

MEMORANDUM

To: University Undergraduate Program Committee (UUPC)

From: Dr. John Smykla, Director
School of Criminology & Criminal Justice (SCCJ)

Dr. Bruce J. Arneklev, Assistant Director
Undergraduate Coordinator SCCJ

RE: Changes to the Undergraduate Program in the SCCJ

Date: December 15th, 2014

The School of Criminology & Criminal Justice (SCCJ) faculty voted on Friday, December 5th to make the following changes to the BA in Criminal Justice. Most of the changes reflect attempts to improve retention in our School.

Immediate Changes:

1. Make *Methods of Research In Criminal Justice (CCJ4700)* a prerequisite to *Criminology (CCJ3014)*
2. Remove *Criminal Justice Technology (CJE3692C)* as a Required Core course and add it as a Restricted Elective course
3. Reduce the *Required Core* course credit hours from 12 Credit Hours to 9 Credit Hours because of the elimination of CJ Technology as a Required Core course (keeping Criminology – CCJ3014; Methods of Research in CJ – CCJ4700 and Ethics in the Justice System – CCJ4054 as the three remaining required courses – 3 credits each).
4. Require students to take three *Restricted Electives* (9 credits) rather than just two (6 credits) from our *Restricted Electives* courses, which will keep the SCCJ Undergraduate Program as a 30 credit hour program.

Rational for Changes

1. *Methods of Research in Criminal Justice (CCJ4700)* has a very high D/F/W rate and it lengthens time to graduation because SCCJ undergraduate students often put off taking it until their very last semester at FAU and then, when they do, they often find that do not pass it with a “C or better”. This in spite of the fact the College for Design and Social

Inquiry's (CDSI) Undergraduate Advisers constantly remind students to not take "Methods" during their last semester. Yet, students still often take it in their last semester and it is typically those students that are least likely to pass the class that seem to be the ones that are most likely to put it off until their last semester. CCJ4700 was the third highest course of the "Top 10 flagged courses" at FAU in the spring of 2014.

In order to ensure that students do not take "Methods" for the first time in their last semester, the SCCJ would like to change our program so that *Methods of Research in CJ* (CCJ4700) is a prerequisite to our Required *Criminology* (CCJ3024) course.

- *Criminology* is a course that focuses on criminological theories. Criminological theories are seen as "theories" because they are supported by the empirical evidence. Therefore, since the *Methods of Research in CJ* course covers the scientific method and how we gather empirical data to evaluate theories, it is logically the correct course to offer as a prerequisite for *Criminology*.

Many of the professors teaching *Criminology* have stated that having *Methods* as a prerequisite to the class will improve their ability to increase the quality of how it is taught because students will already understand the scientific methods prior to taking it. Therefore, they will be able to much greater detail about the specifics of each theory, including the different methodologies for how they can be tested, and if they are supported by the empirical evidence.

2. In the fall of 2014, *Criminal Justice Technology* (CJE3692C) became the SCCJ's highest D/F/W course with as many as 25% of the students in a class taking it ending up on the D/F/W list. By moving it from a Required CCJ Course to a restricted elective we hope to greatly lower this percentage.
3. By removing CJ Tech as *Required Core* course it reduces the number of Required Core credits hours from 12 (four courses) to 9 (three courses).
4. By reducing the number of Required Core courses from four courses (12 credits) to three courses (9 credits) the SCCJ needed come up with three more credits (i.e. 1 more course) for students to take to keep the program as a 30 credit program. This could have been done by requiring undergraduate SCCJ students to take an additional Restricted Elective *OR* an additional Elective. Since we are moving CJ Tech to being a Required Elective we are asking students to now choose *three* courses from the six courses to choose from there (rather than two from the previously offered five courses).

CATALOG: After the changes to the SCCJ Undergraduate Program have been made, it will look something like the following in the catalog (changes in red).

Criminal Justice Core Courses - 12 9 credits		
Criminology	CCJ 3014**	3
Ethics and the Justice System	CCJ 4054	3
Methods of Research in Criminal Justice	CCJ 4700*	3
Criminal Justice Technology	CJE 3692C	3
* Requires STA 2023 or STA 3163 as a prerequisite. **Requires CCJ4700 as a prerequisite.		
Restricted Electives - 6 9 credits (Choose two three of the following five restricted electives.)		
Criminal Justice Management	CCJ 4450	3
Corrections	CJC 4310	3
Criminal Justice Technology	CJE 3692C	3
Policing in America	CJE 4352	3
Juvenile Justice Administration	CJJ 4010	3
Judicial Administration and the Criminal Courts	CJL 4510	3
Free Electives - 12 credits (Choose four of the following 17 elective courses.)		
Crime in the Schools	CCJ 3660	3
Victimology	CCJ 3666	3
Restorative Community Justice	CCJ 4141	3
Studying Violence	CCJ 4623	3
Organized Crime and the Business of Drugs	CCJ 4642	3
White Collar Crime	CCJ 4644	3
Women and Criminal Justice	CCJ 4670	3
Issues in Criminal Law	CCJ 4931	3
Special Topics	CCJ 4934	3
International Criminal Justice Systems	CJE 4174	3
Problem Solving in Crime Situations	CJE 4412	3
Crime Prevention	CJE 4444	3
Fundamentals of Criminal Investigation	CJE 4610	3

Crime Analysis	CJE 4663	3
Computer Crime	CJE 4668	3
Criminal Law and the Constitution	CJL 4064	3
Terrorism	DSC 4012	3
Additional Choices (Students may also complete an internship or directed independent study; certain restrictions would apply.)		
Directed Independent Study	CCJ 4905	1-3
Criminal Justice Field Experience	CCJ 4940++	3

I have included three attachments. Each illustrates the proposed changes to undergraduate program. The last attachment is probably the most important.

- The first attachment is a copy of the SCCJ Undergraduate Program Brochure (in a Microsoft *Publisher Format*) that includes the proposed changes in it (in red).
- The second attachment similarly illustrates what the changes will look like to the on-line description of the program.
- The third attachment is the SCCJ Flight Plan with the modified changes that illustrates when students should be taking their undergraduate courses. The most important chronological change here is that students will be taking Methods of Research (CCJ4700) prior to Criminology (CCJ3024). The changes start in **Year 3**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bruce J. Arneklev

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