

# Criminology

College of Arts

## Dean's Summary

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Submitted by:

Dr. Sylvie Murray, Dean, College of Arts

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Accepted by:

Senate in April 2024

Academic Planning and Priorities Committee in March 2024

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## MEMORANDUM

Academic Planning and Priorities Committee

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**TO:** Joanne MacLean, Chair, Senate

**FROM:** James Mandigo, Chair, Academic Planning and Priorities Committee

**CC:** Sylvie Murray, Dean, College of Arts  
Claire Carolan, Associate Director, Program Development and Quality Assurance

**DATE:** March 28, 2024

**RE:** Criminology Program Review

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The Criminology Program within the College of Arts underwent a program review in 2023-24. The Academic Planning and Priorities Committee reviewed all of the documentation related to the program review and accepted them at its March 27, 2024 meeting and recommend to Senate for approval.

The Criminology Program Review proposal recognizes the great job the School has been doing since the last review in 2017, such as their ongoing work towards Indigenization, decolonization, and reconciliation; excellence in student satisfaction; efforts to seek and maintain work placement relationships; and faculty who have established community relationships and are engaged in local research.

Discussion was had regarding the history of the extended minor, and it was noted that UFV had initially mirrored SFU's programs. The Criminology extended minor is very similar to the minor and the action plan notes that these programs will be evaluated.

The APPC commends the great work done on this review and thanks them for taking part in the Blackboard Program Review Pilot Program.

Suggested motion:

THAT Senate accept the documents related to the Criminology Program Review as presented.

Attachments:

- Memo to APPC
- Action Plan and Deans summary

## Program Review: Action Plan

BA (Criminal Justice), Criminal Justice Diploma, Criminal Justice Minor/Extended Minor

**Instructions:** Consider the data gathered through the program review process (i.e., self-study report, external reviewer report and recommendations and commendations, survey results, consultations with community and industry partners, and internal consultations). Identify goals for improvement of the program over the next five-seven years. Detail the specific steps that will be taken to advance these goals including key milestones, measurable outcomes, and people responsible for implementing the changes. Depending on the results of the program review, some areas may require greater attention than others. Please add/remove rows to each section, as needed.

Curriculum and Assurance of Learning			
Goal: Review learning outcomes for the BA (Criminal Justice) and Criminal Justice Diploma to ensure they align with program goals.			
Describe the rationale for the Goal and provide evidence supporting the necessity for the Goal. The external report recommended that the School “think more about the distinction between the two programs” and whether “the programs draw different clienteles with different goals.”			
<b>Tasks to complete the goal (add rows as needed):</b> Identify the task(s) and describe the specific steps needed to address the goal, including key milestones and measurable outcomes. Identify potential issues and barriers, if relevant.			
Task	Key Milestone or Measurable Outcome	Timeline	Assigned to
Review IRP data on graduates of the degree and diploma	Analyze data to determine the proportion of students that progress from the diploma to the degree and what proportion of graduates from the diploma are terminal. Based on this analysis, determine the extent to which the diploma is a terminal credential, a ladder into the degree, or both.	Winter 2024, Summer 2024, Fall 2024	School of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Review learning outcomes and course requirements for the degree and diploma	Based on the above assessment, align learning outcomes and course requirements to program-specific requirements and to Ministry standards (e.g., if the diploma is largely a terminal credential, ensure the learning outcomes reflect the needs of graduates who enter the labour market directly).	Fall 2024 and Winter 2025	School of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Review entrance requirements for the degree and diploma	Maintain or revise entrance requirements.	Winter 2025	School of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Goal: Review program requirements, including making CRIM 211 (Indigenous Peoples, Crime and Criminal Justice) a core program requirement and evaluate the inclusion of ECON 100 (Principles of Microeconomics) as a breadth requirement.			
Describe the rationale for the Goal and provide evidence supporting the necessity for the Goal. The external report recommended that “CRIM 211 be excluded from the breadth requirements selection (as another criminology course is not breadth) [and that] CRIM 211 should be added to a list of core requirements given its importance in current decolonization and indigenization initiatives.” With respect to ECON 100, the external report noted that “criminology students could always access it by taking electives in Economics.”			
<b>Tasks to complete the goal (add rows as needed):</b> Identify the task(s) and describe the specific steps needed to address the goal, including key milestones and measurable outcomes. Identify potential issues and barriers, if relevant.			

Task	Key Milestone or Measurable Outcome	Timeline	Assigned to
Examine the feasibility of offering CRIM 211 as a core requirement	Determine course options for supporting decolonization and Indigenization initiatives.	Winter 2024	School of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Review the rationale for including ECON 100 as a breadth requirement option	Articulate the knowledge and skills offered in ECON 100.	Winter 2024	School of Criminology and Criminal Justice
<b>Goal:</b> Evaluate the removal of the CRIM extended minor option.			
<p><i>Describe the rationale for the Goal and provide evidence supporting the necessity for the Goal.</i></p> <p>The external report noted that “while the distinction between the two minors is not clear, there are students consistently registered in both [and therefore] additional information and further consideration are required to determine whether the value of extended minors is inherent across the faculties at UFV.”</p>			
<p><b>Tasks to complete the goal (add rows as needed):</b></p> <p><i>Identify the task(s) and describe the specific steps needed to address the goal, including key milestones and measurable outcomes. Identify potential issues and barriers, if relevant.</i></p>			
Task	Key Milestone or Measurable Outcome	Timeline	Assigned to
Review IRP data on the number of students declaring a minor and extended minor	Determine whether trends show continued interest and demand for both the minor and extended minor.	Winter 2024 and Summer 2024	School of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Review whether extended minors are offered in other Canadian CRIM programs and whether extended minors will continue to be offered in other UFV Arts programs	Align our minor and/or extended minor requirements with other Canadian CRIM programs. If the extended minor is retained, differentiate it from the minor in terms of program learning outcomes and/or opportunities for further studies or employment.	Summer 2024 and Fall 2024	Dean’s Office and School of Criminology and Criminal Justice
<b>Goal:</b> Identify ways to integrate holistic learning and assessment methods to facilitate principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion.			
<p><i>Describe the rationale for the Goal and provide evidence supporting the necessity for the Goal.</i></p> <p>The findings of the curriculum mapping tool identified gaps in learning outcomes related to building collaboration skills and practicing principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion.</p>			
<p><b>Tasks to complete the goal (add rows as needed):</b></p> <p><i>Identify the task(s) and describe the specific steps needed to address the goal, including key milestones and measurable outcomes. Identify potential issues and barriers, if relevant.</i></p>			
Task	Key Milestone or Measurable Outcome	Timeline	Assigned to
Identify teaching and assessment strategies to facilitate collaboration and equity, diversity, and inclusion	Determine evidence-based approaches and how to integrate these strategies across the curriculum.	2023/2024 to 2025/2026	School of Criminology and Criminal Justice teaching faculty and Teaching and Learning Centre
<b>Goal:</b> Further develop faculty knowledge and skills in Indigenization and decolonization.			
<p><i>Describe the rationale for the Goal and provide evidence supporting the necessity for the Goal.</i></p> <p>The external report recommended “regular connections with university services [in order to] improve Indigenous learning outcomes, better reflect the practice in the field, and prepare students to effect change in the community.”</p>			

<b>Tasks to complete the goal (add rows as needed):</b> <i>Identify the task(s) and describe the specific steps needed to address the goal, including key milestones and measurable outcomes. Identify potential issues and barriers, if relevant.</i>			
<b>Task</b>	<b>Key Milestone or Measurable Outcome</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Assigned to</b>
Identify evidence-based strategies for Indigenization, decolonization, and reconciliation	Work with the Teaching and Learning Centre to identify evidence-based educational resources and teaching strategies.	2023/2024 to 2025/2026	School of Criminology and Criminal Justice teaching faculty, Dean, and Teaching and Learning Centre

<b>Student Achievement</b>			
Goal: Revise practicum requirements to reflect principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion, and ensure alignment with evidence-based best practices.			
<p><i>Describe the rationale for the Goal and provide evidence supporting the necessity for the Goal.</i></p> <p>As part of the Dean’s scope letter for our self-study report, the School was asked to evaluate whether the high number hours and credit value were justified in relation to the degree as a whole and in relation to students’ ability to balance its requirements with their course load and other responsibilities. The external report also recommended that the School address the following: “consider ways to increase accessibility for students to opt into the opportunity;” whether courses like ARTS 299 and ARTS 399 could give direction for practicum; “identify more explicitly the competencies acquired in the practicum experience and to determine if students actually need these competencies;” “can [practicum] competencies only be acquired in a practicum [or] can these competencies be obtained by some other kind of training that is more accessible.”</p>			
<b>Tasks to complete the goal (add rows as needed):</b> <i>Identify the task(s) and describe the specific steps needed to address the goal, including key milestones and measurable outcomes. Identify potential issues and barriers, if relevant.</i>			
<b>Task</b>	<b>Key Milestone or Measurable Outcome</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Assigned to</b>
Review practicum learning outcomes and revise to ensure the outcomes are evidence-based	Identify the competencies and skills expected of students who successfully complete practicum.	Winter 2024 and Summer 2024	School of Criminology and Criminal Justice teaching faculty, academic support faculty, and staff and Dean’s Office
Evaluate the learning outcomes of courses that support experiential learning	Evaluate ARTS 299 and ARTS 399 against CRIM 265 and CRIM 479.	Winter 2024 and Summer 2024	As above.
Review current best practices related to experiential learning and practicum	Revise practicum hours and credits. Revise practicum challenge option to ensure requirements are aligned with practicum competencies and requirements.	Winter 2024 and Summer 2024	As above.

### Governance and Resources

**Goal:** Address the need for growth with additional faculty hires and reduce the reliance on sessional instructors.

*Describe the rationale for the Goal and provide evidence supporting the necessity for the Goal.*

At the time of the last program review in 2015/2016, the School had 10 regular teaching faculty. Currently, the School has 12 regular teaching faculty. This reflects minimal faculty growth, despite a steady increase in the number of degree and diploma students. In 2016/2017, the number of degree and diploma students were 485 and 36, respectively, and in 2021/2022, the number of degree and diploma students were 511 and 220, respectively. Furthermore, UFV's 2030/2031 strategic enrolment management plan has set the following targets: an increase of 16.5% for the degree program and an increase of 13.2% for the diploma program between 2022/2023 and 2030/2031.

**Tasks to complete the goal (add rows as needed):**

*Identify the task(s) and describe the specific steps needed to address the goal, including key milestones and measurable outcomes. Identify potential issues and barriers, if relevant.*

Task	Key Milestone or Measurable Outcome	Timeline	Assigned to
Identify projected growth in applicants and admissions	Determine the number of additional faculty hires required to increase the number of students admitted to the degree and diploma programs, and to ensure timely progression and completion through the degree and diploma programs.	2024/2025 to 2027/2028	Dean's Office and School of Criminology and Criminal Justice Director

### Planning and Sustainability

**Goal:** Develop formal relationships with stakeholders and rightsholders to facilitate community engagement.

*Describe the rationale for the Goal and provide evidence supporting the necessity for the Goal.*

The external report encouraged the School to formalize its existing informal consultations with partners so that there is "sharing of these relationships among faculty, transparency in community involvement, and keeps the program responsive and accountable to community stake- and rights holders."

**Tasks to complete the goal (add rows as needed):**

*Identify the task(s) and describe the specific steps needed to address the goal, including key milestones and measurable outcomes. Identify potential issues and barriers, if relevant.*

Task	Key Milestone or Measurable Outcome	Timeline	Assigned to
Develop an external program advisory committee	Develop the external program advisory committee terms of reference and ensure it aligns with Policy 60 (External Program Advisory Committees). Identify relevant community stakeholders to participate in the external program advisory committee.	Winter 2025, Fall 2025, and Winter 2026	School of Criminology and Criminal Justice teaching faculty and academic support faculty

## Dean's Summary Statement

I commend the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice for engaging productively in this program review process by producing a robust self-study and responding thoughtfully to the external review report. As part of the site visit, which took place on September 28-29, 2023, the external review panel met with students, faculty, myself, and several institutional support areas.

The School and the Dean accept the majority of the panel's recommendations. Those not addressed in this response fall outside of the purview of the School or the Dean (e.g., institutional assessment of teaching to research ratios for faculty).

The panel's report makes a number of commendations, signaling areas where the School does especially well. Some of the most notable commendations relate to:

- The improvements made from the last review of 2017 with the School adopting many initiatives and recommendations
- Ongoing efforts and work towards Indigenization, decolonization, and reconciliation
- Excellence in student satisfaction: A high degree of satisfaction across multiple variables were reported, including high academic standards, support for those encountering learning and other difficulties, and degree of classroom engagement
- Efforts to seek and maintain work placement relationships
- Faculty engaged locally in research, and who have established valuable community relationships

The areas of strength identified in the above commendations and in the review as a whole indicate that the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice is a strong contributor to UFV's mandate and institutional priorities. The action items identified will ensure continued success of the program and enrolment growth.

## Action Plan reviewed and approved by:

Information verified by:

Department Head: Dr. Zina Lee

Date: January 31, 2024

Dean: Dr. Sylvie Murray

Date: January 29, 2024