



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Council on Postsecondary Education
OFFICE OF THE POSTSECONDARY COMMISSIONER
560 Jefferson Boulevard Suite 100
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886-1304

Enclosure 5b1
June 22, 2016

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TO: Members of the Council on Postsecondary Education

FROM: Jim Purcell, Ed.D, Commissioner for Postsecondary Education

DATE: June 21, 2016

RE: **Proposal from the University of Rhode Island to offer a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Criminal Justice**

Background

The University of Rhode Island is proposing to offer a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCJ) through the College of Arts & Sciences to replace its Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology with a focus in Criminology & Criminal Justice formerly offered through the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. The BA in Criminology and Criminal Justice would be an interdisciplinary program taught by professors from the departments of Sociology & Anthropology, Political Science, Psychology, Gender & Women's Studies and Economics, as well as new CCJ faculty. The initiation date for this program would be the fall of 2017 with the first degree expected to be granted as early as May 2018.

Rationale

In 2006, URI began offering a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology with a focus in Criminology and Criminal Justice through the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. This program has been very successful, resulting in 325 majors. However URI maintains that the instructional resources in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology have not kept pace with the growth in enrollments. Only two tenure-track positions have been added in this department since 2006. These two positions, added to three pre-existing positions, support both the BS and BA degree programs. URI feels that the resulting workload is unsustainable and the lack of balance in the number of students taught and the number of advisees within the department is generating considerable tension.

URI recently voted to eliminate the BS degree and is seeking to replace it with an interdisciplinary program of study in Criminology and Criminal Justice. The proposed Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Criminal Justice would distribute the teaching workload among several departments while at the same time offering students a wider variety of courses from which to choose. There are a number of criminal justice-related courses in the Political science, Psychology,

Telephone: (401)736-1100 Fax: (401)732-3541 TDD: (401)734-9481 Website: www.riopc.edu

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Gender and Women's Studies departments, as well as an interdisciplinary minor in Justice, Law and Society. The proposal states that the new interdisciplinary CCJ program would be more in keeping with the nature of criminology and criminal justice, which is multi-disciplinary and would prepare students for entry-level positions in criminal justice and related fields, especially at the state and federal level.

Institutional Role

This program fits within the URI mission statement to provide students with a solid liberal arts education.

Interinstitutional Considerations

CCRI, Johnson and Wales, RIC, Roger Williams University and Salve Regina University offer criminal justice programs. URI states that the proposed BA in Criminal Justice and Criminology program will complement the two-year program at CCRI. CCRI students would be able to transfer in credit for all the foundation courses recommended for the CCJ Program (ECN201, GWS150, PSC113, PHL212, PSY113 and SOC100). In addition, CCRI's SOC230, SOC274, PSY254, and PSC388 would fulfill program requirements. Twelve of the cognate course listed for the CCJ Program could be taken at CCRI and transferred to URI. URI states that RIC has a Liberal Arts major in Justice Studies; however, RIC attracts mainly local commuter students, while approximately one-third of URI's student population are from out-of-state. In addition, URI's proposed new major is essentially the same as the current BS in Sociology which has been offered at URI since 2006. The programs at Johnson and Wales and Salve Regina University are more vocationally oriented while the proposed program at URI will be a liberal arts program.

Program

The BA in Criminology and Criminal Justice would require 30-34 credits from the courses below with a total of 120 credits to graduate:

Foundation Courses (Prerequisites to most required courses but not for credit)

- ECN 201: Principles of Economics: Microeconomics
- GWS 150: Introduction to Gender & Women studies
- PSC 113: Introduction to American Politics
- PHL 212: Ethics
- PSY 113: General Psychology
- SOC 100: General Sociology

Core Courses (9 Credits)

- CCJ/SOC 230: Crime and Delinquency
- CCJ/SOC/PSC 274(H): The Criminal Justice System
- CCJ/SOC/PSC 476: Policy Issues in Criminal Justice

Research Methods (once course selected for 3-4 credits)

- ECN 306: Introduction to Research
- PSC 310: Introduction to Research (4)
- PSY 200: Quantitative Methods (4)
- SOC 301: Methods of Research

Major Electives (at least one course must be taken from each elective group for a total of 18-21 credits)

- GWS 365: Sexual Violence

- GWS 370: Sex Trafficking
- GWS 401: Human Trafficking and Contemporary Slavery
- PSY 254: Behavior Problems and Personality Disorders
- PSY 466: Child Sexual Abuse
- SOC 300: Topics in Sociology
- SOC 370: Theories of Crime and Delinquency
- SOC 403: Gender, Crime and Justice
- SOC 410: Race, Crime and Justice
- SOC 420: Family Violence
- SOC 450: White Collar Crime

Criminal Justice Electives

- CHM 391: Forensic Science overview (1-3)
- CHM 392: Introduction to Criminalistics
- PSC 371: The Constitution and the Supreme Court
- PSC 388: The American Legal System (4)
- PSC 472: Civil Liberties (4)
- PSY 465: Introduction to Crisis Intervention
- SOC 300: Topics in Sociology
- SOC 330: Police in Democratic Societies
- SOC 331: Punishment and Corrections
- SOC 332: Juvenile Justice
- SOC 403: Gender, Crime and Justice
- SOC 410: Race, Crime and Justice

Cognate Courses (Recommended as free electives or for Gen Eds; do not count for credit in the major)

- AAF 150: Introduction to African American History
- AAF 356: Black Urban History; AAF 372: African Americans and the Legal system
- BIO 105: Biology for Daily Life
- CMB 242: Human Genetics and Human Affairs
- COM 361: Intercultural Communications; COM 422: Communication and Conflict intervention
- ECN 386: Race, Class and Gender
- ENG 356: Literature and the Law (4)
- HDF 201: Life Span Development II; HDF 310: Adolescent Growth & Development; HDF 434: Children & Families in Poverty
- HIS 328: The Holocaust
- LIB 150: Search Strategies for the Information Age (LIB 120)
- MTH 108: Topics in Mathematics; MTH 111 - Pre-calculus
- MTH 1414: Introduction to Calculus
- PHL 101: Critical Thinking; PHL 217: Social Philosophy; PHL 314: Ethical Problems in Society and Medicine; PHL 318: Power/Justice: Contemporary Critical Philosophies
- PSC 330: State & Local Gov't; PSC 369: Legislative Process & Policy Develop.; PSC 466: Urban Problems
- PSY 232: Developmental Psychology; PSY 275: Alcohol Use and Misuse; PSY 335: Psychology of Social Behavior; PSY 361: Learning; PSY 381: Physiological Psychology
- SOC 240: Race and Ethnic Relations; SOC 242: Sex and Gender; SOC 336: Social Inequality; SOC 413: Gender Inequality; SOC 428: Institutional Racism; SOC 452: Class and Power
- STA 220: Statistics in Modern Society; STA 308: Introductory Statistics; STA 409: Statistical Methods in Research I; STA 412: Statistical Methods in Research II
- WRT 106: Introduction to Research Writing

Faculty

The implementation of the program will require 7 FTE. The Program Director will be a full-time tenure track faculty who allots 50% of their time to coordination of the CCJ program and 50% to teaching. This could either be a new position or a reassignment of a current position. Two additional full-time tenure track faculty positions, devoting 100% of their time to the CCJ program would need to be created. In addition, a full-time tenure track position in Political Science, with an interest in criminology or criminal justice, would need to be created (contributing one-third time to CCJ), as would a full-time tenure track position in Gender & Women's Studies, Psychology, or economics, with an interest in criminology or criminal justice (also contributing one-third time to CCJ). With respect to existing faculty contributions to the program, four tenure-track faculty from Sociology will contribute one-third of their time to the CCJ Program.

Staff and Administration

A full-time CCJ professional advisor position will need to be created to avoid increasing the advising required for the participating departments. Depending on the growth of the program, additional advisor positions may need to be added. A new full-time secretary will also be needed, which could be a new position or a reassignment.

Students

URI asserts that a substantial number of high school students inquire about a criminal justice program at URI and when they learn that the University doesn't offer one, they look elsewhere. The addition of this new major will attract students with this interest. It will also attract students who wish to transfer into a CCJ program from other schools (such as CCRI). Currently, URI has roughly 70 new students enter the BS in Sociology Program each year. They anticipate that with the named major in CCJ, that number will grow to 80 in the first year, with an additional 10% each year after that. In addition, URI expects that the majority of the current BS in Sociology students will transfer into the new program, as well as some students from other majors, with an estimated 10-15 students in each subsequent year transferring from other programs into the new CCJ Program.

Evaluation

The program will be evaluated by its ability to attract new majors, graduation rates, formative and summative outcome assessments being prepared for all University programs, the ability of graduates to obtain their desired employment within the criminal justice system and related agencies, and the percentage of graduates accepted for advanced study in graduate and professional schools. In addition, the program will complete course evaluations (using IDEA evaluations) and modifications will be made where necessary.

Financial Viability

URI states that projected revenues should be sufficient to support a successful program and cover the estimated costs.

RIOPC Review

RIOPC staff reviewed the information on the proposed Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Criminal Justice by the University of Rhode Island. The academic changes presented are within the mission, role and scope of the University of Rhode Island and do not require Council approval.