

Provost's Comprehensive Program Review Report

Institution: Middle Georgia State University
Academic Program Name: B.S. in Criminal Justice
CIP Code: 430100
College or School: School of Education and Behavioral Sciences
Department: Psychology and Criminal Justice

Date of Last Internal Review: 6/13/2016

Outcome of Previous Program Review (brief narrative statement): Enhance the program. Hire

an additional faculty member if the number of graduates increase. Increase graduation rate.

25%. Contract with external reviewer to assess curriculum prior to the next CPR

Current Date: 6/10/2021

Provost Response: Academic Affairs acknowledges the documented value of the B.S. in Criminal Justice. It is a viable and valuable academic program that has responded appropriately to market forces and workforce needs. The innovation in curriculum development and attentiveness to authentic application of the discipline content are admirable. The program's

Categorical Summation

Check any of the following to categorically describe action(s) the institution will take concerning this program.

Program MEETS Institution's Criteria

B.

: 5 graduates/year Programs falling under these benchmarks are designated as "low performing"					
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The change in coursework required for the degree allowed for more graduates, and the program was able to add sufficient enrollment to offset the uptick in graduates. Courses that are able to be given online are a great strength.

Is there a system to monitor academic integrity (i.e. proctored exams)?

The reduction of criminal justice courses in the major (more free electives) allows for students to select minors, and transfer students. Are students able to be employed after graduation? If so, where? What are the employment rates for this degree?



Middle Georgia State University

BS Criminal Justice

School of Education and Behavioral Sciences

Psychology and Criminal Justice

430100

June 13, 2016

Paul Gladden

	108	83	72	60	53		
	77	59	71	59	34		
	24	15	9	13	5		
	6	8	9	9	5		
	0	1	0	0	0		

For data consistency, the fiscal year is in which the degree was awarded. For example, fiscal year 2019 includes degrees conferred in Summer 2018, Fall 2018, and Spring 2019.

The B.S. in Criminal Justice began in 2013.

In addition to aiming to provide quality instruction with broad coverage of diverse areas of the field of Criminal Justice, the program contains an optional track in Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The optional track in Homeland Security and Emergency Management contains four courses (12 credit hours): Homeland Security, Emergency Management, Terrorism, and White Collar and Cyber Crime.

Beyond SACSCOC, there is no additional/external accrediting body for the field of criminal justice at this level.

Since Fall 2019, the program has been available fully online only.

Since the last review, the B.S. in Criminal Justice has moved to a fully online delivery mode. Previously, it had been trending to be more online each semester, but different classes were being offered in different formats in such a way that students couldn't easily take all needed or preferred classes on a particular campus or in a particular format. Given resource limitations/faculty spread across multiple campuses and in order to have the entire program offered consistently on a particular "campus" (online)/particular method of delivery, we opted to move the program fully online as of Fall 2019. Enrollment has been steady or increasing since that change.

Also starting in Fall 2019, we implemented significant structural changes to the program to make it substantially more flexible for students. The aim, in part, was to increase progression, retention, and graduation rates by reducing excess "fall through" credit hrs. (not counting toward the 120 hrs. for the degree), while maintaining broad/thorough coverage of different areas of criminal justice. In particular these changes helped with flexibility for transfer students and students who change their major to criminal justice, as well as providing increased flexibility to minor in another subject. The number of required credit hours in upper-level Criminal Justice courses was reduced from 51 credit hours to 39. Those 12 credit hours became entirely freely chosen courses (as did 9 other credit hrs. of general electives previously chosen from a particular list of courses). These changes more than doubled the number of graduates from the program in 2019-2020 (49 total graduates) compared to 2018-2019 (23 total graduates).

In addition to substantially increasing our number graduates (due to courses previously not counting toward the degree suddenly counting as electives), the program changes also allowed the department chair to aim to be much more efficient with course scheduling (see positive results below under benchmarks of progress).

To allow for diverse student needs (e.g., nontraditional students who work full time), the program added an alternate capstone course for students to select for those that preferred it over the already existing internship course- independent study/capstone. Many of the students in the program already have work experience in a criminal justice agency, so the internship option was not necessarily realistic or even optimal for them to complete.

The Criminal Justice faculty also reviewed and slightly revised the program's student learning objective (SLO) statements and program assessment measures in an effort to revise them to ensure a good "match" between the stated SLO and the measure of that SLO.

Over the last 5 years, the enrollment in the B.S. in Criminal Justice is slightly down (-.55% growth averaged across 5 years or -2% comparing Fall 2020 to Fall 2016). However, there was a significant/noticeable decrease in enrollment in both the A.S. and B.S. programs in Criminal Justice. Comparing enrollment in Fall 2017 to Fall 2020, there has been an increase of 31 students (i.e., enrollment growth of 13% comparing Fall 2017 to Fall 2020). Thus, the program is highly viable and productive and has enrollment growth in recent years. See below shifting trends and market forces section for speculation about what might help explain the enrollment decline in Fall 2017 compared to Fall 2016 and the subsequent rebound.

The B.S. program has seen nearly 31% annual growth in the online ca

higher number of graduates in FY 2020, enrollment in the program remained student in Fall

current full-