

# Assessment of Administration of Justice for 2005

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**Key Learning Outcomes:** *What should students be able to do AFTER completing this program?*

The mission of the college is to prepare students for a lifetime of learning, professional careers and graduate study by development of insights, morals and behavior of educated individuals. As a liberal art major, the Administration of Justice program is designed to prepare students for a variety of career paths, life-long learning and their roles as active good citizens in a democratic society and the global community.

## **AJUS Major Learning Goals**

The students majoring in Administration of Justice shall:

1. understand criminal justice system and public administration
2. understand criminological theories.
3. understand research methods in social sciences.
4. understand the nature and function of laws.
5. understand the processes of creative thinking, oral communication and written communication.

*Through what courses will you ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn this?*

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

Below are typical required courses with expected outcomes.

- (1). AJUS 110 Introduction to Criminal Justice

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- understand discretion, ethics, politics and the criminal justice system.
- understand the nature and function of laws.
- understand different types of crime, pretrial procedures and criminal trial.
- be familiar with the police, courts, and corrections.
- be familiar with victims' and prisoners' rights as well as juvenile justice.

- define key terms of the criminal justice system.
- understand the operation of the criminal justice network.

(2). AJUS 350 Criminology

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- understand the process of theory development.
- define and apply the elements of theories which include concepts, variables, statements and models.
- apply criminological theories to explanation of different criminal cases.
- assess criminological theories.
- understand the measurement of crime, property crime and violent crime.
- be familiar with many criminological theories including: classical school, positive school, social structure theories, social process theories, conflict theories and integrated theories.

(3). POLS 311 Introduction to Public Administration

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- understand and assess public policy.
- understand and analyze social problems.
- understand and analyze government administration in social and political settings.
- distinguish the effects of social problems and develop the problem-solving approaches.

(4). AJUS 470 Criminal Laws and Procedure

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- understand the nature and history of criminal law.
- understand criminal liability and the essence of crime.
- understand legal and social dimensions of personal crimes, property crimes and computer crimes.
- understand offenses against public order, public morality and the administration of justice.
- understand victims and the law, as well as punishment and sentencing.

(5). AJUS 499 Internship in Administration of Justice

Internships are elective courses for AJUS majors. AJUS majors or minors with at least 48 college credits are eligible for the internship

program. Internship is offered to students on an individual basis with the approval of the faculty. Students need to submit an internship application to the faculty at least four weeks prior to the end of the semester preceding the internship request. In addition, students need to complete a Release and Indemnity Statement. The intern will volunteer for 2.66 hours per week per credit hour for fifteen weeks (it means 120 hours for a 3 credits internship). The intern will meet on a periodic basis with the agent supervisor and the instructor. A final paper analyzing the internship experience shall be submitted at the end of the semester. Students are placed with criminal justice agents to gain first-hand internship experience in the administration of justice. These agents include police departments, courthouses, correction institutions and law firms. Six students completed their internships in 2005. Internships not only have expanded students' classroom learning but also have fostered their confidence in pursuing future careers in the criminal justice network.

The following AJUS students completed their internships with different agents during the 2005 academic year. The array of assignments underlines the varied nature of the experience.

Hamm, Jessica	Agent: Norton City Police
Russell, Chris	Agent: Wise County Behavioral Health Services
Mullins, Matthew	Agent: Wise County Sheriff's Office
Curtis, Justin	Agent: Wise County Sheriff's Office
Campbell, Emahunn	Agent: The Cochran Firm
Wilson, Chadwick	Agent: Kern & Kern Firm

#### (6). AJUS 491 Senior Seminar in Administration of Justice

Students completing the Administration of Justice capstone course are required to choose and research an area of personal interest in the administration of justice area. AJUS 491 is a research project class designed to promote critical thinking, effective writing and oral communication. Faculty members discussed a new format of the AJUS 491 class which was offered from spring, 2005. The Human Investigations Committee aspect of the AJUS Senior Seminar has been eliminated because of time constraints. This new AJUS 491 course is offered twice per year: once during the fall semester and once during the spring semester. All of the students need to complete the following assignments in the new AJUS 491 seminar course:

- Formulate a research project related to Administration of Justice.
- Conduct a comprehensive literature review in an area of research.
- Write a comprehensive research proposal: select a theory for developing A research hypothesis, then choose the methodology for data collections.
- Present findings in a cogent and intelligible manner to an audience.

*Please list all tools used for assessing student achievement:*

### **Current Tool for Assessing Student Achievement**

Current tool of assessment : AJUS 491 Senior Seminar in Administration of Justice  
A selection of classes taught in the AJUS major is required to achieve these goals. However, the current major evaluation tool of the AJUS assessment is the AJUS 491 Senior Seminar in Administration of Justice, where skills come together and make in-depth demands on the students.

*How will you assess how well your students are learning? List standard indicators. etc.*

### **Standard Indicators**

- Objective: Demonstration of formulating a research project
- Objective: Demonstration of clear research introduction
- Objective: Demonstration of good literature review
- Objective: Demonstration of strong theoretical background
- Objective: Demonstration of appropriate methodology
- Objective: Demonstration of directions for future study
- Objective: Overall presentation impression

### **Levels of Competence**

Surpasses expectations --- 86% to 100%  
Fully meets expectations --- 80% to 75%  
Marginally meets expectations --- 74% to 60%  
Failing to meet expectations --- less than 60%

### **Quantifiable Means**

All students should earn a minimum of 70% of each standard indicator.

### **Portfolio Analysis**

14 AJUS seniors enrolled AJUS 491 in fall, 2005. Students submitted research Proposals and presented their researches. All of them successfully completed the course expect for one student who got an incomplete grade because of the failure to finish the proposal on time due to her busy work situation(92% of students were able to earn a minimum of 70% of each standard indicator).

- a. Objective: Demonstration of formulating a research project  
14 AJUS seniors (100%) fully met expectations on this criterion.

- b. Objective: Demonstration of clear research introduction  
10 AJUS seniors (71%) fully met expectations on this criterion.  
3 students (29%) marginally met expectations.
- c. Objective: Demonstration of good literature review  
9 AJUS seniors (69%) fully met expectations on this criterion.  
4 students (31%) marginally met expectations.
- d. Objective: Demonstration of strong theoretical background  
10 AJUS seniors (71%) fully met expectations on this criterion.  
3 students (29%) marginally met expectations.
- e. Objective: Demonstration of appropriate methodology  
13 AJUS seniors (92%) fully met expectations on this criterion.
- f. Objective: Demonstration of directions for future study  
11 AJUS seniors (85%) fully met expectations on this criterion.  
2 students (15%) marginally met expectations.
- g. Objective: Overall presentation impression  
10 AJUS seniors (71%) fully met expectations on this criterion.  
3 students (29%) marginally met expectations.

*How often, when and under what circumstances will you gather the relevant data?*

### **Date were collected through students' research proposals and presentations**

During fall, 2005, 14 AJUS seniors enrolled in AJUS 491 Senior Seminar of Administration of Justice. The assessment data for 2005 were collected through students' research proposals and in-class research presentations before the end of the fall semester.

*Summarize what has been learned about how well students are achieving desired outcomes?*

### **Understanding Research Methods in Social Sciences**

All AJUS students need to take AJUS 203 Applied Statistics and AJUS 303 Research Methods before enrolling in AJUS 491 Senior Seminar of Administration of Justice. AJUS 203 is designed to teach students techniques of descriptive and inferential statistics in social sciences. AJUS 303 introduces students to research methods used by social scientists, including surveys, interviews and experiments. Most students have a basic understanding of research methods in social sciences when they enrolled in AJUS 491 Senior Seminar of Administration of Justice in fall, 2005. The instructor gave several lectures on research methods in order to refresh students' learning in AJUS 203 Applied

Statistics and AJUS 303 Research Methods in the beginning of fall, 2005. For example, about 92% (13 students) were able to design their own research surveys.

### **Understanding the process of critical thinking, written and oral communication**

Student selects a criminological theory for developing his/her research hypotheses, reviewing related literatures, then designing the methodology for data collection. In addition, students need to present their research individually before the end of fall, 2005. All research proposals must be logically designed and presented. AJUS 491 Senior Seminar of Administration of Justice helps students understand the process of critical thinking and strengthen their written and oral communication skills.

**Action Plan:** *What plans have you for the future based on the data gathered that aims to improve student learning? Should students perform at less than the standard expected, what steps will the department take to improve their learning? What steps does the department anticipate to improve the program otherwise?*

### **The development of multiple assessment tools**

It is important to have other assessment tools besides using the capstone course, AJUS 491 Senior Seminar of Administration of Justice, as the only tool of measuring student learning. A minimum of three assessing tools will be better able to assess student achievement as well as improve student learning in the future. Two possible new assessing tools for the AJUS major include the MFT test and senior exit interviews.

### **The improvement of student writing and oral communication skills**

Although 92% of AJUS senior passed AJUS 491 Senior Seminar of Administration of Justice during fall, 2005, some steps may need to be taken to improve student learning. The department may need to require students to take a few more writing and communication courses besides the general education requirements. Hopefully, this option will improve student achievement and prevent some students performing at less than the standard expectation.

### **AJUS Program Needs and Changes**

The AJUS major has been the fastest growing discipline in the Department of Social and Behavioral Science. Since 2000, the college has graduated 96 Administration of Justice majors (10 students in 2000; 19 students in 2001; 14 students in 2002; 15 students in 2003; 16 students in 2004 and 22 students in 2005). This is a strong growing for a new major that was established in 1998 at UVA-Wise. The Administration of Justice major has achieved its success within just a few years. However, the need for more full-time faculty members is identified as follows:

Currently, there are only 2 full-time tenure-track faculty members (actually one AJUS

Faculty member teaches 1/2 AJUS courses and 1/2 sociology classes) for this fast-growing AJUS major. AJUS faculty members need to supervise the AJUS club, internships and independent studies while teaching 4 or 5 different courses each semester. Moreover, these faculty members also teach courses in the Sociology and Government programs. There is an urgent need for one or two more full-time tenure-track AJUS faculty positions to meet the high demands of the fast-growing AJUS major population at the University of Virginia's College at Wise.

In addition, an AJUS faculty member revised the AJUS curriculum in hopes of strengthening the program. Students need to take more prerequisites before being able to take some elective courses before this revision. For example, students are required to have PSYC 110 Introduction to Psychology and PSYC 402 Personality if they chose PSYC 475 Intentional Interviewing and Counseling as an elective class. Basically, the new proposal simplifies the Administration of Justice elective curriculum by allowing students to have the flexibility of selecting elective courses. The new AJUS curriculum (please refer to the Appendix ) was approved by the Curriculum Committee of the University of Virginia's College at Wise in spring, 2005.

## Appendix

### AJUS New Curriculum (For 2005-2006 academic years and after)

For AJUS Major:	Semester Hours
AJUS 110 Introduction to Criminal Justice	3
AJUS 203 Applied Statistics	3
COSC 110 Computer Literacy	3
AJUS 303 Research Methods	3
PSYC 306 Cultural Diversity	3
POLS 311 Introduction to Public Administration	3
AJUS 350 Criminology	3
SOCI 360 Sociology of Race and Ethnicity	3
PSYC 401 Abnormal Psychology	3
AJUS 491 Senior Seminar	3
Choose <b>18 credits</b> from the following:	18
AJUS 302 Terrorism ( a new course)	
SOCI 340 Complex Organization	
Any upper-division AJUS courses	
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b>48</b>

## Rationale:

The new proposed curriculum for AJUS major is **48** credits. There is only **one credit** difference between the old curriculum (47 credits) and the new one. There are advantages for simplifying the curriculum of the AJUS major. First, AJUS students need to understand criminological theories. Second, the current complex concentration system is too confused. The new curriculum will strengthen the AJUS major with flexibility. Last, the new faculty member, Dr. George Michael, is an expert on terrorism. Terrorism becomes an important subject after 9/11. It is necessary to add this new course for the AJUS major.

## For AJUS Minor:

A minor consists of 18 AJUS credit hours, 12 of which must be in courses at the 300 level or above.

## Rationale:

Almost all minors in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences require 18 credits with 12 credits in the upper-level courses. The simplification of the AJUS minor will allow more students to minor in Administration of Justice.