

OHIO BOARD OF REGENTS

Agenda Item 3.9 Wright State University, Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Chancellor and with the concurrence of the Initiatives Committee of the Ohio Board of Regents that the Wright State University Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in Criminal Justice is approved.

BACKGROUND

WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice

Request: Wright State University seeks approval for a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice. The B.A. in Criminal Justice will be offered by the College of Liberal Arts and will be jointly administered by the Departments of Political Science, Sociology and Urban Affairs. It is an interdisciplinary degree between the participating departments. Students currently pursue study in the field of criminal justice through programs within these academic departments. The request for a bachelor of arts degree in criminal justice reflects the next step in the maturation of study in this area.

Program Purpose/Mission: The Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice will educate and prepare students entering positions in a growing public and private workforce. The criminal justice curriculum involves law, law enforcement, the administration of law and the corrections system. Students will examine interdisciplinary criminal justice theories, including criminal behavior, administration and policy. Courses also involve the study of issues and conditions confronting and changing the criminal justice system. Students will participate in the practice of criminal justice through internship and service-learning courses. Finally, the criminal justice degree program will require students to demonstrate competencies in 1)analytical and ethical decision making, 2)applications of technology, 3)methods of collecting and using data, and 4)multi-cultural and multi-media communications.

Enrollments: Demand for the program is evidenced among existing students within the participating departments (urban affairs, political science, sociology). In addition, Wright State University has an articulation agreement with Sinclair Community College. Sinclair has an associate degree program in criminal justice with approximately 500 students. It is anticipated that the program will serve approximately 50 new students each year as transfers from the Sinclair program in addition to those students who will shift from existing degree programs within the College of Liberal Arts.

Curriculum: Students in the proposed B.A. in Criminal Justice will have an interdisciplinary experience designed to educate and prepare students for entry and mid-level criminal justice positions in local, state, and federal government and non-profit private agencies involved in protecting public safety and implementing the law. The curriculum will develop knowledge of the criminal justice system, theories of criminal behavior, institutions formed to ensure public safety and enforce the law, and the law. Student core competencies will be developed and required in areas of 1)analytical and ethical decision making, 2)the use of technology, 3)methods of collecting and using data, and 4)communicating to diverse people and through diverse media.

In addition to university and college requirements, students must complete 24-32 hours in foreign language and research method requirements, 20 hours of core criminal justice requirements, criminal justice foundations courses in

behavior, institutions and law (three courses from each), and electives for a total of 192 hours. Criminal justice core requirements require an internship. Students may participate in supervised field experiences within correction, probation, and law enforcement agencies.

Faculty: Faculty for the Criminal Justice program now teach in the College of Liberal Arts and are full time faculty. A director will be appointed for the program as well as advisors from each department.

Evidence of Need: Surveys of students indicate the need and interest in this degree program. It is anticipated that a number of students currently enrolled in urban affairs, political science and sociology are pursuing a career in criminal justice through options existing within each of these degree programs. These students will shift to enrollment in the criminal justice program. This will provide for a more integrated and focused program for students and better advising. In addition, Sinclair Community College in the Dayton area enrolls approximately 500 students in its criminal justice programs. It is anticipated that at least 50 of these students will continue study at the baccalaureate degree level at WSU if this option is available.

In addition, faculty in the coordinating departments surveyed various criminal justice professional and administrators during the 1999-2000 academic year. The survey of officials from the surrounding counties evidenced significant desire for such degreed individuals. This supports a growing national trend for criminal justice/law enforcement personnel with an undergraduate degree.

Several independent universities offer criminal justice programs in the surrounding area. Capital University offers a program on its Dayton Campus also Cedarville College, University of Dayton, Wilmington College, Xavier University and Urbana University. WSU's program differs from these in its strong background in legal issues through courses such as administrative law, civil liberties, constitutional law, criminal law, criminal procedure and international law (all taught by professors with J.D. and Ph.D.).

Licensure Requirements: There are no licensure requirements associated with the bachelor of arts degree in criminal justice.

Resource Needs: Minimal additional resources and facilities will be required to support the program and its director. Resources from new enrollments in the program will support these needs. In addition, enrollments in existing degree programs from the three participating departments will likely shift to support the new degree program.