

Criminal Justice -Indicators of Student Learning

The Criminal Justice (CJ) Program Learning Outcomes (PLO) are content specific to the police, courts, and corrections. Every single CJ PLO has, must, and will continue to improve methods for teaching and assessing student learning. This is done through Form 1, where a selected set of courses and the student learning outcomes of that course are assessed each semester. In the Fall of 2012, the CJ Program had three adjunct instructors and all three submitted a completed Form 1. The results of student learning are reported to the CJ Program for review. In addition, each PLO links to information technology. Launching an online learning center and integrating technology with student learning is a vital skill that CJ students need upon entering the workforce here in the CNMI and the U.S. Moreover, because a large population of students are from low-income families and it is not unusual for a student to live in one house with 2 or more families units (not family members), the CJ Program and NMC plays a stronger role in providing the technology resources for students while requiring a fair participation from the students. In other words, the CJ Program and instructors must be cognizant that while incorporating technology is vitally important for student learning, the students may not have access to such technology. For example, to address this balance, an instructor for CJ 200 has provided hard copies of assignments for students who cannot afford access to technology and the instructor has permitted online submissions as optional for those students who have the resources.

The fieldwork course, CJ 299 is the last course that students take prior to graduation. This course offers CJ students the opportunity to undergo a practical, on the job working environment within the C.N.M.I justice system. Specific agencies, related to the CJ field collaborate with NMC to ensure a cooperative educational experience. Based on where the student is doing the fieldwork, CJ PLO's are applied. For example, PLO 5, students must be able to write a comprehensive, factual and concise police report. If a student is doing their fieldwork with the Department of Public Safety, they are expected to be able to write an accurate and efficient report.

The last two CJ PLO's 10 and 11 are more general in that these PLO's are not content specific to the police, courts, or corrections but focuses on the student. These 2 PLO's affect enrollment and retention rates, diverse student needs, student learning, and barriers that may impede student success. Although an overwhelming majority of students enrolled in the CJ Program are U.S. citizens, the field of criminal justice involves persons of all citizenships, nationalities and cultures – much like NMC's student demographic. Thus, the better the CJ Program can assist students with PLO 10 and 11, the greater the student is equipped with the proper skills to accomplish their goals and ensure their success.