

One Year Follow-Up to the PPR Report (Department of Criminology)

As per the recommendation of the Academic Standards Committee, the following information is provided as a one-year follow up report on the BA program in the Department of Criminology. The Academic Standards Committee requires the following information:

1. A report on the status of the initiatives outlined in the Developmental Plan.
2. An update on the Department's plan to address issues identified in the mapping of required courses to program learning outcomes.
3. An update on the refinement of the program learning outcomes.
4. A complete set of recent course outlines, including the required SSH courses.

1. A report on the status of the initiatives outlined in the Developmental Plan

Priority #1 – Student Engagement and Fostering Community-Based Engagement

The Department has continued to engage students through the following events:

In-class events: the Walls to Bridges program has taken place in a number of classes, bringing current and past incarcerated women face-to-face with students to learn about a variety of issues. This program has replaced the student-run prison trip. Maria Sheppard, who was wrongfully convicted of murdering her step-daughter, and her son Jordan Carter, spoke to students about the impact of wrongful convictions on families; Deborah Newman, Distinguished Visiting Scholar, organized both a panel session on probation as a profession, as well as a tour of two detention centres in the Toronto area; Dr. Alok Mukherjee, also a DVP in the department (along with EDI) has held seminars and classes on policing, democracy and social justice; restorative justice demonstration projects are integrated into a 4th year seminar.

Out-of-class events: Kimberly Murray, Executive Director of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, led an open event on the TRC and Calls to Action in the context of Education and Reconciliation; Dr. Emily Vander Meulen (along with the student union and the Career Centre) organized “Criminal and Social Justice Careers Night” where professionals from a variety of professional workplaces attended to provide students with information about a range of possible career options.

Priority #2 - Increasing SRC Excellence and Impact

We have achieved perhaps our most important initiative with the final approval of our MA in Criminology and Social Justice, received in March, 2017. We are accepting our first cohort of students in Fall, 2017. This will help us provide faculty with qualified research and grading assistance and also allow us to provide teaching and training opportunities to “our own” students.

The department continues to organize and host valuable scholarly events, such as “The Figure of the Migrant in Literature” (organized by Dr. Idil Atak on October 16th, 2016), and “Sex Work Past & Present” (co-organized by Drs. Dan Horner and Emily Vander Meulen on March 29th, 2016).

Please see Appendix A for a partial list of the department SRC since the PPR was submitted.

Priority #3 – Continuing to Foster Interdisciplinarity in the Department and Building Bridges to Other Faculties/Programs

We have continued on our path to hire extremely strong candidates and to increase our departmental interdisciplinarity. We have had two successful hires – Dr. Dan Horner (with a PhD in history) was hired in 2015 and Dr. Shiri Pasternak (with a PhD in Geography) will join the department on July 1st, 2017. We were unsuccessful in filling our position in

critical theories but will re-interview for that position, plus an additional one approved with the launch of our graduate program, next year. We also have benefitted from the contributions of two Distinguished Visiting Scholars: Deborah Newman, who is cross-appointed between Criminology and Public Policy, and Dr. Alok Mukherjee, cross-appointed between Criminology and EDI. Dr. Mukherjee has created the Centre for Excellence in Policing and Justice, in which the department will take an active role.

Priority #4 – Continue to Attract Excellent Students at the Undergraduate Level

Demand for places in the BA (Criminology) program continues to be robust. The number of weekly applications into Criminology in 2016 stood at 3003. The number of weekly applications in 2017 was 3034, making Criminology the highest program in terms of the number of weekly applications in the Faculty of Arts. Continuing high applicant demand ensures that the program is attracting well qualified students with an entrance cut-off average of 87% for 2017 applicants. This cut-off average, along with the Psychology program, is the highest in the Faculty of Arts.

2. An update on the Department's plan to address issues identified in the mapping of required courses to program learning outcomes

In 2016 the Department began to implement revisions to our curriculum to address some of the issues identified in the PPR. For example, in order to address the overlap and repetition of some material, and to reinforce issues of social inequality early in the program, we created a grouping of courses (CRM202, CRM402 and CRM 205) for students to choose from in second year, rather than have them all required, and some not until 4th year.

To address the paucity of 2nd year courses (which was dealt with, in part, by the grouping described, above), we made CRM400 (Indigenous Governance/Justice) as a required second year course and have developed a number of new courses (coinciding with the hiring of new faculty). We now have 7 additional second year elective courses in addition to the core courses discussed above.

To address the concerns about proficiency in oral communication, all sections of the CRM406 (Advanced Seminar), required in 4th year, now requires a presentation.

3. An update on the refinement of the program learning outcomes

As per the request, the program learning goals were remapped, using the current, updated curriculum. The revised program goals (see **Appendix B**) more accurately reflect realistic expectations for graduating students. The current mapping of existing courses (see **Appendix C**) reveals that some gaps remain in regards to program goals 2b (critically reviews, evaluates and applies qualitative information, synthesizes research findings and effectively communicates results) and 2c (critically reviews, evaluates and applies quantitative information; synthesizes research findings and effectively communicates results). Currently, students may be lacking sufficient proficiency in these two areas. These gaps will be addressed by the introduction of two mandatory courses to the Criminology curriculum (CRM 310 and CRM 315), which will address proficiency in regards to quantitative and qualitative research methods.

4. A complete set of recent course outlines, including the required SSH courses

-please see attached **Appendix D**