Master’s of Science (MS) in Criminal Justice Program Assessment Report for Academic Year 2016-2017

Assessment Committee: Jennifer Wareham, Jim Geistman, Charles Klahm, and Laura Starzynski

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Dear Criminal Justice MS program students and supporters,

In our efforts to continually improve the MS in Criminal Justice for our students, the Criminal Justice faculty have been dedicating time and effort to understanding our students’ performance. Specifically, in Winter 2017, the Criminal Justice Assessment Committee collected data on six important learning outcomes of the MS in Criminal Justice program:

1. Students will develop knowledge of theories of crime and criminality, research methodology, and the empirical validity of criminal justice theories.
2. Students will demonstrate synthesis on a particular criminal justice topic by accessing and integrating empirical and non-empirical information into a cohesive overview of current knowledge.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate the meaning, value, and contribution of published literature in the field of Criminal Justice.
4. Students will demonstrate imagination and originality of thought.
5. Students will develop skills in analysis such that they can design and implement an appropriate collection and analysis of data to adequately answer a research question or hypothesis and interpret empirical findings.
6. Students will develop skills in application such that they can interpret criminal justice-related theory, literature and research to articulate a critical public policy response.

These outcomes reflect revisions made as part of our AY16-17 action plan.

Information about our program’s success at helping students to achieve these goals comes from a review and assessment of the capstone experience materials for each MS graduate in the previous academic year. All students in the MS program must complete a capstone experience in the form of a master’s thesis, master’s essay, or capstone seminar. A review of the capstone materials indicated our students are satisfactorily demonstrating the aforementioned learning outcomes. As part of our 2017-2018 assessment work, we will continue to assess the learning outcomes for the MS program by reviewing the capstone materials.