

Western Nevada College

A.A.S., Criminal Justice

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

2018 Program Review

Degree: A.A.S. Criminal Justice
Academic Division: Career and Technical Education
Years Reviewed: 2011-2017
Date Submitted:
Date of Previous Review: 2010
Program Responsible Person: Richard Finn, Professor, Criminal Justice
Program Review Team: Richard Finn, Gregory Sly, Katie Durbin
Internal Reviewer: Dr. Georgia White
External Reviewer:

1. Program Description

A. College and Program Mission

College Mission	Program Mission
Western Nevada College inspires success in our community through opportunities that cultivate creativity, intellectual growth and technological excellence, in an environment that nurtures individual potential and respects differences.	The purpose of the criminal justice degree is to provide the academic knowledge and skills in the criminal justice field.

B. College and Program Goals

College Goals	Program Goals and Outcomes
<p>Improve student Success in program completion and graduation rates</p> <p>Ensure institutional excellence in teaching, programs, and services</p> <p>Embrace our college’s many communities and respond to their diverse needs</p>	<p>Meet the general education requirements of WNC</p> <p>Maintain proper professional attitude for law enforcement</p> <p>Articulate the legal requirements of search and seizure</p> <p>Recognize and evaluate criminal law</p> <p>Process crime scenes</p> <p>Analyze theories for committing crimes</p> <p>Maintain vocabulary necessary for Criminal Justice</p> <p>Have an acute awareness of cultural diversity</p> <p>Maintain crime scenes</p>

C. Short Description

The Criminal Justice Associate of Applied Science degree prepares students for criminal justice careers in probation and parole, corrections, juvenile justice, courts, and law enforcement. With this degree, students will understand the basics of criminal law and law enforcement pertaining to each of these career areas. The 60-credit program requires 36 core and emphasis credits and 24 general education credits. Six of the core and emphasis courses are designated as direct transfer to UNR and UNLV for CRJ major.

i. Unique Characteristics

The Criminal Justice Program provides degree, certificate, course, and training opportunities for students interested in seeking employment in uniformed law enforcement, corrections, community corrections, court systems, and investigations.

ii. Concerns or Trends affecting the program

The lack of an A.A. degree in this program has resulted in students, who plan to transfer to the university to seek a higher degree, seeking a general A.A. degree at WNC rather than completing the A.A.S. degree in Criminal Justice. These A.A. seeking students are taking transfer rated criminal justice courses as electives within their A.A. degree. This reduces the number of criminal justice degrees earned at WNC, although the participant numbers in criminal justice coursework remains high. This places WNC at a disadvantage to compete with other NSHE community colleges as all other community colleges currently have A.A. degrees in Criminal Justice, except WNC.

The elimination of the Western Nevada State Peace Officer Academy in 2014 reduced FTE student load at WNC (72 FTE annually possible) and removed an available training program for local law enforcement agencies requiring new P.O.S.T. certified recruits.

iii. Significant changes or needs in the next five years

Consider reinstatement of A.A. degree in Criminal Justice Program.

Evaluate the community's needs and college's concerns related to the P.O.S.T. academy program. Determine appropriateness of returning the program. New certification through P.O.S.T. will be required as the former certification has now expired.

Continue to expand local Criminal Justice Program internship opportunities for WNC students.

Design and enhance Courtroom Interpreter Certificate.

Evaluate program needs for adding additional Criminal Justice Instructor.

Evaluate the need for CRJ Program Coordinator.

Negotiate a two-plus-two agreement with Nevada State College.

D. Program SLO/Required Course Matrix

Criminal Justice Program, 2017-2018

Student Learning Outcomes Matrix

Upon completing the Criminal Justice Program, students will be able to:

Outcomes*	
1	Meet the general education requirements of WNC
2	Maintain proper professional attitude for law enforcement
3	Articulate the legal requirements of search and seizure
4	Recognize and evaluate criminal law
5	Process crime scenes
6	Analyze theories for committing crimes
7	Maintain vocabulary necessary for Criminal Justice
8	Have an acute awareness of cultural diversity
9	Maintain crime scenes

Required Courses		Outcomes									
Course #	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
CRJ 101	Intro to Criminal Justice I	3	3	3	3	1	3	3	3	1	
CRJ 102	Intro to Criminal Justice II	3	3	2	3	1	1	3	3	1	
CRJ 103	Communication in CRJ		3	3	3	2	1	3	3	1	
CRJ 106	Intro to Corrections		3	2	1	2	2	3	3	2	
CRJ 211	Police in America		3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	
CRJ 164	Principles of Investigation		3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
CRJ 222	Criminal Law & Procedure		3	3	3	2	2	3	1	2	
CRJ 225	Criminal Evidence		3	3	3	3	3	3	1	3	
CRJ 270	Intro to Criminology		3	1	2	1	3	3	3	1	

Assign a value to which each outcome is represented in each required class: 1 = slightly, 2 = moderately, 3 = significantly

* Outcomes must be measurable

E. Degrees and/or Certificates Offered

Associate of Applied Science Criminal Justice (A.A.S.)

F. Niches Served

The program of instruction primarily prepares students for justice system government employment, including, but not limited to: municipal, county, state, and federal law enforcement, state and county prisons and jails, state and county juvenile detention centers, community corrections, probation and parole, and juvenile probation. Additionally, the program of instruction also may lead students to careers in non-profit justice treatment and rehabilitation programs and in the legal field as court staff, attorneys, and paralegal professionals.

2. Quality of Program

A. Evidence of Effectiveness

i. Course Scheduling/Enrollment History Report

Enrollments								
Division	Subject	Catalog No	Title	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
CTE	CRJ	101	Intro Criminal Justice I	233	208	224	182	186
CTE	CRJ	102	Intro Criminal Justice II	109	118	95	107	68
CTE	CRJ	103	Communication in Crj	79	81	53	11	20
CTE	CRJ	106	Intro to Corrections	16	0	0	54	37
CTE	CRJ	155	Juvenile Justice System	0	0	0	0	7
CTE	CRJ	164	Prin of Investigation	17	27	75	29	32
CTE	CRJ	211	Police in Amer: Intro	47	50	45	28	20
CTE	CRJ	220	Criminal Procedures	17	22	0	0	0
CTE	CRJ	222	Criminal Law & Procedure	29	48	38	45	31
CTE	CRJ	225	Criminal Evidence	28	50	37	47	40
CTE	CRJ	230	Criminal Law	11	10	0	0	0
CTE	CRJ	234	Intro Courts & US Legal System	0	0	0	41	31
CTE	CRJ	260	911 Dispatch Academy	10	13	0	0	0
CTE	CRJ	265	Intro: Physical Evidence	8	0	0	10	0
CTE	CRJ	266	Wnspsa	23	23	0	0	0
CTE	CRJ	270	Intro to Criminology	52	16	58	30	16
CTE	CRJ	295	Wk Exp - Corrections	0	1	1	3	0
CTE	CRJ	296	Wk Exp - Juvenile Just	0	0	0	2	0
CTE	CRJ	297	Wk Exp - Law Enforcement	0	5	1	1	1
CTE	CRJ	298	Wk Exp - Probation/Parole	0	0	0	0	3

ii. Summary Data Sheet

Course Success Rates										
Division	Subject	Catalog No	Title	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Total	
CTE	CRJ	101	Intro Criminal Justice I	61.4	68.8	74.1	70.0	73.5	1030	
CTE	CRJ	102	Intro Criminal Justice II	71.6	83.9	68.4	78.3	61.8	496	
CTE	CRJ	103	Communication in Crj	89.9	90.1	92.5	90.9	95.0	244	
CTE	CRJ	106	Intro to Corrections	81.3			86.8	83.3	105	
CTE	CRJ	164	Prin of Investigation	82.4	81.5	84.0	89.7	81.3	180	
CTE	CRJ	211	Police in Amer: Intro	70.2	76.0	73.3	82.1	75.0	190	
CTE	CRJ	220	Criminal Procedures	100.0	90.9				39	
CTE	CRJ	222	Criminal Law & Procedure	93.1	93.8	94.6	90.9	93.5	189	
CTE	CRJ	225	Criminal Evidence	82.1	88.0	83.8	63.8	67.5	202	
CTE	CRJ	230	Criminal Law	90.9	90.0				21	
CTE	CRJ	234	Intro Courts & US Legal System				90.2	83.3	71	
CTE	CRJ	260	911 Dispatch Academy	60.0	84.6				23	
CTE	CRJ	265	Intro: Physical Evidence	87.5			90.0		18	
CTE	CRJ	266	Wnspoa	95.7	82.6				46	
CTE	CRJ	270	Intro to Criminology	76.9	81.3	82.8	72.4	85.7	169	

Declared Majors											
Division	Degree	Major	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17						
CTE	AA	Criminal Justice Emphasis AA	113	57	23						
CTE	AAS	Criminal Justice	83	122	128						
CTE	AAS	CRJ - Law Enforcement	16	10	4						
CTE	AAS	CRJ Law Enforcement Academy	51	23	9						
CTE	CT	Criminal Justice Certificate	3	18	15						
CTE	CT	CRJ Law Enfrcmnt- Academy Cert	15	10	7						
Division	Degree	Declared Major	Fall 2013	Spr 2014	Fall 2014	Spr 2015	Fall 2015	Spr 2016	Fall 2016	Spr 2017	Fall 2017
CTE	AA	Criminal Justice Emphasis AA	132	127	98	81	49	45	19	16	8
CTE	AAS	Criminal Justice	19	20	53	55	88	83	91	77	89
CTE	AAS	CRJ - Law Enforcement	1	0	8	13	7	8	3	3	2
CTE	AAS	CRJ Law Enforcement Academy	48	47	39	32	21	14	8	5	2
CTE	CT	CRJ Law Enfrcmnt- Academy Cert	15	20	14	7	6	6	6	2	2

Degrees and Certificates												
Degree	Description	CIP Code	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
AA	Criminal Justice Emphasis AA	43.0104	9	15	17	16	17	14	24	16	6	7
AAS	Criminal Justice	43.0103	6	4	5	5	8	4	3	8	8	12
AAS	CRJ Law Enforcement Academy	43.0107	3	2	2	6	0	3	1	4	1	0
CT	CRJ Law Enfrcmnt- Academy Cert	43.0107	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
Degree	Description	CIP Code	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017					
AA	Criminal Justice Emphasis AA	43.0104	14	24	16	6	7					
AAS	Criminal Justice	43.0103	4	3	8	8	12					
AAS	CRJ Law Enforcement Academy	43.0107	3	1	4	1	0					

iii. Systematic Assessment

WNC Institutional Research includes voluntary annual student survey assessment completions.

B. Evidence of Satisfaction

WNC students are in law enforcement positions throughout local, state, and federal agencies. Many students have achieved promotions to management and command positions. Some students have continued their education at the university level, to include completion of law degrees.

When the P.O.S.T. academy was in operation, the program had a 100% certification test pass rate. The job placement rate in the Criminal Justice System, for students seeking employment upon graduation, was 95%.

C. Certification/Licenses

- P.O.S.T. certifications through end of 2014.
- Certificate of Criminal Justice

D. Enrollment Trends

Steady enrollment continues. Student demand remains high, warranting provision of multiple sections of CRJ-101 and CRJ-102 every semester.

Students continuously request access to an A.A. degree in Criminal Justice. The lack of this degree, lowers enrollment in some CRJ course sections and degree completion rates, as students are advised by instructors and counseling to turn toward general A.A. degree, if they plan to transfer to a four-year school.

WNC Criminal Justice Program graduates are seeking advanced degrees at the university level in the criminal justice related areas of study:

- There were 19 WNC AA/AS graduates in 2010-11 who subsequently enrolled as Criminal Justice, Political Science, Law, and Public Administration majors at 4-year institutions.
- There were 8 WNC AA/AS graduates in 2011-12 who subsequently enrolled in Criminal Justice and Paralegal/Law degree programs at 4-year institutions.
- There were 14 WNC AA/AS graduates in 2012-13 who subsequently enrolled as Criminal Justice and Political Science majors at 4-year institutions.
- There were 7 WNC AA/AS graduates in 2015-16 who subsequently enrolled as Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement majors at 4-year institutions.
 - It should be noted, that although it appears that the enrollment at a four year school trend seems to be going down, that is not the case. Because WNC no longer has the AA transfer degree, Criminal Justice students wanting to attend a four year school after graduating, are being steered towards an AA in General

Studies, while taking all the CRJ courses that transfer towards a four year degree in Criminal Justice at the University. Once at the four year school, they are declaring Criminal Justice, Political Science, Law, Business or Public Administration as their majors.

E. Need for Program

The Criminal Justice Program at WNC prepares students for criminal justice careers in probation and parole, corrections, juvenile justice, courts, and law enforcement. Overall public safety and professionalism in law enforcement is enhanced by future officers in the criminal justice system studying the involved college level coursework. Multiple entry level positions in criminal justice in Nevada require post-high school studies at the college level. Some entry level positions also require a college degree for appointment.

Student demand for this program at WNC remains high. Students transferring to Nevada universities to complete bachelor's degrees in criminal justice, greatly benefit from the lower cost of higher education at WNC for the first two years of their college coursework.

Criminal justice system employment demand remains high for graduates. Current Burning Glass Labor Insight / jobs reports reveal in Nevada there are 4,560 line level police and sheriff patrol officer positions and 860 probation officer positions. Total number of sworn peace officer positions in Nevada is far higher. The labor reports project that in the next ten years, State of Nevada employment demand for police, probation, and correctional positions will increase between 8.4% and 11.6%. The highest increase is for police and sheriff positions, a large sector of the criminal justice workforce.

F. Curriculum Review Report

Review of the program reveals the following:

- All instructors have masters level education or higher.
- All instructors are Canvas certified and use Canvas LMS in both face-to-face (F2F) and online courses.
- Each course is taught by a professional in their area of expertise.
- All courses are taught F2F and online.
- The Criminal Justice Program was the first WNC program to be offered completely online for degree eligibility.

G. Findings and Recommendations

Pending PARC review.