

## **Instructional Programs Unit Assessment and Program Performance Report [UAR] – Fall 2024**

**Program Name:** Justice Studies (major, associate, and minor).

**Program Description:** Justice Studies, Policing and Law Enforcement (805/EM1); Justice Studies, Law and Legal System (805/EM2); Justice Studies, Corrections and Human Services (805/EM3); Justice Studies, Associate (805); Justice Studies, Minor (50).

Catalog: The Justice Studies major is designed to provide students with a broad professional education that will prepare them for a variety of fulfilling careers in federal, state, and local criminal justice and human service agencies. The curriculum is strongly oriented to learning about crime, justice, and policy through the lens of the social and behavioral sciences. The major has three separate emphasis areas, including Policing and Law Enforcement, Law and the Legal System, and Corrections and Human Services. Its commitment to developing a well-rounded professionally oriented student further includes field internships with criminal justice, legal, and social service agencies. The Justice Studies bachelor's and associate degrees lead to numerous rewarding careers, ranging from policing to private security, law school and the legal profession, and adult to youth corrections among many others.

Additional: The Justice Studies major provides students with professional education that prepares them for a variety of careers in federal, state, and local criminal justice and human service agencies. The curriculum is strongly oriented to the social and behavioral sciences. As a part of the commitment to developing a professionally oriented student, internship placements in criminal justice agencies are available.

## PREVIOUS YEAR'S WORK PLAN

### List work plan elements/areas for improvement from the previous year, along with actions taken and a progress report.

JS faculty members are to continue using senior research projects to ensure that students “demonstrate the ability to think critically about major issues relating to justice studies” (Outcome #1).

JS faculty members are to continue using senior research projects to ensure that students “demonstrate proficiency in the use of verbal and written communication skills” (Outcome #2).

JS faculty members are to continue using assignments from selected Justice Studies program courses to ensure that students “demonstrate an understanding of human behavior, social control, cultural differences, and concerns for minority groups with regard to criminal justice” (Outcome #3).

JS faculty members are to continue using senior research projects to ensure that students “demonstrate basic competencies in conceptualizing, conducting, interpreting, and evaluating research in criminal justice” (Outcome #4).

JS faculty members are continuing to evaluate ACAT results to ensure that students “demonstrate an understanding of criminal and juvenile justice, criminology, law enforcement, adjudication, and corrections” (Outcome #5).

JS faculty members are also continuing to examine whether the ACAT exam is still the best methodology to assess JS student learning outcomes.

JS faculty members are continuing to use Internship Reports from Justice Studies Practicum to ensure that students “demonstrate knowledge of and skills related to first-hand experience in the theoretical and practical applications of justice studies” (Outcome #6).

JS faculty members will continue to identify and implement strategies to improve the recruitment and retention rate of students. See “Impact of program: measured by program enrollment numbers” below.

## Program Outcomes

**Program Outcomes:** List your program outcomes (as noted in the current year catalog) in the tables below and describe the indicator(s) and assessment methods you use to determine if your program has met its outcomes, provide an analysis of data, and establish work plans for the year [One table per program outcome; copy-paste table as needed]. **Note:** all program outcomes must be listed, however, programs with extensive outcomes lists may focus each year on half of the outcomes.

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>Outcome 1</b> | Students will demonstrate the ability to think critically about major issues relating to justice studies. |
|------------------|---|

|  |  |            |                |                      |
|--|--|------------|----------------|----------------------|
| <b>Indicator</b>   | Student Papers from Senior Research Project  |            |                |                      |
| <b>Assessment Method</b>   | Assess student final papers from Justice Studies 499 using a faculty generated rubric.   |            |                |                      |
| <b>Benchmark/Target</b>  | 80% of students will rank a 3.0 or higher on the grading rubric scale.   |            |                |                      |
| <b>Data Sources</b>  | Student Senior Research Projects from Justice Studies 499  |            |                |                      |
| <b>Relevant dates</b>  | Fall 2023 / Spring 2024  |            |                |                      |
| <b>Results</b><br>(List at least two years of data if available) | <b>Benchmark/ Target (select one):</b>   | <b>Met</b> | <b>Not Met</b> | <b>Partially Met</b> |
|  | 2018-2019  | X          |                |                      |
|  | 2019-2020  | X          |                |                      |
|  | 2020-2021  | X          |                |                      |
|  | 2021-2022  | X          |                |                      |
|  | 2022-2023  | X          |                |                      |
|  | 2023-2024  | X          |                |                      |
|  | In JS 499: Research Project and Seminar in Justice Studies, the students are required to conduct research on a compelling empirical and/or normative issue of crime, justice, and public policy. Over 80% of JS 499 research projects from AY23-24 (n=11) ranked above a 3.0 on the quality of their thesis statements, depth of analysis, effectiveness of conclusion, and public policy suggestions. Students were effective in thinking critically about criminal justice issues and recommending policies to ameliorate the problems they studied. |            |                |                      |
| <b>Analysis of results</b>                                       | We believe that students met/exceeded the benchmark at least in part because JS students are now required to successfully complete SS 385: Research Methods before they enroll in JS 499. SS 385 is explicitly intended to prepare students to conduct a senior research project in the Social Sciences. Previously, JS students were encouraged, but not required, to take SS 385 prior to enrolling in JS 499.   |            |                |                      |
| <b>Work plan actions to improve the outcome over the year</b>    | The JS faculty will continue to closely evaluate JS 499 senior research projects as part of the Justice Studies assessment measures.   |            |                |                      |

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| <b>Outcome 2</b>   | Students will demonstrate proficiency in the use of verbal and written communication skills.             |            |                |                      |
| <b>Indicator</b>   | Student Papers from Senior Research Project  |            |                |                      |
| <b>Assessment Method</b>   | Assess student final papers and presentations from Justice Studies 499 using a faculty-generated rubric. |            |                |                      |
| <b>Benchmark/Target</b>  | 80% of students will rank a 3.0 or higher on the grading rubric scale.                                   |            |                |                      |
| <b>Data Sources</b>  | Student Senior Research Projects from Justice Studies 499  |            |                |                      |
| <b>Relevant dates</b>  | Fall 2023 / Spring 2024  |            |                |                      |
| <b>Results</b><br>(List at least two years of data if available) | <b>Benchmark/ Target (select one):</b>   | <b>Met</b> | <b>Not Met</b> | <b>Partially Met</b> |
|  | 2018-2019  | X          |                |                      |
|  | 2019-2020  | X          |                |                      |
|  | 2020-2021  | X          |                |                      |
|  | 2021-2022  | X          |                |                      |
|  | 2022-2023  | X          |                |                      |

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|   | 2023-2024  | X |
|   | In JS 499: Research Project and Seminar in Justice Studies, the students are required to write a paper on a compelling empirical and/or normative issue of crime, justice, and public policy. Students normally give formal presentations of their paper as well. Over 80% of JS 499 projects from AY23-24 (n=11) ranked above a 3.0 on the quality of their writing and their thesis statements, depth of analysis, effectiveness of conclusion, and public policy suggestions. |   |
| <b>Analysis of results</b>                                    | We believe that students met/exceeded the benchmark at least in part because JS students are now required to successfully complete SS 385: Research Methods before they enroll in JS 499. SS 385 is explicitly intended to prepare students to conduct a senior research project in the Social Sciences. Previously, JS students were encouraged, but not required, to take SS 385 prior to enrolling in JS 499.   |   |
| <b>Work plan actions to improve the outcome over the year</b> | The JS faculty will continue to closely evaluate JS 499 senior research projects as part of the Justice Studies assessment measures.   |   |

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|---|---|------------|----------------|----------------------|
| <b>Outcome 3</b>  | Students will demonstrate an understanding of human behavior, social control, cultural differences, and concerns for minority groups with regard to criminal justice.   |            |                |                      |
| <b>Indicator</b>  | Student assignments from selected Justice Studies program courses   |            |                |                      |
| <b>Assessment Method</b>                                      | Student assignments assessed by faculty for diversity content using a faculty generated rubric  |            |                |                      |
| <b>Benchmark/Target</b>                                       | 75% or more of students will meet or exceed expectations  |            |                |                      |
| <b>Data Sources</b>   | Samples of student work from Justice Studies courses  |            |                |                      |
| <b>Relevant dates</b>   | Fall 2023 / Spring 2024   |            |                |                      |
| <b>Results (List at least two years of data if available)</b> | <b>Benchmark/ Target (select one):</b>  | <b>Met</b> | <b>Not Met</b> | <b>Partially Met</b> |
|   | 2018-2019   | X          |                |                      |
|   | 2019-2020   | X          |                |                      |
|   | 2020-2021   | X          |                |                      |
|   | 2021-2022   | X          |                |                      |
|   | 2022-2023   | X          |                |                      |
|   | 2023-2024   | X          |                |                      |
|   | Thirty-five (35) student assignments from selected JS courses were assessed using a faculty-generated diversity rubric and 80% of the assignments met or exceeded expectations.   |            |                |                      |
| <b>Analysis of results</b>                                    | We believe these results reflect the fact that JS majors are required to take courses explicitly focusing on the topics included in this outcome.   |            |                |                      |
| <b>Work plan actions to improve the outcome over the year</b> | The Justice Studies program will continue to provide instruction about human behavior, social control, and diversity issues relating to race, gender, ethnicity, national origin, socioeconomic class, religion, culture, disability, sexual orientation, sexual identity, etc. The faculty will continue to closely evaluate the |            |                |                      |

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|  | Justice Studies curriculum to ensure these topics are covered in a manner consistent with this program outcome. |
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| Outcome 4   | Students will demonstrate basic competencies in conceptualizing, conducting, interpreting, and evaluating research in criminal justice.  |     |         |               |
| Indicator   | Student Papers from Senior Research Project  |     |         |               |
| Assessment Method   | Assess student final papers from Justice Studies 499 using a faculty-generated rubric.   |     |         |               |
| Benchmark/Target  | 80% of students will rank a 3.0 or higher on the grading rubric scale.   |     |         |               |
| Data Sources  | Student Senior Research Projects from Justice Studies 499  |     |         |               |
| Relevant dates  | Fall 2023 / Spring 2024  |     |         |               |
| Results<br>(List at least two years of data if available) | Benchmark/ Target (select one):  | Met | Not Met | Partially Met |
|   | 2018-2019  | X   |         |               |
|   | 2019-2020  | X   |         |               |
|   | 2020-2021  | X   |         |               |
|   | 2021-2022  | X   |         |               |
|   | 2022-2023  | X   |         |               |
|   | 2023-2024  | X   |         |               |
|   | In JS 499: Research Project and Seminar in Justice Studies, the students are required to write a paper on a compelling empirical and/or normative issue of crime, justice, and public policy. Over 80% of JS 499 projects from AY23-24 (n=11) ranked above a 3.0 on the quality of their thesis statements, literature review, analysis of the empirical or normative data, and public policy recommendations.   |     |         |               |
| Analysis of results                                       | We believe that students met/exceeded the benchmark at least in part because JS students are now required to successfully complete SS 385: Research Methods before they enroll in JS 499. SS 385 is explicitly intended to prepare students to conduct a senior research project in the Social Sciences. Previously, JS students were encouraged, but not required, to take SS 385 prior to enrolling in JS 499. |     |         |               |
| Work plan actions to improve the outcome over the year    | The faculty will continue to closely evaluate JS 499 senior research projects as part of the Justice Studies assessment measures.  |     |         |               |

|                               |   |     |         |               |
|-------------------------------|---|-----|---------|---------------|
| Outcome 5                     | Students will demonstrate an understanding of criminal and juvenile justice, criminology, law enforcement, adjudication, and corrections. |     |         |               |
| Indicator                     | Nationally used ACAT Test   |     |         |               |
| Assessment Method             | Administration of the ACAT test to graduating seniors   |     |         |               |
| Benchmark/Target              | 50th percentile or higher   |     |         |               |
| Data Sources                  | ACAT Test results   |     |         |               |
| Relevant dates                | Review for AY2023-24 will be completed by June 2024   |     |         |               |
| Results<br>(List at least two | Benchmark/ Target (select one):   | Met | Not Met | Partially Met |
|                               | AY2016-17   | X   |         |               |

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>years of data if available)</b>                            | AY2017-18   | X   |
|   | AY2018-19   | X   |
|   | AY2019-20   | ACAT not given because of the Covid-19 Pandemic |
|   | AY2020-21   | X   |
|   | AY2021-22   | X   |
|   | AY2022-23   | X   |
|   | AY2023-24   | X   |
|   | For AY2021-22, the Justice Studies students scored in the 99th percentile on the ACAT. In AY 2022-23 and AY 2023-24, the students scored in the 93rd percentile.  |   |
| <b>Analysis of results</b>                                    | <p>The ACAT is used as an exit examination of seniors to evaluate the Justice Studies curriculum and adjust the program accordingly. It focuses on such areas as Corrections, Criminal Justice Systems, Law Enforcement, and Legal Aspects. The benchmark is to score in the 50th percentile or better in every category.</p> <p>As noted above, in AY2023-24, the Justice Studies students again scored in the 93rd percentile. We believe this reflects the fact that students take coursework in all of the areas covered by the ACAT, and faculty members purposefully reinforce core areas (see below) covered by the test.</p>  |   |
| <b>Work plan actions to improve the outcome over the year</b> | <p>The JS faculty members will continue to help ensure students meet or exceed the expected learning outcomes. The Program Director has examined the ACAT results and identified the courses that address the core areas. He continues to meet with faculty so that they can work collaboratively to strengthen how each core area is covered. In particular, they will continue to examine their courses to ensure that each of the core areas of the ACAT assessment exam are given adequate attention and that the substantive content is aligned with what the ACAT covers.</p> <p>The faculty members will also continue to examine whether the ACAT is the best means of assessing student learning outcomes or if they wish to pursue other options. If the ACAT continues to be used, the plan is to administer the SP25 test during one of the senior level JS courses and to emphasize to students that their names are attached to their ACAT scores in order to help encourage students to take the exam seriously.</p> |   |

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| <b>Outcome 6</b>                   | Students will demonstrate knowledge of and skills related to first-hand experience in the theoretical and practical applications of justice studies. |              |                      |
| <b>Indicator</b>                   | Internship Reports from Justice Studies Practicum  |              |                      |
| <b>Assessment Method</b>           | Assess internship reports from Justice Studies 495 using a faculty generated rubric.   |              |                      |
| <b>Benchmark/Target</b>            | 80% of students will rank a 3.0 or higher on the grading rubric scale.   |              |                      |
| <b>Data Sources</b>                | Student Senior Practicum Reports from Justice Studies 495  |              |                      |
| <b>Relevant dates</b>              | Fall 2023 / Spring 2024  |              |                      |
| <b>Results (List at least two)</b> | <b>Benchmark/ Target (select one):</b>   | <b>Met</b>   | <b>Not Met</b>       |
|                                    | 2018-2019  | Not assessed | <b>Partially Met</b> |

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>years of data if available)</b>                            | 2019-2020   | X |
|   | 2020-2021   | X |
|   | 2021-2022   | X |
|   | 2022-2023   | X |
|   | 2023-2024   | X |
|   | <p>In JS 495: Justice Studies Practicum, the students are required to select a public or private organization related to the criminal justice system for purposes of learning more about law enforcement, the legal system, or corrections. They are required to put in 45 hours per credit, totaling 135 internship hours for 3 credits. Over 80% of JS 495 final reports from AY23-24 (n=11) ranked above a 3.0 on the quality of their theoretical and practical applications of the justice studies curriculum to their internship experience. They gained an invaluable understanding of the real world of criminal justice and a broad range of prospective career paths.</p> |   |
| <b>Analysis of results</b>                                    | <p>While this is the fourth year for evaluating the internship experience, the results reveal that the students are able to see the connection between what they are learning in their Justice Studies classes and the actual workings of the criminal justice system. They are also able to learn more about prospective careers in the criminal justice system, along with considering attending law or graduate school.</p>  |   |
| <b>Work plan actions to improve the outcome over the year</b> | <p>The faculty will continue to closely evaluate JS 495 practicum final reports as part of the Justice Studies assessment measures.</p>   |   |

## 2) Program Performance

**Program Performance Indicators.** Indicators focus on the extent to which your program is contributing to the overall efficiency and productivity of the college. Data will be provided by IR&E per usual processes/ timelines. **Note** the performance indicators have been reduced based on the AY19-20 prioritization process. This category is directly tied to the program prioritization initiative of the State Board of Education, and referred to at LCSC as Program Performance.

|  |   |            |                |                      |
|--|---|------------|----------------|----------------------|
| <b>Performance Indicator</b>   | <b>Impact of program: measured by program completion numbers</b><br>Number of graduates in fiscal year; some programs may track completion <i>rates</i> for accreditation purposes  |            |                |                      |
| <b>Assessment Method</b>   | IPEDS Completion Report [Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System – data from IR&E]   |            |                |                      |
| <b>Benchmark/ Target</b>   | Completion rate will be at least 20-25% of the Fall enrollment for the academic year  |            |                |                      |
| <b>Data Sources</b>  | IPEDS Completion Report   |            |                |                      |
| <b>Relevant dates</b>  | November 1  |            |                |                      |
| <b>Results<br/>(List at least two years of data if available)</b>  | <b>Benchmark/ Target (select one):</b>  | <b>Met</b> | <b>Not Met</b> | <b>Partially Met</b> |
|  | 2016-17   |            |                | X                    |
|  | 2017-18   | X          |                |                      |
|  | 2018-19   | X          |                |                      |
|  | 2019-20   | X          |                |                      |
|  | 2020-21   |            | X              |                      |
|  | 2021-22   |            |                | X                    |
|  | 2022-23   | X          |                |                      |
|  | 2023-24   | X          |                |                      |
|  | In AY 2023-24, 17 Justice Studies students earned their degrees. The Fall 2023 Justice Studies enrollment was 71. Hence, the completion rate was 24%.   |            |                |                      |
| <b>Analysis of results</b>   | The 20-25% benchmark was met for 2023-24. The benchmark was exceeded in AY2022-23 and wasn't met in 2021-22 and 2020-21. We suspect that the latter two years resulted in a larger 2022-2023 graduating class, as some students took longer to finish their degrees. The AY2023-24 numbers suggest that Justice Studies completion rates are returning to "normal." |            |                |                      |
| <b>Work plan actions<br/>(What we will do as a result of our analysis to improve the program over the next year)</b> | The JS faculty members will continue to schedule courses in such a way that it should be feasible for students to complete their degrees within four years.   |            |                |                      |

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|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Performance Indicator</b> | <b>Impact of program: measured by program enrollment numbers</b> |
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| <b>Results</b><br><b>(List at least two</b><br><b>years of data if</b><br><b>available)</b>  | <b>Benchmark (select one):</b> <b>Met</b> <b>Not Met</b> <b>Partially Met</b> |
| <b>Analysis of</b><br><b>results</b>   |   |
| <b>Work plan</b><br><b>actions</b><br><b>(What we will do</b><br><b>as a result of our</b><br><b>analysis to</b><br><b>improve the</b><br><b>program over the</b><br><b>next year)</b> |   |

## ASSESSMENT/ PERFORMANCE REFLECTION

**Other Insights/Findings/Comments: What other significant findings, opportunities, or needs have emerged over the past year?**

### Justice Studies Program Recruitment Plan FY24-25

1. Continue to update existing transfer guides with surrounding community colleges;
2. Send out postcards with detailed message to prospective justice studies students;
3. Send follow-up January letter with detailed message to prospective justice studies students;
4. Promote Justice Studies program to Walla Walla, Columbian Basin, and North Idaho colleges;
5. Send emails promoting JS program to community colleges in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington;
6. Present to 2-4 high school classes about justice studies curriculum and career options;
7. Send out justice studies program flyers to law enforcement and corrections agencies.

|  | List dates of meetings where assessment/ performance data and/or program improvements were discussed           | Location of assessment meeting minutes from previous year   |
|--|--|---|
| ASSESSMENT MEETINGS DURING previous year | August 2024 Division Retreat.<br><br>Individual meetings between Justice Studies Director and faculty members. | Justice Studies Director has the records of his meetings with JS faculty. Division meeting minutes are located in the Social Sciences Division files. |

## REVIEW

|                                | Name              | Date       |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Program Assessment Coordinator | Gene Straughan    | 10/24/2024 |
| Division Chair/Director        | Christopher Riggs | 11/12/2024 |
| Dean                           | Martin Gibbs      | 12/4/2024  |
| Provost                        |                   |            |