

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM REVIEW
First Follow-Up Report
Spring 2006

RESPONDENT

Dr. Ginger Clark, Assistant to the Dean, A.S. Degree/Technical Programs, HCC

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Chair, Dr. Michael Reichard, Criminal Justice Faculty/Program Coordinator, HCC

Dr. Brian Mann, Director of Technical Programs, HCC

Dr. Sheila Merchant, Legal Assisting Faculty/Program Coordinator, HCC

Mr. Roger Clay, Corrections Training Coordinator, HCC

Ms. Jeneice Sorrentino, Librarian, HCC

Ms. Cindy Green, Staff Assistant, HCC

Lt. Susan Ball, Criminal Justice Advisory Committee

Ms. Tracy Wallace, CJT Student

Mr. Steve Wallace, CJT Student

**Criminal Justice Technology Program Review
First Follow-Up Report
April 18, 2006**

Challenge #1 Identified by Task Force: Anecdotal evidence as well as student surveys indicate that there is both a desire and a need for additional Criminal Justice classes. The Task Force developed six recommendations for addressing this challenge.

Recommendation #1: Develop college credit courses in Computer Crimes to better inform graduates of the growing problem of computer based crime.

Status of Recommendation: Academic Affairs has approved the first class, Introduction to Computer Crimes (CJE 1680), and it will be offered in Spring 2007.

Recommendation #2: Expand the Pre-Law track by developing a credit course in the area of civil rights and liability.

Status of Recommendation: Academic Affairs has approved the civil rights and liability course, and we are awaiting the State's designation of a course number.

Recommendation #3: Expand the Private Security track by developing a credit course in the area of Private Investigation.

Status of Recommendation: Academic Affairs has approved a Private Investigation course, and we are awaiting the State's designation of a course number.

Recommendation #4: Expand the Homeland Security track by developing additional courses so as to achieve program status and to offer as a College Credit Certificate.

Status of Recommendation: The Track has 2 courses now including DSC 1002 and DSC 1003 and a third course (Weapons of Mass Destruction) is awaiting the State's designation of a course number.

Recommendation #5: Continue to work towards adding new programs and new learning tracks based on student, employer, and community needs.

Status of Recommendation: Based on feedback from the community and Advisory Committee, the Homeland Security program and Private Security programs are currently being expanded.

Recommendation #6: Explore the possibility of offering non-credit seminars in some of the specialty areas in which courses are being developed.

Status of Recommendation: Joint credit and non-credit seminars in Fingerprinting are being developed for Fall 2006. Additional seminars will be added as needed.

Responder Comments Regarding Challenge #1. Recommendation number 5 is a critical recommendation in that future program expansion must be guided by research findings (e.g., market data, student surveys, advisory input) so as to maximize our resources.

Challenge #2 Identified by Task Force: Anecdotal evidence indicates that there could be advantages for the Criminal Justice Technology Undergraduate Program to develop related workforce course groupings and offer them together with an appropriate Certificate of Attendance.

Recommendation #1: Explore the possibility of grouping three or four related courses together in areas where a College Credit Certificate does not exist. These courses could be marketed to non-degree seekers and completers would receive a Certificate of Attendance.

Status of Recommendation: Faculty are in the process of developing Certificates of Attendance in Homeland Security, Private Security, and Fingerprinting.

Responder Comments Regarding Challenge #2. A competitive analysis of current offerings by private organizations within the market should be conducted and a needs assessment relative to the existing workforce should also be undertaken.

Challenge #3 Identified by Task Force: The Criminal Justice Technology Undergraduate Program has, as is typical with many A.A. and A.S. programs, a low completer rate. Anecdotal evidence as well as student surveys indicate that criminal justice students are in need of guidance in areas of job placement and career opportunities and that the lack of such guidance has become a barrier resulting in program drop outs and low completer rates.

Recommendation #1: Develop strategies for providing career information to students and assisting them in identifying employment opportunities.

Status of Recommendation: A Criminal Justice web site has been created which provides links to employment opportunities within the field.

Responder Comments Regarding Challenge #3. Criminal Justice faculty should also consider inviting guest speakers from hiring agencies into their classrooms and working closely with the campus Career Center to provide students with additional information.

Challenge #4 Identified by Task Force: The Criminal Justice Technology Undergraduate Program has, as is typical with many A.A. and A.S. programs, a low completer rate. Anecdotal evidence, student surveys, and degree audits conducted by the program indicate that criminal justice students are often taking the wrong courses and are often enrolled in the wrong criminal justice degree or are often not registered at all in the degree they are seeking. The evidence, surveys, and audits further show that criminal justice students are not receiving the advice they need, be it caused by staffing shortages in Advising, incorrect advising due to a lack of communication between advising and faculty, and/or students not understanding or knowing where to go for advising. The lack of such advising and guidance has become a barrier resulting in program drop outs and is a partial cause of the low completer rate. The problem of students not being registered for the proper degree also results in undercounting the number of criminal justice majors and thereby costs the program funding.

Recommendation #1: The Criminal Justice Technology Undergraduate Program and the PSAV Criminal Justice Institute should work closely together to identify students in the police academy who do not have a college degree so as to communicate to them about their eligibility for articulated credits into the degree program.

Status of Recommendation: In process. Criminal Justice professor Michael Reichard has started visiting Academy classes for the purpose of disseminating information about degree programs and career opportunities.

Recommendation #2: The Criminal Justice Technology Undergraduate Program work more closely with Student Services and the PSAV Criminal Justice Institute to make the CPT test available to students in the law enforcement academies and to those who work for law enforcement agencies on a schedule and at a location that encourages greater participation.

Status of Recommendation: The Criminal Justice Advisory Committee is working on the logistics of implementing this plan.

Recommendation #3: Develop brochures and fliers for all Criminal Justice programs in order to better market them to the community.

Status of Recommendation: Brochures for Crime Scene Technology, Fingerprinting, and Homeland Security have been recently produced.

Recommendation #4: Continue to provide faculty-based advising to Criminal Justice majors and prospective majors so as to facilitate the accurate and expeditious dissemination of information regarding degree options, course selections, career and learning tracks, and schedules, while also continuing a close training liaison with advising to ensure uniformity in both understanding and advising.

Status of Recommendation: Beginning with Fall 2006 classes, Professor Reichard will conduct orientation sessions for the purpose of disseminating information to students.

Responder Comments Regarding Challenge #4. The Task Force should consider uniting Challenges #3 and #4 given that both deal with Low Completer Rates. Then, the recommendations could address the different contributing factors. Also, the Task Force should clarify that expansion of the CPT testing sites and schedule are designed to make it easier for working professionals to take the exam and subsequently continue in their program of study. This link is not fully established.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSTITUTE – PSAV PROGRAM

Challenge #1: The Criminal Justice Program has grown to where the facilities no longer are adequate.

Recommendation #1: The College continue its effort to secure additional facilities for the Criminal Justice Institute.

Status of Recommendation: In Progress.

Responder Comments Regarding Challenge #1. The College should continue in its efforts to locate expanded facilities. However, in the interim, the possibility of offering a few introductory courses on other campuses can be explored.