

Degree Designation Change Proposal: B.A. to B.S. in Criminal Justice

Criterion 1: Change in Purpose of the Program

Indicate why the modification of degree designation is desired and explain why the change does not fundamentally change the purpose of the existing program.

Through the years, the Criminal Justice program at Stockton has been modified as the field has changed (see details of just the past five years below). This has been done with the sole purpose of ensuring that we are preparing well-rounded, contemporary criminal justice practitioners. As the field has progressed, the need to provide more extensive and targeted knowledge about the criminal justice system and the roles its practitioners play to our students has increased significantly. As a result, the faculty have had to regularly re-evaluate the balance between preparing Criminal Justice generalists and preparing Criminal Justice professionals within a liberal arts ethos. At this point, the faculty has decided that more major changes are necessary in the program to adequately prepare our students to be Criminal Justice professionals. This resulting proposal to convert the Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice degree to a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice degree is the product of many years of these discussions in the context of the ever-changing field of Criminal Justice.

It is and always has been the goal of the Criminal Justice program that our students graduate with the most up-to-date and relevant knowledge that is available so that these students are willing and active participants in the evidence-based practices heralded throughout the field of Criminal Justice. In 2022, because of the changing field of Criminal Justice in reaction to the social justice movements through the U.S. related to police brutality, the faculty became deeply concerned regarding the lack of imminent response from the field training that was continuing to be given to incoming criminal justice practitioners. Despite the recently highlighted problems in the system, the field training has not provided access to the knowledge and tools that the empirical research highlights as essential to the best practice of justice. For example, the last time the New Jersey Police Academy curriculum was adopted was in 2014 with very minor updates in 2022 and it is one of the most extensive and intensive academy curricula in the country. Of the 700 hours of training included the NJ Police Academy curriculum, relevant areas make up the following portions of training:

- Cultural Diversity training, 2.5 hours (.4%)
- Crisis Intervention training, 4.0 hours (.6%)
- Community Referrals training, 1.0 hour (.1%)
- Handling Individuals with Special Needs training, 1.5 hours (.2%)
- Racial Profiling training, 2.5 hours (.4%)
- Bias Crimes training, 2.0 hours (.3%)
- Fair and Impartial Policing training, 6.5 hours (Elective/Optional; .9%)
- Handling Disturbances, Disputes and Domestic Violence Situations training, 6.0 hours (.9%)
- Verbal and Non-Verbal Communications training, 1.5 hours (.2%)
- Use of Force training, 5.0 hours (.7%)
- Domestic Violence training, including paperwork, arrests, etc., 17.0 hours (2.4%)

As an additional result of the recently highlighted problems in the system, enrollment in the CRIM program has declined 17% since Fall 2020. The Criminal Justice departments across the country graduating the highest numbers of Criminal Justice degrees (e.g., CUNY John Jay, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston University; Data USA, 2023) are those with a more progressive, more contemporary curricula (John Jay College of Criminal Justice, 2023; Sam Houston State University, 2023). Additionally, the Advisory Board for the Master's of Arts in Criminal Justice program, consisting of both alumni and local criminal justice practitioners, have endorsed the need for curricula that are more progressive, including discussions of both race and special populations, to better prepare practitioners in the field of criminal justice. As a result of both the field changes and enrollment trends, the faculty re-started in-depth and serious conversations about how we could fill the gaps in the field training for our students; how we could provide the knowledge and the tools that the students need to become well-rounded, contemporary criminal justice practitioners within the confines of our curriculum.

Within these discussions, the faculty concluded that we could not properly prepare our students for the field within the confines of a Bachelor of Arts. The Bachelor of Arts degree at Stockton, which relies on 4-credit classes as opposed to 3-credit courses, limits the number of Criminal Justice courses Stockton students can take to just 10-13 courses (depending on the concentration that the student chooses). While the 4-credit courses allow for more breadth to be covered in courses (which the faculty fully appreciate and support), it also decreases the number of classes a student can take, thereby limiting the ability of students to gain the necessary knowledge relevant to criminal justice.

A two-day meeting of the faculty (which consists of both academics and former Criminal Justice practitioners) was held in the summer of 2022 to formally discuss expanding the program curriculum without fundamentally changing the intended purpose of preparing students to be well rounded Criminal Justice practitioners. It was confirmed by the will of the faculty that to carry out the current purpose of the program, conversion of the degree to a Bachelor of Science would be the best course of action. The Bachelor of Science would allow students to take 16 Criminal Justice courses, thereby allowing three to six additional classes for students to get the contemporary and evidence-based information relevant to the current field of Criminal Justice. The faculty then developed the changes listed below and detailed in Criterion 2 to expand the program. At the core, the changes are the faculty's best determination to prepare our students to better deal with issues that are not being adequately addressed in their field training, such as: racial disparities in the criminal justice system, use of (excessive) force, disproportionate minority contacts, and interactions with emotionally disturbed persons, among others. This program is not changing its essential purpose but instead adapting its approach to that purpose to continue to accommodate a regularly changing field.

The faculty did extensive research on similar Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice programs in NJ (see Appendix A) and determined that only four universities/colleges in the state offer a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice: two private universities/colleges and two public universities/colleges (see Table 1). None of those programs is hosted at a public, liberal arts university/college, which provides Stockton a unique opportunity to allow students extra access to the knowledge and tools they need to be well-rounded, contemporary criminal justice practitioners while also still benefitting from the widely known advantages of a liberal arts

education. Additionally, none of these four colleges/universities' Criminal Justice curricula require classes focused specifically on race and/or understanding and interacting with special populations in the criminal justice system as our proposed curriculum does. Lastly, only one other program requires a class focusing on victimology. This significantly distinguishes the curriculum of Stockton's proposed Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice program from other NJ universities/colleges.

Table 1. Comparison of Core Curriculum Across Similar Criminal Justice, B.S. Programs in NJ

Required Core Classes in Criminal Justice, B.S.	Stockton University	Berkeley College (Justice Studies)	Felician College	NJCU	Rutgers - Newark
Introduction to Criminal Justice	X	X	X	X	X
Criminological Theories	X	X	X	X	X
Courts, Law, and Procedure	X	X	X	X	
Police and Society	X	X		X	
Community and Institutional Corrections	X	X		X	
Research & Evaluation in Criminal Justice	X	X		X	X
Statistics in Criminal Justice	X				X
Victimology	X		X		
Constitutional Law for Criminal Justice	X	X	X	X	
Special Populations in Criminal Justice	X				
Race and Criminal Justice	X				
Criminal Justice Capstone	X		X		
Introduction to Psychology	X				
Introduction to Sociology	X				

Note: An "X" indicates the class is a requirement of the B.S. program.

The faculty recognize that by changing our program from a B.A. degree to a B.S. degree we are reducing the number of classes in the General Studies curriculum that students will take. While this is not an anomaly at Stockton, as 23 of the 50 currently offered undergraduate degrees impose similar curricular restrictions in their B.S. degrees, the faculty strove to keep as much of the liberal arts education ethos as possible in its formulation of the proposed Bachelor of Science curriculum. Some of the early suggested modifications included requiring minors and/or specific At-Some-Distance or G-acronym courses for our students. While the faculty currently strongly encourage our students to engage in a minor (and will continue to do so), the faculty felt that

mandating a minor or specific G courses was even more antithetical to the General Studies ethos as it would be restricting students' freedom of choice in knowledge exploration. Additionally, by not seeking out any of the General Studies' attributes for these new classes, the faculty are guaranteeing that Criminal Justice students will still need to seek those attributes out through engaging in the General Studies curriculums. As a result, the students will continue to be required to seek out and hear other perspectives from other departments and gain the well-rounded liberal arts education that Stockton espouses, and the field of criminal justice demands.

Provide a record of significant changes to the existing degree program made during the previous five years.

Addition and removal of a Race and Justice requirement: In Fall 2020, the CRIM program faculty voted to implement a Race and Justice requirement for all CRIM majors matriculating in Fall 2021. The ethos of the requirement was to expose our students to additional, academic information regarding how race influences the criminal justice system. However, at the time, the program could not offer that type of class in-house, so the Program Chair at that time came up with a list of race-relevant (but not criminal justice relevant) classes already offered by other programs at Stockton which could satisfy the requirement. Then, in Fall 2021, the University implemented its own Race and Racism Education requirement which required all Stockton students to take two race-related classes. Once this University requirement was implemented, the Race and Justice requirement, as also implemented in Fall 2021, became redundant to the University requirement. As a result, the program faculty voted in Spring 2023 to eliminate the requirement to allow students an easier pathway towards graduation while still being exposed to the race-relevant information that the faculty believed was essential to their general education.

Addition and modification of a Foundational Cognate requirement: In Fall 2020, the CRIM program faculty voted to implement a Foundational Cognate requirement for all CRIM majors matriculating in Fall 2021. The ethos of the requirement was to ensure that our students were exposed to a specific type of social and behavioral sciences knowledge that would benefit them in their careers in the criminal justice system. When implemented, the classes that were offered as part of the requirement only partially achieved this goal. Additionally, some of the classes included in the requirement became redundant when the University implemented their Race Education requirements. As a result, in Spring 2023, the CRIM program faculty voted to change the classes that were part of the requirement to fully fulfill the original ethos of the requirement. They voted to require that, to fulfill the Foundational Cognate requirement, all CRIM majors that matriculated in or after Fall 2023 would have a choice of taking either Introduction to Sociology OR Introduction to Psychology.

Changes to the curriculum for Homeland Security concentration: In Fall 2018, when the CRIM program hired multiple new faculty members with expertise in Homeland Security, the program took the opportunity to revise the Homeland Security concentration to better reflect the contemporary field of Homeland Security. The faculty decided to include new electives from which the students could choose to take that more fully encompassed the heterogeneity in today's Homeland Security field (e.g., Cybercrime, Race, Ethnicity and Immigration). This change was implemented in Fall 2019.

Changes to the curriculum for the Forensic Investigations concentration: When the main faculty member for the Forensic Investigations concentration retired in Spring 2022, the CRIM program faculty took that as an opportunity to revisit the curriculum for the concentration. The faculty decided to keep some of the main hands-on, skills-based classes that had already been a part of the concentration and to include additional interdisciplinary options for students to experience the wide breadth of skills required in forensic investigations (e.g., Financial Accounting, Digital Image and Print, Entomology, Computing Concepts). This change was implemented in Fall 2022 and as of the start of Spring 2023, the concentration was fully re-staffed.

Criterion 2: Changes to Courses in the Major

Present a comparison of the courses in the major for the existing program to the courses in the program with the new degree designation, noting recent changes and proposed new changes.

Please see Table 2 for a full curriculum comparison. Bolded classes in the Bachelor of Science curriculum chart indicate that the class is an added requirement that is not included in any way in the current Bachelor of Arts curriculum.

In the Bachelor of Science degree that we are proposing, four brand new class requirements will be added: Introduction to Victimology, Special Populations in Criminal Justice, Race and Criminal Justice, and Constitutional Law for Criminal Justice. Of these brand-new requirements, two classes are new classes that have been recently (Summer 2023) proposed and approved: Special Populations in Criminal Justice and Race and Criminal Justice. None of the new classes will impact the current (AY 2024-2025) concentrations and their requirements. The class descriptions (and their context) of each of the newly required courses are as follows:

Special Populations in Criminal Justice

Course Description: This course provides a critical analysis of professionals, victims, and perpetrators in the criminal justice system who are women, LGBTQ+ persons, and individuals with perceived or diagnosed mental illness. Other special populations, including juveniles, the elderly, people experiencing homelessness, ethnic, religious minorities, immigrants and undocumented persons, and people with disabilities may be covered. Prerequisite: Introduction to Criminal Justice, Theories of Crime. Open to only CRIM Juniors and Seniors.

Context: The faculty consciously decided to not have the new classes satisfy any of the General Studies attributes requirements that are core to Stockton's General Studies curriculum. While components of that curriculum certainly overlay these specific groups, each of these groups has individual and specific challenges in the criminal justice system that our students need to be aware of. There are classes in the current University curriculum that could orient our students to these groups individually and the faculty acknowledge the importance of those classes. However, the criminal justice system is a unique context in which the manifestations of the characteristics of each of these populations take on a unique impact. As a result, the faculty felt that it was essential that our students get context-specific knowledge of how these groups are impacted within the criminal justice system. Criminal justice practitioners do not get to choose who they interact with, or the circumstances in which they interact, so we need our students to be as prepared to interact with as many different types of people as possible within the context of the criminal justice system before they go into the field and practice.

Race and Criminal Justice

Course description: This course includes a critical examination of the historical and contemporary overrepresentation of racial minorities, particularly African Americans, in the United States' criminal justice system. Students will discuss relevant economic, political, and sociological factors that shape race-based experiences in the criminal justice system and normative issues of justice and equity. Prerequisite: Introduction to Criminal Justice. Open to only CRIM students.

Context: The faculty consciously decided to not have the new classes satisfy any of the General Studies and Race and/or Racism Education attributes requirements that are core to Stockton's General Studies curriculum. However, the new R1/R2 requirement is aimed towards addressing education in race and racism within a wide variety of fields. We endorse the importance of our students' need for this knowledge in theory and in practice. Currently, there is no class offered on campus (by any department or within the General Studies curriculum) that specifically addresses race and racism primarily in the criminal justice system. Race and racism within the criminal justice system has its own specific manifestations and impacts that the faculty think is essential for our students to understand in order to become the best criminal justice practitioners. Without the field-specific knowledge, we leave it open to chance whether our students will apply the wider knowledge of race and racism to their future careers in ways that will progress the field and address obvious errors in the system. As a result, we believe that it's essential that our students gain wider knowledge from the R1/R2 curriculum *in addition* to our criminal-justice-system-specific curriculum.

In addition to the four new class requirements, we are also proposing the removal of the current choice that students have in the Bachelor of Arts curriculum between Introduction to Sociology or Introduction to Psychology (e.g., the Foundational Cognate requirement). Instead, in the Bachelor of Science curriculum, students will be required to take both Introduction to Sociology and Introduction to Psychology. By requiring students to take both classes, the faculty is further ensuring that students will hear and learn from varied perspectives and seek out a well-rounded understanding of the world.

Table 2. Curriculum Comparison Between Criminal Justice, B.A., and Criminal Justice, B.S.

Core Classes Required for Criminal Justice Degree	B.A.	B.S.
Introduction to Criminal Justice	X	X
Criminological Theories	X	X
Courts, Law, and Procedure	X	X
Police and Society	X	X
Community and Institutional Corrections	X	X
Research & Evaluation in Criminal Justice	X	X
Statistics in Criminal Justice	X	X
Victimology		X
Constitutional Law for Criminal Justice		X
Special Populations in Criminal Justice		X

Race and Criminal Justice		X
Criminal Justice Capstone	X	X
Introduction to Psychology	Choose 1	X
Introduction to Sociology		X

Resources: Detail of the Resources Required to Implement and Maintain the Degree

Faculty Lines

The Criminal Justice program has done an extensive analysis of the program's ability to implement this new curriculum based on the current faculty, their contract teaching requirements, their regular teaching loads, the current and future use of adjuncts, and the pedagogical expertise of all teaching faculty (full-time and adjunct). As a result, **the program has determined that it can implement the Bachelor of Science degree with the full-time faculty it currently has as well as its adjuncts.** In an ideal world, the implementation would be easier with an additional full-time, tenure-track line, however, the program **does not require that to implement the curriculum.** This is continuing to be true as enrollment declines as previously, faculty were overburdened with CRIM-related teaching needs requiring many faculty to regularly overload. At current enrollments, this curriculum will require all current faculty to implement; **if we have a faculty member retire or have a faculty member assigned to duties outside the program, we will need a replacement line for that person to maintain the implementation of this curriculum.**

Table 3 is a detailed map of the allocation of faculty to the necessary classes to implement and maintain the BS degree in Criminal Justice. The allocation map clearly shows that, with the faculty we currently have, we have the capability to offer all the necessary classes given current and projected future enrollments.

Class	Number of Sections Offered	Fall Semester Faculty							Class	Number of Sections Offered	Spring Semester Faculty					
		BD	MM	BMcK	BD	BMcK	BS	ADJ			BS	BS	BMcK	BD		
CRIM 1100 Intro to CJ	7	BD	MM	BMcK	BD	BMcK	BS	ADJ	CRIM 1100 Intro to CJ	4	BS	BS	BMcK	BD		
CRIM 2121 Police & Society	2	BD	NS						CRIM 2121 Police & Society	2	BD	BMcK				
CRIM 2108 Courts, Law, & Procedure	2	RL	BS						CRIM 2108 Courts, Law, & Procedure	2	AG	AG				
CRIM 2130 Institutional & Community Corrections	2	JJ	RM						CRIM 2130 Institutional & Community Corrections	2	JJ	CT				
CRIM 2114 Criminological Theories	2	SH	JBW						CRIM 2114 Criminological Theories	2	SH	JBW				
CRIM 2141 Research & Evaluation for CJ	2	YS	MM						CRIM 2141 Research & Evaluation for CJ	2	MM	MM				
CRIM 2145 Stats	2	NS	JD						CRIM 2145 Stats	2	NS	KS				
CRIM 36XX Capstone	2	YS	RM						CRIM 36XX Capstone	4	RM	YS	YS	JD		
CRIM 2327 Victimology	2	KK	AG						CRIM 2327 Victimology	2	JJ	KK				
CRIM 2101 Constitutional Law	2	RL	BS						CRIM 2101 Constitutional Law	2	BS	RL				
CRIM 2XXX Race and Justice	2	AG	KK						CRIM 2XXX Race and Justice	2	DB	KK				
CRIM 2XXX Special Populations in CJ	2	DB	KS						CRIM 2XXX Special Populations in CJ	2	SH	DB				
MACJ Classes	6	DB	SH	CT	CT	CT	JD		MACJ Classes	6	JBW	RL	KS	CT	RM	ADJ
CRIM 3120 Legal and Forensic Psychology	1	KS							CRIM 3120 Legal and Forensic Psychology	1	JD					
CRIM 2610 Intro to Forensic Sci	1	BD							CRIM 2610 Intro to Forensic Sci	1	BS					
CRIM 2358 Medicolegal Death Investigations	1	BS							CRIM 2355 Advanced Forensic Sci	1	BD					
CRIM 2216 Homeland Security	1	JBW							CRIM 2211 Terrorism	1	NS					
CRIM 2111 Juvenile Justice	1	JJ							CRIM 2626 Issues in Policing	1	BMcK					
CRIM XXXX Extra Electives	As needed								CRIM XXXX Extra Electives	As needed						
			Number of classes needed for FT without overloads	Number of classes assigned								Number of classes needed for FT without overloads	Number of classes assigned			
	Faculty Type	CRIM Faculty for Fall								Faculty Type	CRIM Faculty for Spring					
	TT	JBW	2	2 UG						TT	JBW	2	1 UG 1 G			
	TT	DB	2	1 UG 1 G						TT	DB	2	2 UG			
	NTTP	BD	4	4 UG						NTTP	BD	3	3 UG			
	TT	JD	2	1 UG 1G						TT	JD	2	2 UG			
	TT	AG	2	2 UG						TT	AG	2	2 UG			
	TT	SH	2	1 UG 1 G						TT	SH	2	2 UG			
	TT	JJ	2	2 UG						TT	JJ	2	2 UG			
	TT	KK	2	2 UG						TT	KK	2	2 UG			
	TT	RL	2	2 UG						TT	RL	2	1 UG 1 G			
	TT	MM	2	2 UG						TT	MM	2	2 UG			
	NTTP	BMcK	44960	2 UG						NTTP	BMcK	3	3 UG			
	TT	RM	2	2 UG						TT	RM	2	1 UG 1 G			
	TT	NS	2	2 UG						TT	NS	2	2 UG			
	TT	KS	2	2 UG						TT	KS	2	1 UG 1 G			
	TT	YS	2	2 UG						TT	YS	2	2 UG			
	NTTP	BS	4	4 UG						NTTP	BS	4	4 UG			
	TT	CT	2	0 UG 3 G	*no G course this semester					TT	CT	2	1 UG 1 G			

Library Resources

The Criminal Justice program will continue to utilize the same library resources as with its previous curriculum. However, with the emphasis of the new curriculum on contemporary issues and evidence-based practices in the criminal justice system, the Criminal Justice program feels that it would benefit from the library expanding its access to more contemporary criminal justice resources, specifically media-based resources such as documentaries. Currently, Criminal Justice faculty access some of these via their personal means (e.g., personal accounts for Netflix, Hulu, etc.). The Criminal Justice faculty will be encouraged to reach out to the Library directly regarding any individual media resources that they would like to include in their classrooms to determine if there is an institutional way to access them. **However, the unavailability of these documentaries via the Library will not make or break the implementation of the curriculum.**

Transition Plan

The B.A. degree will be transitioned out and fully replaced by the B.S. degree. In terms of current Stockton students, any students who matriculated into the B.A. curriculum will be able to finish the B.A. curriculum, if they want. As a result, the B.A. would be transitioned out within three years of the implementation of the B.S. We also plan to allow any current student to switch to the B.S. curriculum if they would like to. We would not require any students who matriculated into the B.A. curriculum to switch to the B.S. curriculum. The goal is to offer two sections of each of the required courses every semester once the B.S. degree is fully implemented. The exceptions to that will be in our higher enrolled classes of Introduction to Criminal Justice, which has significant enrollment from other majors and is required of all first-year students in their first semester, and of the Capstone, which most students take in their senior year as it requires all other Criminal Justice course requirements to be satisfied first. Because the B.S. does not require the removal of courses but instead the addition of courses, we will begin offering one to two sections each semester of each new course (e.g., Victimology, Special Populations in the Criminal Justice System, Race and Criminal Justice, and Constitutional Law for Criminal Justice) in the first and second years of implementation. This will allow for a higher number of sections for the classes in both degrees to be offered. In the third year of implementation (and in the last year in which students getting the B.A. degree will be at Stockton), two sections of the new classes will begin to be held each semester and will continue that way. Students continuing in the B.A. degree will be encouraged, via precepting, to ensure that they complete their CRIM requirements before the third year of implementation.

The majority of the Criminal Justice majors at Stockton declare their major as Criminal Justice within their first year at Stockton (see Tables 4 and 5). Of the few who do not, as a result of the frequency which we plan on regularly, offering the required courses, all students, as long as they declare Criminal Justice as their major before and inclusive of their first semester junior year (as 98-99% do; see Tables 4 and 5), should be able to complete the required Criminal Justice curriculum within the four-year graduation timeline.

In terms of transfer students, a fair number of transfer students currently bring in some of the new classes required in the B.S. curriculum. Previously, we haven't had a guaranteed way for

those credits to count towards the B.A. degree, depending on students' concentrations and/or the CRIM residency requirement (i.e., 5 CRIM courses must be taken at Stockton). With the expansion of required classes, this curriculum will likely become more transfer-friendly for those who bring in CRIM credits. For those who come in with no CRIM credits, these classes can still be completed within 2 years based on current scheduling expectations (see Table 3).

Table 4. Timing of Declaration of Major by Currently Enrolled CRIM Students

Semester	#	%
1st Semester	491	85%
2nd Semester	23	4%
3rd Semester	30	5%
4th Semester	11	2%
5th Semester	11	2%
6th Semester	3	1%
7th Semester or Later	6	1%

Table 5. Timing of Declaration of Major by CRIM Students from FY19-FY23

Semester	#	%
1st Semester	660	82%
2nd Semester	38	5%
3rd Semester	41	5%
4th Semester	22	3%
5th Semester	15	2%
6th Semester	12	1%
7th Semester or Later	13	2%