

**Washington State University**  
**MAJOR CHANGE FORM - - REQUIREMENTS**  
 (Submit original signed form and TEN copies to the Registrar's Office, zip 1035.)  
 See <https://www.ronet.wsu.edu/ROPubs/Apps/HomePage.ASP> for this form.

\*Submit an additional copy to the Faculty Senate Office, French Administration 338, zip 1038.

Department Name Criminal Justice Program

**1. CHECK PROPOSED CHANGES.**

*& structure*

- \* Change department/program name from Criminal Justice Program to Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
- \* New degree or program in \_\_\_\_\_
- \* Change name of degree from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_
- \* Drop degree or program in \_\_\_\_\_
- \* Extend existing degree or program to \_\_\_\_\_ campus
- New Major in \_\_\_\_\_
- Change name of Major from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_
- Revise Major requirements in \_\_\_\_\_
- Drop Major in \_\_\_\_\_
- Revise certification requirements for the Major in \_\_\_\_\_
- New Option in \_\_\_\_\_
- Revise requirements for the Option in \_\_\_\_\_
- Drop Option in \_\_\_\_\_
- New Minor in \_\_\_\_\_
- Revise Minor requirements in \_\_\_\_\_
- Drop Minor in \_\_\_\_\_
- New Undergraduate Certificate in \_\_\_\_\_
- Revise Undergraduate Certificate requirements in \_\_\_\_\_
- Drop Undergraduate Certificate in \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Effective term/year Fall ~~Spring~~ 2014

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**2. GIVE REASONS FOR EACH REQUEST MARKED ABOVE.** (Attach additional paper if necessary; see reverse side.) See attached proposal memo

**4. SIGN AND DATE APPROVALS.**

9/30/13  
Provost & Exec VP Date

9/14/13  
Chair Signature/date

9/18/13  
Dean Signature/date

\_\_\_\_\_  
General Education Com/date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Catalog Subcom/date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Academic Affairs Com/date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Graduate Studies Com/date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Senate/Date

September 23, 2013

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Robert Rosenman, Chair, Faculty Senate  
Julia Pomerenk, University Registrar

FROM: Daryll B. Dewald, Dean *Daryll B. Dewald*  
College of Arts and Sciences

SUBJECT: Change in Status of Criminal Justice Program to Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology

The Criminal Justice Program at WSU has evolved since it was first established in 1943 as the Department of Police Science. As criminal justice became established as an academic discipline in the 1970s, the department's name was changed to the Department of Criminal Justice. In 1986 the department was transformed into an academic program, and was placed within the Department of Political Science, and renamed the Criminal Justice Program. In 2010 the program separated from Political Science, and has operated as an independent program within the Colleges of Liberal Arts, now the College of Arts and Sciences, since that time. As discussed below, it is evident that the university, the college, and the Criminal Justice Program would be better served and benefit from the establishment of an independent Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology.

**Rationale for Department Establishment**

The Criminal Justice Program at Washington State University offers a criminal justice bachelor's degree in Pullman and via WSU Online. WSU also offers an MA degree in Pullman, Spokane, and via WSU Online, and a PhD degree in criminal justice in Pullman. Departmental status would enhance WSU's ability to recruit top level faculty and graduate students in criminal justice, and build upon the foundation established over the past twenty years.

World-class faculty are much more likely to be attracted to and be retained by autonomous departments rather than academic programs. These same faculty are likely to be more successful and productive in units with shared values, common goals, and compatible directions for research and scholarly development. First rate faculty are also vital to the delivery of meaningful undergraduate education and in working with and training graduate students in and out of the classroom. These interrelated components of a successful department at a Research 1 institution are best sustained within a discipline specific academic department.

The development of criminal justice departments over the past forty years demonstrates the importance of departmental autonomy. Criminal Justice is a relatively young academic discipline. In 1970 there was one criminal justice doctoral program in the United States. Since then the number of universities offering masters and doctoral degrees in criminal justice and criminology have mushroomed.<sup>1</sup> In 2013 more than 50 universities in the U.S. and Canada offer doctoral degrees in criminal justice and/or criminology. While many of these programs were initially established within an umbrella department such as political science or sociology, today nearly all of these programs, particularly those held in the highest regard, have become independent departments, schools, and in a few cases colleges.

The trend toward independent criminal justice and criminology departments is based largely on the maturation of the field as an academic discipline. As academic criminal justice has evolved, discipline specific norms and expectations have taken root. These norms have frequently been in conflict with the parent department's disciplinary norms and any initial rationale for housing criminal justice in a parent department has become obsolete.

Due largely to these realities, over the past eight years the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice Program at WSU began operating as distinct units with regard to a number of administrative areas. In 2010 Criminal Justice became an independent program within the College of Liberal Arts in all respects other than faculty tenure, which remains in Political Science. While tenure is still based in Political Science, since 2005 the Criminal Justice Program has had separate tenure and promotion standards for its tenured/tenure track faculty.

The establishment of the new department will not have an impact on curriculum. The CRMJ prefix has existed for many years and classes cross-listed with Political Science have been separated to both programs benefit.

### **Criteria for Establishing a Department**

The Criminal Justice Program is a very active, productive, and successful academic unit. The Program fits the definition of department as set out in the Education Policies and Procedures Manual in that it has "[a] faculty that performs the regular duties of instruction, research, and service of the unit in all matters relating to curricular and educational policies of the unit."

The program also satisfies the four criteria required for an academic department: 1) an individual budget, 2) an administrative officer, 3) an authorized faculty, and 4) a set of courses with a designated prefix leading to undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Individual budget: The Criminal Justice Program has a dedicated operating and PBL budgets with allocations provided by the College of Arts and Sciences.

Administrative Officer: The Criminal Justice Program has a Director who oversees the

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<sup>1</sup> The 2010 National Research Council Assessment of Research Doctorate Programs includes Criminal Justice and Criminology as one of 14 emerging fields for which enrollment and faculty data were collected.

operations of the Program. The Director is appointed by and reports to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Authorized Faculty: The Criminal Justice program has a complement of 12 full-time, permanent, tenured/tenure track faculty and one clinical assistant professor. The permanent faculty, whose tenure home is currently in Political Science, consists of four professors, four associate professors, and four assistant professors.

Set of courses with a designated prefix leading to undergraduate and graduate degrees: The Criminal Justice program has a designated prefix (CRMJ) at Washington State University. Criminal Justice majors follow a rigorous progressive curriculum that upon successful completion results in the awarding of a B.A. in Criminal Justice. Additionally the program has a thriving graduate program as evidenced by the awarding of 48 masters and 23 doctoral degrees since 2005.

Other documentation related to the "Major Program Change" in status from program to department includes:

"Cost analysis (added costs or savings)": No new costs will be added by this change. The Criminal Justice Program currently has its own budget and staff.

"Facility needs": No additional facilities are required.

"Faculty/staff arrangements": Faculty and staff in Criminal Justice would have the proportion of FTE currently in the Program shifted to the new Department.

"Enrollment data": The Criminal Justice Program enjoys strong enrollments. As of the Spring 2012 semester, there were 305 certified and 222 non-certified undergraduate Criminal Justice majors. As for graduate student enrollment, the program had AAFTEs of 49.5 for AY 2012 and a Fall 2012 graduate student headcount of 42. Additionally, since 2008, 19 students have earned a PhD in Criminal Justice.

### **Summary**

To summarize, the Criminal Justice Program has all of the attributes of a department except for the name and official designation. The faculty unanimously support the establishment of a Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology. There are no financial or curricular drawbacks to establishing such a department and the positive impact of such a move are substantial. I therefore respectfully request approval for the establishment of a Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology.