

PROGRAM REVIEW REPORT SUMMARY: SHORT PROGRESS REPORT

- 1. Reporting Institution:** Eastern Illinois University
- 2. Program Reviewed:** B.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice (CIP 45.0401)
- 3. Date:** December 22, 2020
- 4. Contact Person:** Dr. Vernon A Woodley, Chair
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5. Summary of Program Goals and Objectives and Progress at Meeting Them

Background. The Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Criminal Justice uses an interdisciplinary framework to examine the causes and consequences of crime and criminal behavior, and the systems designed to control crime. The program was launched in the fall of 2017 following the success of our criminology minor, and in response to student demand for a major. The program objectives articulated previously in the new degree program application are to:

1. Provide students with an understanding of the major theoretical explanations of crime and criminal behavior.
2. Analyze the major institutions and processes of the criminal justice system.
3. Teach students the analytical skills necessary to understand and interpret statistical data, research questions related to crime and the criminal justice system, and test criminological theories.
4. Prepare students for the range of careers related to criminology and criminal justice and graduate-level study in criminology, law, and related disciplines.

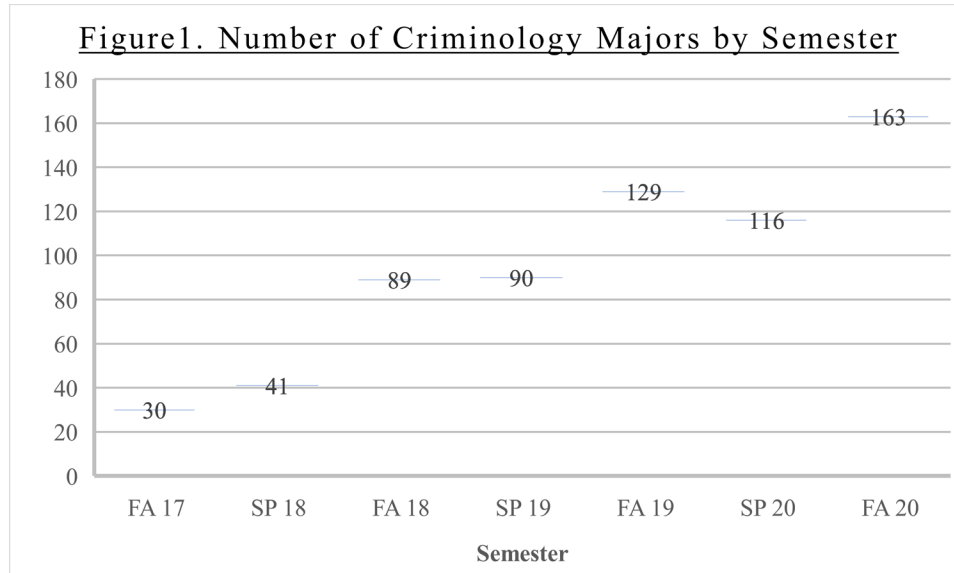
Students learn to apply classical and contemporary criminological theories, evaluate the major components of the criminal justice system, and develop the research skills relevant to practice in the field. The Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Criminal Justice prepares students for a variety of career options that are in demand including: law enforcement, probation/parole officer, caseworker, corrections officer, victim advocacy, crime prevention specialist, and private/corporate security. The program also prepares students for graduate-level study in criminology, criminal justice, law, sociology, and other social science disciplines.

Curriculum. We made some modifications to the major since the 2017 launch. To facilitate timely graduation, we moved the two community college criminal justice courses (CRM 1520- Criminal Investigations and CRM 1600- Evidence Collection) from the core requirements to the major electives, and we added SOC 1838G – Introductory Sociology as a prerequisite for the major. These changes resulted in a reduction in the number of required core classes from 10 to 9 courses or 31 hours to 28 credit hours. We also developed two new core classes to support the major: CRM 3650 – Criminological Theory, and the capstone class CRM4700 – Topics in Criminology. Most recently, the addition of a new faculty, allowed us to develop CRM 1829 –

Introduction to Criminal Justice, which we are currently offering as an elective, with the goal of eventually making it a part of the core requirements.

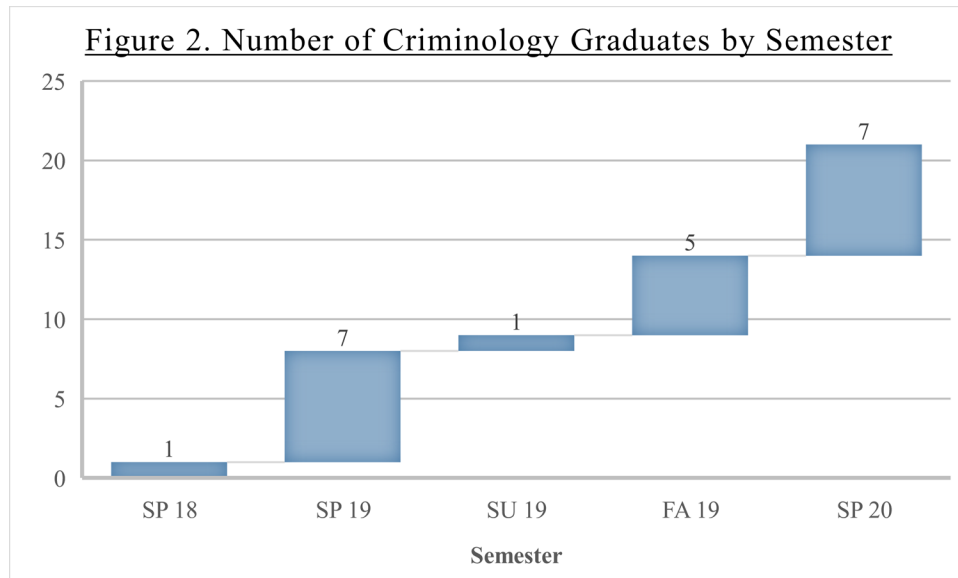
Staffing. We launched the major with two fulltime tenured/tenure-track criminologists. The major is also supported by affiliated faculty from sociology, anthropology, political science, philosophy, and other related interdisciplinary programs. We lost our most senior tenured criminologist to retirement in 2018, and we hired a junior tenure-track criminologist as a replacement starting that year. We hired our first tenure-track criminal justice faculty at the start of the fall 2020 semester. The last criminal justice faculty hire brings our fulltime tenure-track faculty for criminology and criminal justice major to three.

Student Success. In just three years, we have met and exceeded our enrollment projections for the major. At the time of the new degree program application, we projected that we would have 20 students enrolled in the major by the end of the first year, and 100 students by the end of the fifth year. We had 30 students enrolled in the first semester alone, and 41 students at the end of the first year. That is more than double our first year projection. As of the fall 2020 tenth day enrollment census, we had 163 students enrolled in the major, 63 more students than our fifth-year projection. Ten of the 163 students also had double-majors in related programs, most notable sociology and psychology. See Figure 1 below for enrollment numbers for each semester since the launch of the program in 2017.



Our success in student enrollment is also being met with success in graduation from the program. We projected that we would have 25 students graduate from the program by the end of the fifth year. At the end of the third year (spring 2020), we have 21 graduates with a BA in Criminology and Criminal Justice. Hence, we are currently on track to exceed our fifth-year projection by the

end of the fourth year since launching the major. Figure 2 below shows graduation numbers for each semester, starting just one year after the launch of the major.



In sum, the bachelor’s degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice is off to a very strong start. We plan to continue recruitment into the program, and we hope to increase personnel to support the growing number of majors over the next few years.

Dean’s Comment:

As the department has noted, the BA in Criminology and Criminal Justice is off to a strong start. As of fall semester 2020, it had grown to 163 enrolled students midway through its fourth year of existence. In addition, the program already had 21 graduates at the end of spring semester, 2020, and should be well ahead of the projected fifth-year number of program graduates by spring 2022. The department has modified the curriculum in an effort to streamline the program as well as to leverage the expertise of recently hired faculty members.

We recommend a decision of **Program in Good Standing**.

6. Academic Affairs Decision:

- Program in Good Standing
- Program flagged for Priority Review
- Program Enrollment Suspended

6.2 Explanation of Decision

The program is in “good standing” and the observed growth continues to be consistent with the original undergraduate major proposal. Needless to say, the program already exceeds the IBHE productivity benchmarks and no enrollment concerns are noted. With respect to the program’s commitment to continuous improvement the faculty are to be applauded for their efforts to review and revise courses, as needed. Likewise, I thank the entire department for the sustained collaboration that is necessary to deliver the high demand program—specifically the department’s commitment to a curriculum that extends from, and is supported by, the discipline of sociology.

Jay D. Gatrell

Provost & VPAA