|  |
| --- |
| **California State University, Fresno**  **College of Social Sciences**  **Department of Criminology Graduate Program**  **Department/Program Assessment Coordinator: Jordan Pickering** |
| **Student Outcomes Assessment Plan (SOAP)** |
| Mission Statement |
| In line with Fresno State’s mission “to boldly educate and empower students for success,” the mission of the Master of Science program in the Department of Criminology is threefold:   * + 1. Educating students in research, application of theory, policy, and methodology in the field of Criminology.     2. Fostering the learning community at the graduate level through participation in faculty research, community outreach, professional associations, and mentoring for graduate students.     3. Preparing students for professional and academic careers in Criminology and Criminal Justice |
|  |

## Institutional Learning Outcomes, Program Learning Outcomes/Goals, and SLO’s

* 1. Institutional Learning Outcomes. Fresno State ILO’s are posted on the following webpage: <http://fresnostate.edu/academics/oie/assessment/fresno-state-assessment.html>
     1. **Developing a foundational, broad, and integrative knowledge** of the social sciences and their integration with criminology. Students will consolidate learning from different fields and explore the concepts and questions that bridge those essential areas of learning. Graduate students will articulate the significance, implications and challenges within their field in a societal and global context. In fields in which interdisciplinarity is fundamental, graduate students will further draw from the perspectives of other domains of inquiry/practice so as to assess a problem better and offer solutions to it.

2. **Acquiring specialized knowledge** as identified by program learning outcomes in their major field. Students will demonstrate expertise in a specialized area of study, including integration of ideas, methods, theory and practice. Graduate students will demonstrate further mastery of the field’s theories, research methods, and approaches to inquiry. They will also show the ability to assess major contributions to the field, as well as expand on those contributions through empirical research or aesthetic exploration.

3. **Improving intellectual skills** including critical thinking, effective oral and written communication, information literacy and quantitative reasoning.Students will demonstrate fluency via application of these skills to everyday problems and complex challenges. Graduate students will hone these skills further, demonstrating coherent arguments, analysis, insight, creativity, and acumen as they address local, regional, and global issues in their respective fields of study.

4. **Applying knowledge** by integrating theory, practice, and problem solving to address real world issues using both individual and team approaches. Students will apply their knowledge in a project, paper, exhibit, performance, or other appropriate demonstration that links knowledge and skills acquired at the university with those from other areas of their lives. Graduate students will integrate knowledge and skills from coursework, practicum, and research to address critical issues in their field and demonstrate advanced application of knowledge through a culminating experience that validates, challenges, and/or expands the profession’s body of knowledge.

5. **Exemplifying equity, ethics, and engagement.** Students will form and effectively communicate their own evidence-based and reasoned views on public issues, interact with others to address social, environmental and economic challenges, apply knowledge of diversity and cultural competencies to promote equity and social justice in theclassroom and the community, value the complexity of ethical decision making in a diverse society, acknowledge the importance of standards in academic and professional integrity, and demonstrate honesty, tolerance, and civility in social and academic interactions. Building upon this at the graduate level, students will apply these values in the creation of scholarly and/or aesthetic works that enrich the human experience.

* 1. **Program Learning Outcomes (also known as goals) and related SLOs**: Program Learning Outcomes (or goals) are the specific knowledge and skills that the department/program will develop or strengthen in students. These PLOs (or goals) may be broader than SLOs, but must be measurable and each PLO must have at least one SLO to which is directly linked/aligned.
     1. **PLO #1: Enhance academic and professional competencies in criminological content, research methods, and demonstrate information literacy.**
        1. SLO #1: Students will demonstrate advanced content knowledge in Criminology
        2. SLO #2: Students will exhibit information literacy through the mastery of criminological debates in literature reviews of the specified areas of concentration
     2. **PLO #2:** **Acquire or enhance the skills necessary to think critically and conduct advanced research.**
        1. SLO #1: Students will perform advanced critical analysis of primary and secondary sources through written assignments in required coursework
        2. SLO #2: Students will engage in advanced knowledge of data collection and statistical analysis through assigned coursework
        3. SLO #3: Students will demonstrate research and writing skills by either completing the comprehensive exam, developing and completing a project, or by completing a thesis that has valid evidence based argument, an effective methodology, and is well-organized and written.
     3. **PLO #3: Enhance oral communications skills and scientific presentation.**
        1. SLO #1: Students will give class presentations at various points in their programs to demonstrate their competency in oral communication of their evidenced based arguments.

## Curriculum Map: Courses in which SLO’s are addressed and evaluated

| **Course** | **PLO #1: Discipline-Related Research & Writing** | **PLO #2: Discipline-Related Knowledge** | **PLO #3: Oral Communication** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CRIM 200 | I, D | I, D | I |
| CRIM 201 | I | D, M | D |
| CRIM 202 | D | D | M |
| CRIM 203 | I | I, D | D |
| CRIM 204 | M | D | D |

For courses in the major, using the abbreviations below, indicate which outcomes are introduced, which are developed, and which are mastered in that particular course.

| **I = Introduced** | **D = Developed** | **M=Mastered** |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |

## SLOs Mapped to Assessment Measures and Methods

| **Assessment Measure (Assignment or survey)** | **Evaluation**  **Method (Criteria, rubric, and score)** | **SLO #1: Adv. Content Knowledge** | **SLO #2: Information Literacy** | **SLO #3: Critical Analyses** | **SLO #4: Data Collection & Statistical Analysis** | **SLO #5: Research & Writing Skills** | **SLO #6: Oral Communication** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Exam and/or term paper | Score | X |  | X |  |  |  |
| Graduate writing requirement | Rubric |  | X |  |  | X | X |
| Statistical assignment | Score | X |  |  | X | X |  |
| Oral presentations | Rubric |  | X |  |  |  | X |
| Culminating experience | Criteria | X | X | X | X | X | X |

## Assessment Measures: Description of Assignment and Method (rubric, criteria, etc.) used to evaluate the assignment

* 1. Direct Measures (Department/Program must use a minimum of three different direct measures):
     1. **Oral Presentation**: Faculty will use a rubric to assess the oral presentations that students give as part of the requirements for a specific course. At least two graduate courses per year will have presentations evaluated for the rubric.
        1. Benchmark:At least two-thirds of students are expected to receive an average score of 3 out of 4 (based on program rubric) on the oral presentation
     2. **Writing Requirement:** Graduate faculty will evaluate a written assignment turned in by each student according to a rubric that focuses on the content knowledge, research methods, and level of writing. Students will write a 10-15 page research proposal in CRIM 200 as the Graduate Writing Requirement. The evaluations from this assignment will be compared to the evaluation of students’ culminating work (either a comprehensive exam, project, or thesis) in order to judge the extent to which their skills have improved between their entering the program and their graduating.
        1. Benchmark: At least two-thirds of students are expected to receive an average score of 3 or 4 (based on program rubric) on the assignment in CRIM 200.
     3. **Methods and Statistics Assignment:** The culminating assignment in CRIM 200 and 204 will evaluate the methodological and quantitative skills developed during the graduate program. The students are required to design a research project, collect and analyze data using complex statistical methods, demonstrating their proficiency in quantitative skills.
        1. Benchmark: At least two-thirds of students are expected to receive an average score of 3 or 4 (based on program rubric) on the assignments in CRIM 200 and 204.
     4. **Culminating Experience:** The culminating experience (thesis/project/comprehensive exam) will be evaluated using the rubrics for writing requirement, methods, and statistics. The culminating experience should reflect strong writing, methodological, and quantitative skills developed throughout the program. We will be able to compare the rubric scores from prior assignments to the rubric scores for the culminating experience.
        1. Benchmark: At least two-thirds of students are expected to receive an average score of 3 or 4 (based on program rubrics) on the culminating experience.
  2. Indirect Measures (Department/Program must use a minimum of one indirect measure):
     1. Exit survey
     2. Alumni survey

## Assessment Schedule/Timeline

| Academic  Year | Measure | SLO | SLO |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2020-2021 | Student presentations | 3.1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2021-2022 | Exam evaluation | 1.1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2022-2023 | Advanced writing proficiency | 2.1. | 2.3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2023-2024 | Critical thinking | 1.2 | 2.1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2024-2025 | Research and writing skills (culminating experience) | 2.3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2025-2026 | Quantitative skills | 2.2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| Closing the Loop |
| **Fresno State Closing the Loop process is described immediately below.** |
| A major assessment report, which focuses on assessment activities carried out the previous academic year, is submitted in September of each academic year and evaluated by the Learning Assessment Team and Director of Assessment at Fresno State. |
| Program/Department Closing the Loop process: The Department of Criminology has a graduate committee responsible for monitoring and reviewing the graduate program curriculum and assessment. The graduate coordinator is chair of both the graduate committee and the chair of graduate assessment. The graduate coordinator and the undergraduate assessment chair will also work together to ensure that assessment measures stay valid and current. Any and all changes to the graduate program are approved by the graduate committee and assessment coordinators. Prioritizing graduate program assessment and success is a department focus and will continue as such as we implement new assessment procedures. |