

# ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR 2007-08

## ASSESSMENT PLAN FOR 2008-09

### Criminal Justice B.A. Major

#### MISSION AND GOALS

##### **Institutional Mission:**

New Mexico Highlands is a comprehensive state institution offering programs in liberal arts, sciences, and professional disciplines. The University is committed to excellence in teaching, discovering, preserving, and applying knowledge and is responsive to new opportunities for teaching, learning and public service created by a changing environment.

Acknowledging its commitment to the individual student, New Mexico Highlands University provides personal attention to undergraduates and graduates. Dedicated faculty and staff readily interact with students, supporting both academic and extracurricular activities. The University brings together students from distinctive cultural, socio-economic, linguistic, geographic, religious, and educational backgrounds. A sensitive admission policy offers every student educational opportunities and challenging academic programs create and promote an environment in which all students are encouraged to reach their full potential. The University recognizes its special obligation to undergraduate education and to the preparation of undergraduates for advanced degrees or challenging professional careers.

New Mexico Highlands University is committed to programs that focus on its multiethnic student body, especially the rich heritage of Hispanic and Native American cultures that is distinctive of the State of New Mexico. The University clearly perceives that its success depends upon an appreciation of the region's cultural and linguistic identities. By reinforcing cultural identity and encouraging the use of these assets, the University seeks to empower students and the region's ethnic populations to achieve full involvement in the activities of society. The University recognizes the increasing importance of the Spanish language in the global community and takes advantage of its environment, location, and student population to promote the development of interdisciplinary programs involving the Hispanic world. The University encourages international education, the international exchange of students and scholars, and access to global communications.

New Mexico Highlands University's larger obligation is to a society in which all groups participate on an equitable and mutually rewarding basis. The University celebrates diversity in its student and faculty community and promotes an environment in which personal respect, tolerances, and understanding are valued by all. The University aspires to develop broadly literate citizens and leaders, educated in analytical and critical thought and in the appreciation of the arts and sciences. In essence,

## **Criminal Justice Assessment Report and Plan 2**

through educational excellence and a dedication to society's needs, the University is committed to the cultivation and enrichment of the human mind and spirit.

### **Department's/Program's Goal(s) in Support of Institutional Mission:**

The Social and Behavioral Sciences Department is committed to develop broadly literate students educated in analytical and critical thought and with a broad understanding of the liberal arts and sciences. The institution is committed to interdisciplinary programs that focus on its multiethnic student body, particularly the American Indian and Hispanic world. Because of its multiethnic composition varied traditions, and rich history, the American Southwest lends itself to multicultural studies.

The Department provides a holistic approach to the study of humankind while offering a BA in Criminal Justice Studies. The program emphasizes student participation in field internships, and computer competence in analysis of data. Career opportunities include preparation for graduate studies, teaching cultural resource management, and practice in federal, state, and local agencies, as well as in private businesses and non-profit sectors.

Our program is directly linked to NMHU mission statement focus on declarative knowledge and intellectual skills in an educational environment where respect, tolerance and ethics are highly valued. Measures have been developed for assessing the extent to which students attain the stated objectives and meet the general goals. In addition, our program values the rich and unique Hispanic and Native American heritage of the American Southwest, its interdisciplinary structure, the personal attention provided to students, and professional ethical standards.

### **Intended Educational (Student) Outcomes:**

1. Mastery of content knowledge and skills (facts, definitions and vocabulary)
  - Knowledge of the criminal justice system, its organization, philosophies and problems.
  - Knowledge of sociological and criminological research and perspectives relevant to the criminal justice system.
  - Historical knowledge of the development of criminal justice and its relationship to sociology and criminology.
  - Knowledge of both qualitative and quantitative methodologies inclusive of statistical procedures commonly used in criminal justice and criminological research.
  
2. Intellectual Skills and effective communication skills (knowledge of concepts, rules, and procedures needed for problem solving)
  - Critical thinking and understanding of the disciplines of criminal justice, criminology and sociology in the context of daily experience.
  - Understanding and critical review of literature in criminal justice, criminology and sociology through verbal and written expression.

## **Criminal Justice Assessment Report and Plan 3**

- Ability to investigate, design and write research papers following the standards and formats of the American Sociological Association (ASA), and the American Criminology Society (ASC).

### 3. Human Understanding/ Critical and reflective thinking skills

- Cross-cultural awareness
- Awareness of unique and shared qualities of humans as individuals and as members of social groups.

### 4. Synthesis of Experiences

- Integration of knowledge, skills and understanding
- Preparation to continue academic studies at the graduate level
- Preparation to enter employment in the public and private sector

### 5. Effective use of technology

- Ability to use computer programs designed for statistical analysis and quantitative data analysis.
- On-line discussions and research are utilized for extended class activity.
- Some classes are taught on-line via Elluminate and Blackboard.

**Intended Educational Outcome 1:**

**1. Mastery of content knowledge and skills (facts, definitions and vocabulary)**

- Knowledge of the criminal justice system, its organization, philosophies and problems.
- Knowledge of sociological and criminological research and perspectives relevant to the criminal justice system.
- Historical knowledge of the development of criminal justice and its relationship to sociology and criminology.
- Knowledge of both qualitative and quantitative methodologies inclusive of statistical procedures commonly used in criminal justice and criminological research.

**Means of Assessment for the Above Outcome**

**A. Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success: Describe assessment data, methods for collecting data, and criteria for successful performance.**

A. Satisfactory completion of the following program courses:

***Required Courses (18 Credits)*** Student must complete the following required core classes:

- Sociology 152 Introduction to Sociology (3)
- Soc/CJS 231 Introduction to Criminal Justice System (3)
- Sociology 327 Juvenile Delinquency & Justice (3)
- Soc/CJS 329 Institutional Corrections (3)
- Sociology 427 Criminology (3)
- Sociology 493 Race & Ethnic Relations (3)

***Elective Courses ( 24 Credits)*** Student must select 24 hours of criminal justice electives from the following courses.

- CJS 310 Process and Proceed of Crim. Law(3)
- PolS 314 Introduction to Law (3)
- CJS 315 Issues in the CJS (3)
- CJS 460 Approches to Dispute Res. (3)
- Psy 408 Drugs & Behavior (3)
- Soc/CJS 409 Domestic & Sexual Viol. (3)
- Soc/Ant 428 Comp. Legal Sys (3)
- Ant 442 Forensic Anthropology (3)

## Criminal Justice Assessment Report and Plan 5

*Methodology, practicum and internship classes (9 Credits).* Student must select 9 hours of criminal justice electives from the following list.

- Psy 301 Res. Meth, & Analysis I\* (4) **Or**  
SW 330 Res. Methods 1\* (3) **Or**  
Soc/Ant 330 Res. Meth in Soc Rel (4)
  
- Psy 302 Res. Meth & Analysis II\*(4) **Or**  
SW 430 Res. Methods II\* (3) **Or**  
Soc/Ant 430 Appl, Res & Data Analysis (4)
  
- SW 432 Field Practicum\* (4) **Or**  
Soc 498 Field Experience (3-4)

<b>DATA RESULTS: Summarize results from data collected.</b>
---

A. Course/program evaluation is under development since the program was first offered in the Fall of 2007. This will be addressed for the first time in Spring 2009 in the 2008-2009 report.

<b>USE OF RESULTS: Describe how results are used for program decision-making and improvement, with evidence of how decisions are implemented.</b>
---

The results of this assessment will be presented and discussed at a program meeting open to all faculty and students. Based on this discussion, the coordinator will submit recommendations (if needed to the program faculty, the Department Chair and the College Dean.

One additional measure of our success is the fact that the numbers of Criminal Justice major has increased during the first year since it was revived in Fall 2007. In 2007, there were 33 students who declared their major in criminal justice. By Fall 2008, there are 39 recorded majors.

**Intended Educational Outcome 2:**

**Intellectual Skills and effective communication skills** (knowledge of concepts, rules, and procedures needed for problem solving)

- Critical thinking and understanding of the disciplines of criminal justice, criminology and sociology in the context of daily experience.
- Understanding and critical review of literature in criminal justice, criminology and sociology through verbal and written expression.
- Ability to investigate, design and write research papers following the standards and formats of the American Sociological Association (ASA), and the American Criminology Society (ASC).

**Means of Assessment for the Above Outcome**

**Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success: Describe assessment data, methods of collecting data, and criteria for successful performance.**

- A. Administer exit survey for graduating seniors each Spring Semesters (being developed).
- B. Administer alumni survey of all majors every five years in Spring semester (being developed).

**DATA RESULTS: Summarize results from data collected.**

Item “A” above is being developed and will be administered for the first time in Spring 2009. Item B will be completed in Spring 2009. Our Alumni will also be surveyed in Spring 2009.

**USE OF RESULTS: Describe how results are used for program decision-making and improvement, with evidence of how decisions are implemented.**

The results of our assessment will be presented and discussed at a program meeting open to all faculty and students. Based on these discussions, the coordinator will submit recommendations (if needed) to the program faculty, the Department Chair, and the College Dean.

**Intended Educational Outcome 3**

**Human Understanding/ Critical and reflective thinking skills**

- Cross-cultural awareness
- Awareness of unique and shared qualities of humans as individuals and as members of social groups.

**Means of Assessment for the Above Outcome**

**Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success: Describe assessment data, methods for collecting data, and criteria for successful performance.**

- A. Administer exit survey for graduating seniors each Spring Semester (being developed).
- B. Administer alumni survey of all major every five years in Spring Semester (being develop).

**DATA RESULTS: Summarize results from data collected.**

Item “A” above is being developed and will be administered for the first time since 5 years ago in Spring 2009.

Item “B” will also be completed in Spring 2009.

**USE OF RESULTS: Describe how results are used for program decision-making and improvement, with evidence how decisions are implemented.**

The results of our assessment will be presented and discussed at a program meeting open to all faculty and students. Based on these discussions, the coordinator will submit recommendations (if needed) to the program faculty, the Department Chair, and the College Dean.

**Intended Educational Outcome 4**

Synthesis of Experiences

- Integration of knowledge, skills and understanding
- Preparation to continue academic studies at the graduate level
- Preparation to enter employment in the public and private sector

**Means of Assessment for the Above Outcome**

**Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success: Describe assessment data, methods for collecting data, and criteria for successful performance.**

- A. Administer exit survey for graduating seniors each Spring Semester (being developed).
- B. Administer alumni survey of all majors every five years in Spring Semester (being developed).

**DATA RESULTS: Summarize results from data collected.**

Item “A” above is being developed and will be administered for the first time after 4 years in Spring 2009.

Item “B” will also be completed in Spring 2009.

**USE OF RESULTS: Describe how results are used for program decision-making and improvement, with evidence of how decisions are implemented.**

The results of our assessment will be presented and discussed at a program meeting open to all faculty and students. Based on these discussions, the coordinator will submit recommendations (if needed) to the program faculty, the Department Chair, and the College Dean.

**Intended Educational Outcome 5**

Effective use of technology

- Ability to use computer programs designed for statistical analysis and quantitative data analysis.
- On-line discussions and research are utilized for extended class activity.
- Some classes are taught on-line via Elluminate and Blackboard.

**Means of Assessment for the Above Outcome**

**Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success: Describe assessment data, methods for collecting data, and criteria for successful performance.**

- A. A survey of classes utilizing technology (computer programs , on-line research, and classroom use of internet and other technology)
- B. Survey classes that are taught on-line and/or utilized interactive television (ITV).

**DATA RESULTS: Summarize results from data collected.**

- Most classes in criminal justice utilized technology. Classes such as juvenile delinquency, corrections, comparative criminal justice, introduction to Sociology, race and ethnic relations, criminology, process and procedure of Criminal law, approach to dispute resolutions, and among others, have regular on-line quizzes, blackboard (on-line) discussions, and lectures via Elluminate.
- Classes on methods also utilize Statistics Programs for Social Sciences (SPSS) as part of class goals.
- Most Criminal Justice classes are also taught via interactive television (ITV) to accommodate students from the various satellite campuses in the state.

**USE OF RESULTS: Describe how results are used for program decision-making and improvement, with evidence of how decisions are implemented.**

The results of our assessment will be presented and discussed at a program meeting open to all faculty and students. Based on these discussions, the coordinator will submit recommendations (if needed) to the program faculty, the Department Chair, and the College Dean.

/apt