

2013 Academic Program Review Summary

College for Design and Social Inquiry School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Part 1: Overview

A. Degree Programs by Level

Bachelor's (BA): Criminal Justice

B. Mission and Purpose

The mission of the **School of Criminology & Criminal Justice (SCCJ)** is to provide quality graduate and undergraduate education within a liberal arts context and prepare students for careers in criminal justice or other fields. SCCJ faculty also adds to the body of knowledge through active and visible scholarship.

The **Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice** provides students with knowledge about the nature and causes of crime and delinquency, law and the legal system for juveniles and adults, and the decision processes of CJ agencies. A CJ major is broadly educated within a general education framework in the liberal arts and also provided with courses that directly apply to careers within the adult and juvenile justice systems and the study of law. The BA in CJ provides the student with a suitable foundation for graduate study in CJ, criminology, public administration, and other graduate school programs. The school also offers a CJ minor.

C. Major changes since the last program review

- Six new hires were added, including a new Director.
- The UG curriculum was redesigned to eliminate redundancy associated with the CJ Systems class (CCJ324) and other courses in the UG program. Two new courses (Ethics in CJ and CJ Technology) were added, bringing the total of core to four (4). The addition of a 4th required course strains the ability of the faculty to teach outside the core.
- A new assessment plan was developed to focus on SLOs.
- An instructor position was added/filled to help with the growing UG program.
- Port St. Lucie campus closed. The UG enrollment at the Jupiter campus declined. Faculty teach virtually all of their face-to-face courses on the Boca Raton campus.

Part 2: Findings

A. Strengths

- The faculty. To quote directly from the review: “The most visible strength of the program is the faculty. The SCCJ faculty are committed and care about the well being of their program, their students and the role of SCCJ at FAU and in the broader university and community contexts. The faculty values teaching and spends a good deal of time and energy advancing the education of their students.”

- Quality of the students.

B. Weaknesses

- There is (was) a lack of stability in the upper administration at FAU
- Because of the extensive number of required courses and the desire in SCCJ for required courses to be taught by full time faculty, specialty courses at the 300/400 levels either can't be offered or aren't offered by tenure track faculty. This prohibits tenure track faculty from offering courses in their specific areas of inquiry and expertise.

C. Recommendations

1. *Recommendation 1: Undergraduate research – assign faculty member for this program.*
With almost 1400 majors one faculty member cannot manage such a program alone. The Methods of Research in CJ (CCJ4700) faculty will comprise an SCCJ UG Research Committee to coordinate UG research efforts.
2. *Recommendation 2: Honors program in CJ*
This program will wait until the new on-line program is implemented (see below).
3. *Recommendation 3: Cross list courses*
However, this recommendation must wait until more resources are available to SCCJ and until the demands of the on-line program are known.
4. *Recommendation 4: External funding = 1 every 3-4 years*
5. *Recommendation 5: Courses in other doctoral programs (NA to BA degree)*
6. *Recommendation 6: Research across disciplines*
SCCJ faculty engage in cross discipline research when sensible to do so.
7. *Recommendation 7: Meet with Graduate College (NA to BA degree)*
8. *Recommendation 8: Mentoring of junior faculty*
SCCJ Director will identify one tenured faculty to be assigned to each of the untenured faculty to provide mentoring in teaching, research and service through the tenure earning process. Untenured faculty update their experiences at the start of each faculty meeting, and the tenured faculty members provide suggestions for attaining tenure. SCCJ Director also holds bi-monthly meetings with untenured faculty.
9. *Recommendation 9: Teaching in expertise*
SCCJ is considering ways to allow more flexibility in the faculty's ability to teach courses beyond the core. The faculty have discussed moving CJ Tech (CJE3692C) from core to restricted elective. The change retains the course as an important component of the UG curriculum. It also gives faculty more opportunity to teach courses in their specific areas of inquiry and expertise.

10. *Recommendation 10: On-line education*
SCCJ continues to add to the number and diversity of on-line courses offered each semester. SCCJ will identify an On-Line Coordinator to work with faculty. The Coordinator will also work with eLearning to advance the development of a totally on-line SCCJ program beginning spring semester of 2015.
11. *Recommendation 11: Better management of adjuncts*
The SCCJ review stated that: “Adjunct faculties are of high quality and seem to be successfully integrated into the program.” However, SCCJ faculty still believe that additional work needs to be done to better manage the quality of adjunct instruction in the UG program. To that end, the Director will send an email at the beginning of each semester stressing the importance of integrity in the classroom and will also monitor the distribution of grades given by adjuncts and their teaching evaluations. In addition, a SCCJ Adjunct Manual was developed. The Manual stresses the important of integrity in the classroom. An Adjunct Committee will identify a process for adjuncts to apply to the SCCJ. The process is designed to identify and hire high quality adjuncts.
12. *Recommendation 12: Create identity & distinguish program from state college programs*
SCCJ will retreat on Friday, October 17th to specifically discuss this recommendation.
13. *Recommendation 13: Hire mid-career faculty to replace outgoing senior faculty*
SCCJ faculty believe they have adequately addressed the mentoring issue. The faculty will continue to consider the issue when/if new lines become available. They will also weigh the costs and benefits of continuing to hire Assistant Professors in the future.

2013 Academic Program Review Summary

College for Design and Social Inquiry

School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Part 1: Overview

A. Degree Programs by Level

Master of Science (MSCCJ): Criminology and Criminal Justice

B. Mission Purpose

The mission of the **School of Criminology & Criminal Justice (SCCJ)** is to provide quality graduate and undergraduate education within a liberal arts context and prepare students for careers in criminal justice or other fields. SCCJ faculty also adds to the body of knowledge through active and visible scholarship.

The **MSCCJ** provides students with the tools to conduct and critique the applied research and operational practices necessary to more effectively prevent crime and address criminal behavior. Students are exposed to theoretical concepts as well as evidence-based police and correctional practices. The goal is to prepare well-rounded, analytical graduates who advance the criminal justice system as visionary leaders, policy makers, program evaluators, and research analysts.

C. Major changes since last program review

- Moved faculty and all GR classes to Boca from Ft. Lauderdale and Treasure Coast.

- Changed admissions requirements in 2012 to be more substantive than test oriented(remove GRE requirement, include requirements for taking and achieving a minimum grade in research methods and statistics, and submit an academic writing sample).
- Redesigned curriculum and purpose of program to fit needs of potential students in the South Florida community
- Growth after curriculum changes: from 30 before 2012 to 90 in 2014
- Offer courses in a variety of instructional formats: online, hybrid, and in the classroom
- More tenured faculty teaching in the GR program
- Established MSCCJ Blackboard Organization site to communicate with all GR students on a regular basis, administer surveys, comprehensive exams, and job opportunities
- Four tenure track faculty who can teach graduate courses were hired in fall 2014

Part II: Findings

A. Strengths

- GR program is now centered in Boca so courses are consistently offered and resources are not spread thin across multiple campuses.
- Growth in the program after curriculum, from 30 before 2012 to 90+ in 2014
- Faculty expertise and research are robust and provide students a strong academic foundation as well as knowledge about real world CJ systems.
- Faculty have local state, national and international connections in CJ and can assist students in finding employment.
- Faculty hold PhDs from major universities to help our future PhD students with admission
- GR courses are offered at night, online and hybrid to accommodate CJ practitioners.
- Thesis option provides future PhD students the opportunity to hone research skills. Exit option is for in-service students or those who intend to work in CJ. It requires students to plan the implementation of a CJ reform. Several students have obtained jobs based on their work in this class.

B. Weaknesses

- Difficulty in recruiting high-level students because of the lack of GR assistantships.
- GR program has been lacking in faculty resources to teach GR courses. This is compounded with a large UG enrollment for which the tenured faculty also has to teach.
- Large class sizes, increases in enrollment and the lack of faculty resources.
- Absence of graduate credit for internship

C. Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Undergrad research - assign faculty member for this program

This would attract high quality UGs with research experience into the GR program. However, with 1400 majors 1 faculty member cannot manage such a program alone.

Recommendation 2: Honors program in CJ

This would attract high quality UGs with research experience into the GR program. This program will wait until the new on-line program is implemented (see below).

Recommendation 3: Cross list courses

GR course enrollment is ideal at 20-30. Faculty resources do not allow for cross listing.

Recommendation 4: External funding = 1 every 3-4 years

Faculty are encouraged to apply for external support.

Recommendation 5: Courses in other Ph.D. programs

PA and SOW have PhDs. We can discuss CCJ tracks with those Schools.

Recommendation 6: Research across disciplines

SCCJ faculty engage in cross discipline research when sensible to do so. This could help our GR students with theses and other research opportunities.

Recommendation 7: Meet with Graduate College (GC)

SCCJ GR coordinator meets with the GC about automated application software (SCCJ is one of a few FAU programs doing this), policies, recruitment, etc. SCCJ GR coordinator is College rep on the University GR Programs Committee. SCCJ GR coordinator works with the Graduate Professional Association (GPA) on issues of travel to conferences for GR students and meets with GPA on new policy changes, resources, and curriculum changes.

Recommendation 8: Mentoring of junior faculty

SCCJ Director will identify one tenured faculty to be assigned to each of the untenured faculty to provide mentoring in teaching, research and service through the tenure earning process. Untenured faculty update their experiences at the start of each faculty meeting,

and the tenured faculty members provide suggestions for attaining tenure. SCCJ Director also holds bi-monthly meetings with untenured faculty. This process helps new faculty become effective instructors at the GR level.

Recommendation 9: Teaching in expertise

By reducing the number of core courses in the UG program, faculty will have more opportunity to teach GR courses in their specific areas of inquiry and expertise.

Recommendation 10: On-line education

GR education is delivered in a hybrid format utilizing Blackboard software. SCCJ delivers online GR classes every semester to accommodate students' varied schedules.

Recommendation 11: Better management of adjuncts

NA. Adjuncts are not used to teach in the GR program.

Recommendation 12: Create identity & distinguish program from state college programs

SCCJ will retreat on Friday, October 17th to specifically discuss this recommendation.

Recommendation 13: Hire mid-career faculty to replace outgoing senior faculty

SCCJ faculty believe they have adequately addressed the mentoring issue. The faculty will continue to consider the issue when/if new lines become available. They will also weigh the costs and benefits of continuing to hire Assistant Professors in the future.

D. New Initiatives Under Discussion

Selective Admissions

The **MSCCJ** has grown in recent years and is maintaining an enrollment of 90+ students. We intend to increase our selectiveness in the admissions process to accept higher quality students. We will establish assistantships in 2015-2016 to assist with this.

Improve Academic Quality

Four new faculty hires in 2014 provide the opportunity to review the GR curriculum and make further improvements.

Investigate a Doctorate in Criminal Justice (DCJ)

There are six PhD programs in criminology or CJ in Florida. We plan to investigate whether a Doctorate in Criminal Justice (DCJ) is an option to serve Florida and our community. We believe there is a need for CJ professionals to advance their education on the implementation of evidence-based practices, leadership and management, as well as conduct practice-based research themselves.