

**CATALOG YEAR 2012-2013**COLLEGE/SCHOOL/SECTION:   COAS  

**Other:** Add information:   X   (add course fee) Change information:    Attach new/changed information. If in current online catalog, provide change and attach text with changes in red.

The Criminal Justice Program is proposing a course fee of \$85 per graduate course. The course fee would be assessed for: CRIJ 5301, 5302, 5305, 5315, 5320, 5325, 5326, 5327, 5330, 5335, 5337, 5140-5340, 5190-5690, 5345, 5398, and 5399.

**Justification:**

The Master of Science in Criminal Justice (MSCJ) is a completely online program. While students are charged a distance education fee (\$60 per semester credit hour), monies generated from such fees are used by OIT for support of the university's overall technology infrastructure (e.g., Angel platform) and used to support the needs of their office. The monies generated from the distance education fee are also used by OIT to provide faculty a one-time course incentive (about \$2500) to develop an online course. While the incentive is much appreciated, our program is seeking additional funds for academic enhancement of course content/material.

Being a regional university, our program must generate new funds to be able to keep pace with other universities offering online graduate degrees. In order to remain competition in this market and to recruit and retain students across the nation, our program needs monies for academic enhancement of course content/materials. The enhancement is not just the normal part of teaching a course, it requires active attention to the latest pedagogy in online instruction. Online pedagogical tools are in constant evolution due to changes in software and technological communication. This requires faculty to make continual pedagogical changes in online courses that are not akin to updating course content/material for classes taught in a traditional face-to-face on-campus venue. The addition of the course fee (\$85/per student/per course) to all of our graduate courses will be used to: (1) purchase educational materials such as videos, online supplemental course resources, and other multimedia content to ensure optimal and active student engagement, (2) purchase the latest software for online course development and to renew licenses for software/programs (e.g., WinCati Software license is \$5,000/year. WinCati software allows students to conduct quantitative and/or qualitative survey research that will encourage more students to complete a thesis or supervised research projects), and (3) to provide appropriate supervision of courses such as awarding faculty funds to continually enhance courses. This will be greatly needed to reframe our courses into a 5 week format, be able to offer more courses per semester, and thus to graduate students in a timely manner.

Because we launched our online program more than 6 years ago, most of our courses were developed in WebCt and/or an older online platform. Some of these courses do not have interactive videos, and rely solely on students reading long word documents posted by the faculty member. Thus, courses must be continually enhanced to incorporate new technology that allows for better student engagement. Also, the content of those courses must be updated to reflect the latest research in the field. Universities such as Sam Houston State, Arizona State, University of Cincinnati, which are ranked at the top in terms of online graduate degrees, pay faculty for the initial development of a course plus additional monies to enhance course content each time the course is offered. These online pedagogies that we wish to

implement are over and above the normal teaching associated with traditional classroom instruction.

**Budget:**

30 students/per class x 3 classes a year x \$85 = \$ 15, 300  
-7,000 (for educational materials)  
-5,000 (software/licenses [WinCati software = \$5,000/year])  
-3,300 (course enhancement)

Approvals:	Signature	Date
Chair Department Curriculum Committee	_____	_____
Chair Department	_____	_____
Chair College Curriculum Committee	_____	_____
Dean	_____	_____

04/2011