**Program Proposal** **for a Minor**

1. Name of the proposed minor. **Criminal Justice**
2. Name of the department(s) involved. **Department of Sociology**
3. Name of contact person(s). **Jeff Bouffard (DOGE)**
4. General description of the minor.

The proposed graduate minor (not tied to a Major) in Criminal Justice would include four courses (12 credits). This new minor would require students to take three (3) core courses (for 9 credits); SOC582 (to be re-named “Criminological Theories”), SOC584 (“Current Issues in Crime and Justice”), and SOC534 (Race, Class and Gender Inequality). Students would then take one (1) additional elective course (3 more credits) from a list of several designated graduate level CJ/SOC courses. These electives would include SOC511 (Methods) and PSYCH595E (Psychology and Law), as well as existing CJST undergraduate courses that would be dual-listed as 500 level courses; CJST404 (Criminal Justice Policies) and CJST470 (Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice).

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| **Core Courses (9 credits)** |
| SOC582 | Criminological Theories \*Needs to be reactivated/renamed |
| SOC584 | Current Issues in Crime and Justice |
| SOC534 | Race, Class and Gender Inequality |
| **Electives (3 credits)** |  |
| SOC511 | Research Methodology for the Social Sciences |
| PSYCH595E | Seminar in Social Psychology: Psychology and Law |
| CJST 404/504 | Criminal Justice Policies \*Needs to be proposed as dual-listed |
| CJST 470/570 | Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice \*Needs to be proposed as dual-listed |

1. Need for the proposed minor.

This proposed minor would be of benefit to graduate students in a number of existing graduate programs at ISU, including Accounting, Community and Regional Planning, Cyber Security Engineering, Education, Human Development and Family Studies, Journalism and Mass Communication, Political Science, Psychology, as well as the Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies program, among others. The criminal justice system represents one of the largest and most influential institutions in American society and graduate students studying in a number of fields would benefit from a better understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of criminal behavior and society’s response to such behavior, including how those responses are shaped by various types of inequality (race, gender, class). There are no similar graduate level programs at ISU, nor at any other of the Regents universities, so clearly there is a need area to fill.

1. Objectives of the proposed minor including the student learning outcomes and how the learning outcomes will be assessed.

Demonstrate comprehensive understanding of empirical literature in the field of criminology and criminal justice.

Demonstrate knowledge of the existing scholarship on the linkages between crime, criminal justice and various forms of inequality in society (race, class, gender) in order to apply this knowledge to the student’s primary field of study.

Locate, comprehend and assess the quality of research on crime and criminal justice topics to inform student’s use of this knowledge within their own primary field of study.

Each course assesses progress on course-level learning objectives. Additionally, all graduate students are invited to participate in a program-level assessment each spring that will incorporate assessment of program-specific learning objectives.

1. Relationship of the minor to other programs at Iowa State University.

There are no similar graduate programs, minors or otherwise at ISU.

The School of Education offers a graduate certificate in *Education for Social Justice*, however this program is restricted to an examination of relationships between various societal structures and challenges relate to the educational system.

A number of current faculty and graduate students in the Department of Psychology are involved in a research concentration referred to as *Psychology and Law*, however this is no graduate coursework offered in this area (instead students are encouraged to apply for the PhD programs in either Cognitive or Social Psychology).

The Department of World Languages and Cultures offers a (12 credit) graduate certificate in *Forensic Sciences*, although this program includes almost entirely physical sciences courses (e.g., chemistry, genetics, physical anthropology, soil mineralogy, statistics, steganography).

No other programs would be asked to participate in the delivery of the graduate minor, so it would not require efforts from other units, nor would it appear to compete with other units offering similar graduate programs.

1. Relationship of the minor to the strategic plans of the university, of the college, and of department or program.

The proposal for a graduate minor in Criminal Justice is consistent with the university’s mission to “create, share and apply knowledge to make Iowa and the world a better place.” More specifically, the graduate minor in Criminal Justice provides a value-added degree program to help prepare students planning to work or conduct research in areas intersecting with the criminal justice system, including public service, criminal justice research and policy development, corrections, mediation and labor relations, law enforcement, social service, law, or fields dealing with children and adolescence. The degree will provide students with an opportunity to explore the interrelationships between societal conditions and the institutions and systems of justice in local, national, and global context.

1. Comparison of the proposed minor with similar programs at other universities, including the Regent’s universities.

The University of Northern Iowa offers no graduate level coursework in criminology or criminal justice.

The University of Iowa offers an MA or PhD in Sociology with an area of study in Crime, Law and Social Control, however they do not offer any graduate minors in Sociology or Crime, Law and Social Control.

The University of Nebraska Omaha, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice offers a 9 credit graduate minor in Criminology and Criminal Justice. This program requires a student to take 6 credits of graduate level electives in the School, along with CRCJ 8020 (Administration of Justice). This graduate minor is also available online.

Michigan State University offers a number of (9 credit) graduate certificates in specific CJ-related topics, including Homeland Security, Law Enforcement Intelligence and Analysis, and Security Management, among others.

1. Program requirements and procedures, including:
2. prerequisites for prospective students;

Current graduate student in good-standing. The minor would be open to Master’s and Doctoral level students.

1. application and selection process;

Students must have the CJ graduate minor approved by their POS committee.

1. language requirements;

None.

1. courses and seminars presently available for credit toward the program;

SOC584 (Current Issues in Crime and Justice).

SOC511 (Research Methodology for the Social Sciences).

PSYCH595E (Seminar in Social Psychology: Psychology and Law)

1. proposed new courses or modifications of existing courses;

CJST404 and CJST470 would need to be dual-listed.

SOC582 to be re-activated/re-named *Criminological Theories*.

1. advising of students;

Sociology DOGE, the member of the POSC representing the minor, and MP from the student’s “home” graduate program.

1. implications for related areas within the university.

No other units on campus will be asked to participate in delivery of needed courses, no new resources are sought for the program to be delivered.

SOC582 was deactivated by a prior Chair of the Sociology Dept. with the intention of replacing it with a new course, however this Chair passed away before doing so. The course would be one of (only) two dealing with CJ content in the Sociology graduate program, so it should be re-activated regardless of the approval of the CJ graduate minor, as 1/3 of current Sociology graduate students are pursuing CJ interests.

1. General description of the resources currently available and future resource needs, in terms of:
2. faculty members;

There are currently 7 faculty members in the Sociology Department who teach in the area of criminal justice/criminology, in addition the department chair, who does not carry a teaching assignment, but also has a PhD in Criminology/CJ.

1. computers, laboratories, and other facilities;

The department supports a graduate student computer lab (East Hall 4th floor) that includes all software necessary for graduate courses, a departmental classroom and laptop cart to support graduate courses, and conference/meeting spaces to facilitate interactions between graduate students and faculty.

1. library facilities (journals, documents, etc.) in the proposed area;

The library currently has facilities and materials (e.g., access to *CJ abstracts*) to support the large undergraduate bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice Studies and the 1/3 of our current MS/PhD students in Sociology who are interested in CJ topics.

1. supplies, field work, student recruitment, etc.

The new program will be advertised on the department webpage and social media to facilitate student recruitment, and information will be shared with DOGEs in related programs and departments.

No additional supplies are necessary. Field work is not a component of the program.

1. Describe the needs for new resources and/or reallocated resources. Attach to the program proposal memos from the department chair(s), the college dean(s), and other appropriate persons, agreeing to the allocation of new resources and/or the reallocation of resources.

No other units on campus will be asked to participate in delivery of required courses, no new resources are sought for the program to be delivered.

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The four undergraduate courses that we would propose to dual list are already taught on a regular basis. Potentially adding a few graduate students, who would register for the 500-level versions of these courses would not require new instructors. A number of these classes have been taught as graduate-level versions by members of our faculty at other universities (e.g., Criminal Justice policies has been taught elsewhere as a doctoral-level course).

See Attachment A for departmental support letter

1. Attach to the program proposal, letters of support, recommendations, and statements when appropriate, from programs and departments at ISU which are associated with the proposed program or have an interest in the proposed program.

See Attachment B

1. If the new program is interdisciplinary, a governance document should be created and submitted to the Associate Provost for Academic Programs. Indicate here that it has been completed.

This program would be housed solely in the Department of Sociology.

Attachment A: Letter of Support from Department of Sociology Chair



Attachment B: Letters of Support from DOGEs in Relevant Programs/Departments

From: Jon Kelly, DOGE Psychology (received 8/21/2020)

As DOGE in psychology, I support the proposed graduate minor in Criminal Justice.  My department includes a group of six faculty actively conducting research in psychology and law.  The proposed minor would educate psychology Ph.D. students about the criminal justice system, which is the very focus of their psychological research.  My department offers nothing similar to the proposed minor, and I am confident that some psychology graduate students would be interested.  Therefore, I strongly support the proposed graduate minor in criminal justice.





