Exit survey: Students who have applied for graduation will be asked to answer a survey commenting on the extent to which the Criminology program at Fresno State has prepared them for their chosen career.	
2. Employer survey: The employer survey will be distributed to the agencies that accept the criminology interns to assess the readiness to work in the agency in terms of the agency-specific knowledge, critical thinking skills, and written and oral communication skills.	

V. Student Learning Outcomes × Assessment Methods Matrix

	Outcome 1 Knowledge	Outcome 2 Writing	Outcome 3 Information Literacy	Outcome 4 Critical Thinking	Outcome 5 Quantitative Reasoning
Direct Measures					
Assessment exam	X				
Term papers		X	X		
In-class short-answer questions				X	
Quantitative exercises					X
Indirect Measures					
Exit survey	X	X	X	X	X
Employer survey	X	X	X	X	X

VI. Time Line for Implementation of Assessment Methods and Summary Evaluations

Year 2018 to 2019

Method 1: Quantitative reasoning will be assessed by the in-class work from the CRIM 50 classes (Outcome 5: Direct measure)

Year 2019 to 2020

Method 1: Employer survey will be distributed to all the agencies that currently take our interns (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5: Indirect measures)

Year 2020 to 2021

Method 1: Writing communication: The term papers written in CRIM 170 will be evaluated with a rubric (Outcome 2: Direct measure)

Method 2: Information literacy: The term paper written in CRIM 170 will be evaluated with a rubric (Outcome 3: Direct measure)

Year 2021 to 2022

Method 1: Exit survey: An online survey will be distributed to all the students who apply for graduation in Spring 2021 (Outcome 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5: Indirect measures)

Year 2022 to 2023

Method 1: The critical thinking assessment test will be given during class and a rubric will be used to evaluate the skills (Outcome 3: Direct measure)

VII. Process for Closing the Loop

The members of the Assessment Committee, which consists of the department assessment coordinator and three full-time faculty members, are responsible for designing and carrying out assessment activities with the help of the entire faculty as needed. The Assessment Committee also analyzes the resulting data and suggests changes to the program as necessary. Assessment data and suggested program changes will be presented to the entire faculty in the monthly faculty meeting, and the entire faculty decides whether to implement any changes. Further discussions could be carried out at the Department retreat.