

III The Development of Graduate Student Learning Outcomes and Exit Survey

CRIMINOLOGY

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Workshop Objectives

- Develop student learning outcomes at the graduate level using the department's three core pillars
- Refashion our graduate assessment procedures
 - Create a graduate exit survey
 - Modify our capstone paper assessment procedures



Data Discussed

- We relied on information from the undergraduate exit survey to help us to create the graduate exit survey
- We also relied on the capstone paper requirements to assist us with the creation of the exit survey and student learning outcomes
- Past graduate committee deliberations were also used to inform the creation of the survey



Conclusions Reached

- The committee created five graduate student learning outcomes. Students who graduate from our program should be able to:
 - Conduct a thorough and critical review of the research literature on current legal or policy-related issues in criminal justice.
 - Demonstrate problem-solving and analytic skills relevant to criminal justice.
 - Integrate leadership and ethical concepts within criminal justice practices.
 - Apply critical thinking skills to analyze the causes of criminal activity and offender decision making.
 - Formulate and communicate evidence-based recommendations for improving and revising existing policy and framing an agenda for future research.



Conclusions Reached

Missouri State University's Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice Graduate Student Exit Survey

As you prepare to leave the MSU graduate program in criminology and criminal justice, we are interested in hearing more about your experience in the program, as well as your plans after graduation. Please answer the questions below as honestly and thoroughly as possible. Your responses will help us continue to improve the program for current and future students.

To begin, we would appreciate having some information about you:

1. Your Name: _____
2. M # _____
3. Age: _____
4. Gender: _____
5. Please select the racial or ethnic group that you most identify with:
 - African-American (non-Hispanic)
 - Asian/Pacific Islanders
 - Caucasian (non-Hispanic)
 - Latino/a/x or Hispanic
 - Native American
 - Other _____
6. Are you the first person in your family to earn a master's degree?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure



Conclusions Reached

- *Next, we would like to ask you some questions about your overall experience and level of satisfaction with our program. Please select the answer that best describes how you would rate your opinion/experience (Response categories: Excellent, Good, Fair, or Poor):*
 - The quality of instruction provided by the program's faculty
 - The level of knowledge exhibited by the program's faculty
 - The level to which faculty were approachable and accessible to you for academic support
 - The level to which faculty were approachable and accessible to you for career guidance and mentoring
 - The variety of courses taught within the program
 - The general availability of courses needed to complete the requirements of your criminology/criminal justice degree
 - The quality of assistance provided to you by your academic advisor



Conclusions Reached

- *In the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, we have several graduate student outcomes that we hope to enhance as part of your experience in our program. Please rate our faculty's overall efforts to improve your mastery of the following (Response categories: Excellent, Good, Fair, or Poor):*
 - Conduct a thorough and critical review of the research literature on current legal or policy-related issues in criminal justice.
 - Demonstrate problem-solving and analytic skills relevant to criminal justice.
 - Integrate leadership and ethical concepts within criminal justice practices.
 - Apply critical thinking skills to analyze the causes of criminal activity and offender decision making.
 - Formulate and communicate evidence-based recommendations for improving and revising existing policy and framing an agenda for future research.



Conclusions Reached

Next, we would like to ask you for some feedback on the Criminology & Criminal Justice graduate program in your own words. Please take the time to answer each question in a detailed and thoughtful way:

26. What are one or two things you feel enhanced, or contributed positively, to your criminology/criminal justice education at MSU?
27. What are one or two things that you consider to be a weakness concerning your criminology/criminal justice education at MSU?
28. Could you provide and discuss examples of how you might be able to utilize what you have learned about leadership and/or ethics to assist you in your professional career or in serving your community?
29. Describe how our program has enabled you to be a more effective decision-maker in your occupation, if you believe the program has accomplished this.
30. How might you take what you learned about criminal justice or legal-based policy to improve matters in the agency where you currently work or may work in the future?
31. What are some things that you feel should have received greater coverage in your criminology/criminal justice classes? Please explain your answer.
32. Are there any specific courses that you would recommend we offer in the criminology/criminal justice graduate program that we did not make available to you?

Conclusions Reached

33. Please tell us what kinds of teaching methods and styles you found most effective during your time as a student in the criminology/criminal justice graduate program at MSU. (Examples might include but are not limited to: recorded lectures, discussion board, case studies, assigned media/documentaries, group learning, PowerPoint presentations, etc.). Please explain your answer.
34. Apart from your decision to attend MSU, what motivated you to pursue a master's degree in criminology & criminal justice?
35. Why did you choose to complete your graduate degree in criminology & criminal justice specifically at MSU?
36. If you know someone who is seeking a graduate degree in criminology and criminal justice, how likely would you be to recommend MSU's graduate program? (circle one)

Very Likely Somewhat Likely Somewhat Unlikely Very Unlikely

Please explain your answer:

Lastly, we have a few questions concerning your plans and goals after graduation:

	Very Likely	Somewhat Likely	Somewhat Unlikely	Very Unlikely
37. How likely are you to attend a doctoral program or law school?				



Conclusions Reached

38. After graduation, what area in the criminal justice field are you most hoping to start/continue working in?

- State or Local Law enforcement
- Federal Law Enforcement
- Institutional Corrections (prison or jail)
- Community Corrections (probation or parole)
- Juvenile justice
- Law/Courts
- Victim Services
- I do not plan on working in a criminal justice field
- Other _____

39. Are you currently working in a criminal justice related field? If so, what is your current position/job title?

40. Will the completion of this Master of Science in Criminology degree help you advance in your position or obtain a promotion at your current or future job?

41. Please feel free to add any additional comments concerning any aspect of your experience with the criminology & criminal justice graduate program at MSU.



Conclusions Reached

Thank you for completing this survey! In order to help us keep in touch with you about alumni events and other opportunities, please provide us with the following contact information:

Phone Number: _____

Permanent Email Address (e.g. [gmail](#), [yahoo](#), etc): _____

Permanent Mailing Address: _____



Items Chosen for Action

- We plan to create a zero-credit course (pass/not pass) that will require graduate students to complete the survey
 - In order to create this course, we will need to submit a new course proposal and program change



Follow-up Plans & Next Steps

- We plan to have the entire graduate faculty vote on the new student learning outcomes and graduate exit survey
 - After the changes have been approved, we plan to implement the exit survey in the fall 2023 semester
- Continue to develop a rubric for the capstone paper
- Submit course proposal and program change paperwork



Items that Need Action at Higher Levels than the Department

- We will need to seek approval for the new course proposal and the program change



Questions?