

Cedar Crest College
Criminal Justice Field Experience
Fall 2009

Course: CRJ 321
Credits: 3

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Course Description

The field experience is designed to provide the student an opportunity to integrate and reconcile theoretical concepts and principles learned in other social science and criminal justice courses and apply them in work environments within the criminal justice profession. The field experience initiates the beginning of the lifelong professional learning process through which the student must learn to navigate.

Primary Goals

1. To prepare baccalaureate level students to be effective and competent criminal justice professionals.
2. To provide students with an educational experience that is both centered in theoretical, ethical and conceptual frameworks, and based on practical field observation and experiences.
3. To provide an educational experience that prepares students to be leaders in professional endeavors that affect the quality of one's life and the quality of life in the community.
4. To provide students with the correct combination of theoretical and practical experiences thereby allowing them to develop an understanding of the challenges faced by minority populations in the criminal justice profession.

Course Objectives

Active participation in the Field Experience is extremely important to ensure a student's integration of field practice with criminal justice theory. By participating in this, students will be able to:

1. Apply problem solving and critical thinking skills in an agency setting.
2. Understand and relate the theoretical concepts to a field setting.
3. Develop an understanding of the role agency and client diversity plays in the application of the profession.
4. Understand and assess agency policies, practices, hierarchy, and diversity impact on the delivery of services.
5. Develop an understanding of how community resources impact the delivery of professional services.
6. Understand and relate criminal justice values and their ethical implications to professional practice.
7. Develop awareness to personal values and be responsible for ethical conduct in field practice.
8. Use supervision in field practice to function effectively as a professional within the structure of the agency.

Course Outcomes

At the conclusion of the field experience students should be able to serve effectively as professionals at the organization which the student has chosen. The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the organizations criminal justice mission; be able to effectively analyze how the agency fulfills its intended purpose in the criminal justice community; and describe how the agency impacts the community as a whole and the individual constituents served.

Assessment: The student will be evaluated by the field site supervisor both in writing and through a personal interview with the Cedar Crest College field experience supervisor.

Student Responsibilities

The student responsibilities are discussed in detail in the Criminal Justice Field Experience Handbook. However, the basic premise is that the student participates in a professional setting for a minimum of sixteen hours per week (225 total hours) in the fall semester of the student's senior year. The professional setting is chosen by the student with the assistance of a member of the Cedar Crest College Criminal Justice faculty.

The student must sign a Field Experience Contract with both the Criminal Justice Faculty Advisor and the agency site supervisor. That contract is included in the Criminal Justice Field Experience Handbook.

The student must also participate in a terminating interview, where the agency site supervisor provides professional feedback with the assistance of the Criminal Justice Faculty Advisor.

Grading

Written Evaluation by Agency Site Supervisor	40 %
Oral Interview with the Agency Site Supervisor	40 %
Faculty Advisor Observation	20 %

The faculty advisor observation is based on a combination of one's attendance at the supervising agency; compliance with agency protocol and professional conduct; compliance with agency dress and ethical standards; interaction with agency staff.