

Program Assessment Report (PAR) on Completed Assessment

Year 1 [2014/2015] ~ Program: _____Criminal Justice_____

1. Which set of PLOs was assessed this academic year (identify each PLO)?

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the history, theories, processes, and current trends of American courts, law enforcement, and corrections at the local, state, and federal levels.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the major theoretical and methodological perspectives related to the etiology and measurement of juvenile and adult crime.
3. Demonstrated the ability to write and speak effectively using standard English and appropriate to the field of social sciences through the completion of written assignments.

2. Describe the assessment activities below. Please provide enough detail to convey the nature of the activities.

Relative to number one (1) and number two (2) above we administered the ETS content based Criminal Justice test to graduating seniors. Also, we updated and administered a new web-based Senior Survey that allowed graduating seniors to self-assess their learning in content based and skill based areas. To assess students' ability to write and speak effectively we continue to require writing and oral communication assignments in specific required courses in the major, using rubrics to assess competence.

3. What were the results of the assessment activities?

Scores on the ETS content based test reflected that UofS criminal justice students were clearly above the national average relative to retention of content based knowledge and critical thinking in criminal justice topics. Students in criminal justice major were above national average on 125 out of 150 questions. In each of the seven major content areas, UofS students were above the mean percent correct at least by 9% and by as much as 15%. More details of the results of the ETS is attached.

Analysis of Assessment data relative to oral and written communication skills revealed two sets of results. The first was the analysis of the rubrics used by faculty to determine the percentage of students who achieved a proficient level (above 70%) grade on written and oral communication assignments in required classes. Over 90% of students classes that assessed writing achieved a grade of 70% or higher and 100% achieved an oral communication skill of over 70%

The second set of results came from the '15 revised Senior Survey. Results from the survey stated that 75% of students were able to clearly identify what courses that required written, oral communication, information literacy, social justice issues, and theory content acquisition from their respective required courses.

For more details see the attached Analysis.

4. Where applicable, outline the steps you will take to make improvements to the program based on the results of assessment activities identified in #3.

The Department will discuss the results of the ETS as well as the Senior Survey at the “Departmental Retreat” Scheduled for August 23rd.

One issue of concern, culled from the Senior Survey results is the comments made by students related to student advising. This will be discussed further at the Departmental Retreat as well as the data provided by IR that describes the numbers and characteristics of students in the major over the last three-four years.

5. Are there any new resources needed to make program improvements? If so, please include the resources and provide justification for each in the Budget section of the Annual Report.

None at this time beyond the maintenance of the current number and specialization of the current faculty.

*Submit to Ms. Rebecca Haggerty (Rebecca.haggerty@scranton.edu) with a notation in your Annual Report that “Program Assessment Report(s) (PAR) has been submitted under separate cover.”