

2017 Assessment Grant Applications

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4. Campus Location/Address

Strong Hall 230A

5. College

College of Humanities and Public Affairs

6. Department and Program

Criminology and Criminal Justice

7. Have you received written approval from your department head or dean?

My Department Head has approved this proposal.

8. Will your program, department, or college support this project in any way?

No

9. What is the title of your proposal?

The Development of Assessment Tools for CRM210 (Introduction to the American Criminal Justice System)

10. Eligible Project

Incentivize faculty for the extra work involved in assessment

11. What do you plan to purchase or pay for?

We recently had our Introduction to the American Criminal Justice System(CRM210) course accepted in the General Education curriculum. Before the start of the fall 2017 semester, we will need to develop a self-report survey, a pretest/posttest, and a rubric for all required journal assignments in the course. These tools will be used to assess the student learning outcomes associated with General Goals 1, 2, and 12. We are seeking to sponsor a one day retreat over the summer to assist with the development of these tools. As part of this retreat, we would like to provide both a free lunch (~\$100) and a small monetary incentive to participating faculty members (~\$400). Eight faculty members have expressed interest in participating, which would equate to an incentive of approximately \$50 per person.

12. What contributions will this work have on enhancing student learning?

The development of the assessment tools will allow us to evaluate student learning in the course. We plan to assess student learning using a self-report survey, a pretest/posttest, and a standardized rubric for the journal assignments. The self-report survey will be designed to capture whether students continue to embrace popular myths surrounding how the criminal justice system operates. This assessment tool will be used to determine whether students still harbor incorrect assumptions about the criminal

justice system at the conclusion of the course. The pretest and the posttest will be designed to directly capture whether students have increased their knowledge about the criminal justice system throughout the course. The pretest will be distributed at the beginning of the course and the posttest will be distributed at end of the semester. The pretest/posttest will focus on a number of issues related to how the courts, law enforcement, and correctional institutions operate. Finally, we will develop a rubric that can be used by instructors to assess the required journal assignments associated with the course. We have a number of faculty members teaching the course in the fall semester, so we will need to develop a standardized rubric that can be used across all classes.

13. What is your time frame for the proposed project?

We are planning to complete the assessment tools by the beginning of the fall 2017 semester. Depending on the availability of participating faculty members, ideally, we would like to schedule the retreat for early July.

14. How will the results of this project be used for program improvement?

The results associated with this project will assist with the development of multiple assessment tools, which will be used to assess student learning in our Introduction to the American Criminal Justice Systems course. These assessment tools will help us to determine the degree to which we are reaching the general goals and the student learning outcomes associated with the course. Furthermore, bringing faculty members together for this retreat will likely assist in our future endeavors to develop and refine broader program assessment strategies.

15. Do you agree to write a brief report by the end of this fiscal year (June 30, 2018)?

Yes

16. Do you agree to share the funded project at the time of its completion?

Yes

17. How do you plan to show evidence of student learning?

All three of the assessment tools will be designed to evaluate student learning in the course. The self-report survey will assist with determining whether the presentation of material in the course has shaped students' perceptions on the criminal justice system. This survey will assist with evaluating whether students still embrace inaccurate notions about how the criminal justice system operates. The pretest/posttest will examine whether students have learned and retained key pieces of information about the criminal justice system throughout the course. Finally, the rubric for the journal assignments will allow faculty members to assess student learning using a standardized tool. The rubric will allow us to ensure that the written assignments are being assessed using the same criteria across all of the classes. In addition, the development of this rubric will help us to examine critical thinking skills that might otherwise not be formally assessed.