

Texas A&M International University Annual Institutional Effectiveness Review (AIER)

Date Submitted January 31, 2008 - (2007 Report)

Assessment Period Covered (2006)

Academic Program/AES Unit Criminal Justice

Person(s) Preparing Review John Kilburn and Dean Champion

Provide summary of the last cycle's use of results and changes implemented

Because we only graduate a few MSCJ students each year, data gathered on the program is an ongoing process. However, faculty discussions have led us to focus on core competencies that we consider necessary for demonstrating knowledge and preparation for further graduate study. With regards to curriculum, we have reconsidered our required courses (Criminological Theory, Administration of Justice, Ethics, and Advanced Research Methods) for the core of the program. Because most of our courses for this degree are taught online, students are writing considerably more than they have in the past.

Section I: Planning and Implementation
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Institutional Mission

Texas A&M International University, a Member of The Texas A&M University System, prepares students for leadership roles in their chosen profession in an increasingly complex, culturally diverse state, national, and global society ... Through instruction, faculty and student research, and public service, Texas A&M International University embodies a strategic point of delivery for well-defined programs and services that improve the quality of life for citizens of the border region, the State of Texas, and national and international communities.

Academic Program or Administrative/Educational Support Unit Mission

This program addresses the College (COAS) goal of preparing students for a variety of professions and roles by providing a broad-based liberal arts education. We provide a curriculum that teaches current and relevant Criminal Justice material and that facilitates employment in a high-demand field. The graduate program teaches advanced skills for those pursuing more knowledge in the field.

Identify outcomes and the relationship to Strategic Plan

Outcome 1

Is this outcome related to writing (QEP)?

Students will demonstrate use of appropriate methods to appraise contemporary criminal justice policies.

Identify Strategic Plan Goal related to Outcome 1

Goal 1 Academics

Identify Strategic Plan Objective related to Outcome 1

1.7 Establish and pursue student learning outcomes appropriate for each program with systematic assessment and use of results for continuous quality improvement.

Identify methods of assessment to be used

In addition to assessing the students' performance in the Advanced Research Methods course, students will be tested on the appropriate use of research methodology in their comprehensive exams.

Indicate when assessment will take place

Fall

Criteria/Benchmark

Students will analyze a particular research problem with use of appropriate methodology. They will demonstrate knowledge of appropriate qualitative methods, scales, and general survey design for different types of social problems.

Outcome 2

Is this outcome related to writing (QEP)?

Students will identify and explain the nature of major theoretical concepts and philosophies in Criminal Justice.

Identify Strategic Plan Goal related to Outcome 2

Goal 1 Academics

Identify Strategic Plan Objective related to Outcome 2

1.7 Establish and pursue student learning outcomes appropriate for each program with systematic assessment and use of results for continuous quality improvement.

Identify methods of assessment to be used

Comprehensive exam, faculty discussions regarding individual student progress in the Criminological Theory.

Indicate when assessment will take place

Spring

Criteria/Benchmark

Students will demonstrate that they can compare and contrast the applicability of each theory in explaining specific phenomenon. Application of various theories and critical analysis of each theoretical approaches utility in explaining specific criminal behaviors.

Outcome 3

Is this outcome related to writing (QEP)?

To demonstrate professional writing skills in Criminal Justice.

Identify Strategic Plan Goal related to Outcome 3

Goal 1 Academics

Identify Strategic Plan Objective related to Outcome 3

1.7 Establish and pursue student learning outcomes appropriate for each program with systematic assessment and use of results for continuous quality improvement.

Identify methods of assessment to be used

Faculty discussions related to research papers turned in for the graduate Ethics course.

Indicate when assessment will take place

Fall

Criteria/Benchmark

Students will demonstrate understanding of issues in the Criminal Justice system in terms of general operations and ethical principles.

Section II: Analysis of Results

When (term/date) was assessment conducted?

Outcome 1

December, 2007

Outcome 2

N/A

Outcome 3

December, 2007

What were the results attained (raw data)?

Outcome 1

One student failed to demonstrate basic understanding of the application of methods. Four demonstrated a basic understanding of the use of methods by applying one appropriate methodology. Two demonstrated appropriate use of methods and offered critiques about the appropriate research methods.

Outcome 2

Process takes place in Spring

Outcome 3

Of 12 students, 8 demonstrated competence in the application of ethical issues to professional careers. Four students did not complete the series of course assignments/online discussions.

Who (specify names) conducted analysis of data?

Outcome 1

Dean Champion, Claudia San Miguel, John Kilburn

Outcome 2

N/A

Outcome 3

Dean Champion

When were the results and analysis shared and with whom (department chair, supervisor, staff, external stakeholders)? Submit minutes with data analysis to assessment@tamiu.edu (Please use Minutes Template located on the [Project INTEGRATE](#) web page.)

NOTE: Submit all assessment documentation (i.e., surveys, rubrics, course exams with embedded questions, etc.) to the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning.

Use of Results: Indicate whether criteria were met/not met and what changes, if any, have been identified based on the data collected?

Outcome 1

Met Not Met

Provide narrative: Enter text here

Outcome 2

Met Not Met

Provide narrative: Enter text here

Outcome 3

Met Not Met

Provide narrative: Enter text here

How have these data-based changes improved your program/unit?

The MSCJ program will continue to discuss the format of our comprehensive exam. We believe that students need more time to develop appropriate responses to the comprehensive exam questions so we will now allow five hours to complete the questions for the exam. While the students seem to have a basic understanding of appropriate methods, the application of the methods should be in greater detail. Some students commented that they simply ran out of time. In terms of ethics, no changes are planned. We will continue to offer the course.

Section III: Programmatic Review

Are resources affected by the changes identified in Section II? Yes No

If so, specify the effect(s) using the chart below:

Funding	Physical	Other
<input type="checkbox"/> New resources required	<input type="checkbox"/> New or reallocated space	<input type="checkbox"/> Primarily faculty/staff time
<input type="checkbox"/> Reallocation of current funds		<input type="checkbox"/> University rule/procedure change only
		<input type="checkbox"/> Other: Enter text here

Provide a narrative description and justification for requested resources (include linkage to Strategic Plan)

Enter text here

Identify proposed outcomes for the next assessment cycle:
Continuation of present outcome(s) – (Indicate reason for continuation): We plan to continue monitoring all goals in a similar manner. The primary reason is to provide continuity in how we teach and assess student work from baseline scores.
New Outcome(s) – (List outcomes below): Enter text here
Modification of present outcome(s) – (Indicate reason for modification): Enter text here

****** This section to be completed by dean/director/vice-president ******

Are resources requested a priority for the academic program/AES unit?

Yes No

Comments:

Enter text here

If funding, physical or other resources were requested, what is the impact of the budget decisions on the academic program/AES unit?

Enter text here