

## BACKGROUND

### **Miami University/Hamilton and Middletown Campuses Associate of Applied Science degree in Criminal Justice**

#### **Executive Summary/Recommendation**

**This program clearly meets Regents' standards for associate degree programs.  
There were no serious concerns raised in this review.**

**Request:** Miami University proposes an Associate of Applied Science degree in Criminal Justice to be offered at Miami University Hamilton and Middletown campuses. A recent study conducted by the Ohio Council on Criminal Justice Education identified southwest Ohio as an area in need of additional degree programming in criminal justice. In addition, the Ohio Police Officer Training Academy, accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies and administered by Ohio's Attorney General's office, is currently considering some major curricular changes to be implemented across the state. One of the changes being considered is a greater emphasis on higher education learning opportunities for the men and women who choose law enforcement as a career. According to a study of Ohio's police force conducted by Hall, Venture, Lambert, Lee and Barton, almost half of Ohio's current police force lacks specialized skills and training in the areas of effective oral and written communication, conceptualization of ideas, and critical thinking—areas that are essential for law enforcement professionals.

In response to southwest Ohio's need for additional trained law enforcement and corrections officers, and the need to upgrade the skills of the police and law enforcement officers currently working in the field, Miami University Hamilton and Middletown campuses developed this proposed degree program.

Working in collaboration with Butler Technology Adult Education Center, a partnership agreement was formed whereby individuals successfully completing Ohio's accredited Peace Officer Training Academy at the Butler Technology Adult Education Center will be able to articulate and transfer 16 hours of credit from the Academy to the proposed Criminal Justice program. The Butler Technology Adult Education Center currently graduates over 100 students a year from their accredited program. Graduates of the Peace Officer Training Academy will also be given assistance in completing the admission process for the Miami University Hamilton and Middletown campuses, in identifying financial aid resources, and with career counseling and any other student support services needed to enroll in the proposed program.

Students successfully completing the program will find career opportunities in regional and state law enforcement agencies, federal law enforcement programs, corrections, loss prevention, legal services, victim rights programs, and criminal and juvenile justice agencies.

Graduates of the program interested in pursuing a bachelor's degree could enroll in Miami University's Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice program, or in their Psychology, Political Science or Sociology programs.

**Mission/Program Purpose:** Miami University recently completed a Regional Campuses Strategic Assessment and Action Plan conducted by Dr. David Harrison, Vice Provost for of Regional Campuses, University of Central Florida. Dr. Harrison's final report indicated that Miami University and the Hamilton and Middletown regional campuses are well-positioned to increase student

enrollment through: the expansion of program offerings; improved marketing efforts that will reach the more diverse, nontraditional student; a greater emphasis on regional workforce needs; and better utilization of the campuses assets and resources. Dr. Harrison's research also indicated the need to concentrate new degree programs in the area of healthcare and public safety/criminal justice. The Action Plan recommended that new degrees programs should be done in conjunction with other partners in the area, through the establishment of 2+2 articulation agreements with other higher education institutions, and with a focus on the needs of the business community. The development of the proposed Associate of Applied Science degree in Criminal Justice will serve as a model for Miami University as it develops new degree programs based on the recommendations provided in the Regional Campuses Strategic Assessment and Action Plan.

**Enrollment:** The Miami University Hamilton and Middletown campuses each anticipate an initial enrollment of 35 full-time students and 16 part-time students for 2008-2009. Over the next three years, with targeted marketing efforts to former graduates of the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy, the proposed program at each campus is expected to grow to 55 full-time students. The proposed program will attract traditional as well as non-traditional students and employees of the criminal justice system.

**Curriculum:** The curriculum incorporates a cognitive learning environment for the general education requirements and meets the curriculum standards and expected outcomes as defined by Miami University. The proposed program will provide students with an in-depth analysis and evaluation of the fundamental organization, operations, and issues related to the American criminal justice system. In meeting the general education requirements for a two-year degree, credits earned in this program will transfer seamlessly to other public universities within the State of Ohio.

**Faculty/Resource Needs:** Miami University Hamilton and Middletown campuses have the appropriate faculty members needed to teach the general education and technical courses required for this proposed program. The proposed program will temporarily be housed within the Department of Political Science with a full-time coordinator that will provide program monitoring and oversight. The regional campuses have classrooms with internet access, educational equipment, computer centers, libraries, and student support centers to ensure that new and returning students will have a successful learning experience.

Miami University Hamilton and Middletown campuses and the Butler Technology Adult Career Center will jointly provide promotional and informational materials for the recruitment of new students to this proposed program.

**Program Duplication:** Miami University and Sinclair Community College are currently collaborating on several programs that will increase access and educational opportunities for students in this region. During the program's development the Senior Associate Dean at Sinclair Community College was provided a copy of the curriculum and expressed no concerns or objections to the development of the Criminal Justice program. For a number of years Sinclair Community College has offered their nationally recognized Police Academy Program to individuals in the Dayton area. The program has maintained a full enrollment and, at times, a waiting list of interested students. The two programs are not identical and both are serving an unmet need for this program in their region.

The University of Cincinnati's regional campuses (Raymond Walters and Clermont) offer a Pre-Law program, which has a different focus than the proposed criminal justice program. Raymond Walters and Clermont campuses are located more than 35 miles from the Hamilton and Middletown campuses.

