

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE AND BOARD ACTION

COMMITTEE: Assessment and Accountability

NO.: AAC 11-02

COMMITTEE DATE: October 28, 2010

BOARD DATE: November 4, 2010

**APPLICATION OF FRAMINGHAM STATE UNIVERSITY TO AWARD THE
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CRIMINOLOGY**

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the application of **Framingham State University** to award the **Bachelor of Arts in Criminology**.

Upon graduating the first class for this program, Framingham State University shall submit to the Board a status report addressing its success in reaching program goals as stated in the application and in the areas of enrollment, curriculum, faculty resources, and program effectiveness.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 9(b)

Contact: Dr. Francesca Purcell, Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Framingham State University

Bachelor of Arts in Criminology

INTENT AND MISSION

Framingham State University (FSU) filed an expedited application to offer a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology. The proposed criminology major is designed to provide students with a greater understanding of crime, crime prevention, and justice through a multidisciplinary program that combines core courses in sociology with elective courses in psychology, political science, business, economics, government and philosophy. Specifically, students will be introduced to three critical dimensions of criminology: the role of law and legal systems, social and structural dimensions of crime, and individual and behavioral dimensions of crime. The program provides theory and research that will prepare graduates for a wide array of criminology-related careers. Graduates who do not pursue criminology-related careers will be prepared for fields that require a sound social science background emphasizing skills in data analysis, critical thinking, integration of complex information, spatial interpretation skills, effective communication, and problem resolution.

Criminology is an interdisciplinary field emphasizing theory and research, and differentiates itself from criminal justice programs which focus on applied areas such as law enforcement and corrections. The proposed criminology major is a result of a collaboration between the sociology, psychology, political science, business, economics, business, government, and philosophy departments. The departments identified core competencies and selected criminology-related courses that would enhance students' understanding of criminal behavior and its causes. Students are to take at least three courses outside of sociology to maintain an interdisciplinary perspective.

The proposed program's intent reflects both the mission of the state university system and Framingham State University. The state segmental mission statement calls for the universities to "integrate liberal arts and sciences programs with professional education...[and are] committed to...providing responsive, innovative and educational programs of high quality." This new program will also support the University's mission that focuses on the "development of self-directed and confident students who are prepared for a life of learning, leadership, and work." The program curriculum will promote the development of critical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork, as well as written- and oral-skills. These skills will be important in addressing the causes of criminal behavior and the development of crime and crime prevention policies in Massachusetts.

NEED AND DEMAND

Need

The proposed program serves Framingham State University's goal to produce graduates who will contribute to the workforce needs of the Commonwealth. The Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWD) shows an increasing need for professionals in fields related to criminology.

Type of employment

Projected Growth in the Commonwealth 2008-2016

Community and Social Service Specialists	22.5%
Law Enforcement Workers	6.7%
Paralegals and Legal Assistants	19.5%
Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialists	7.8%
Social and Human Service Assistants	27.0%
Social Workers, Child, Family and School	8.3%
Social Workers, Mental Health and Substance Abuse	24.7%
Social Workers, Other	16.6%
Substance Abuse and Behavioral Disorders Counselors	22.5%
Survey Researchers	22.3%
Social Science Research Assistants	10.1%
Teachers, Postsecondary – Sociology	17.6%
Teachers, Postsecondary – Criminal Justice & Law Enforcement	17.4%
Teachers, Postsecondary – Social Work	17.4%

The EOLWD also lists the following occupations as high-demand/high-wage/high-skilled:

- Social and Community Service Managers
- Management Analysts
- Educational, Vocational, and, School Counselors
- Medical and Public Health Social Workers

Demand

Of the 200-plus students surveyed in spring 2010, 25 percent responded that they would very likely major in criminology and 28 percent expressed a strong interest in a career in criminology. These results suggest that the University will be able to meet its enrollment goals for the program.

Very few institutions of higher education in Massachusetts offer a baccalaureate program in criminology. Stonehill College and Merrimack College offer a criminology program and the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth offers a B.A. in Crime and Justice Studies. Framingham State University's proposed program is distinct in its fully interdisciplinary curriculum and the requirement to take electives in three different focus areas: law and legal systems, social/structural dimensions of criminal behavior, and individual/behavioral dimensions of criminal behavior.

ADMISSION AND ENROLLMENT

The approval of candidates for admission will be made on a selective basis. The University is interested in students whose preparatory program, scholastic achievement, aptitudes, interests, character, and established study habits give definite promise of success in a university program. Applicants in a comprehensive university preparatory curriculum must have a recalculated minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of a 3.00 on a 4.00 scale. Students with a GPA between 2.0 and 3.0 may be admitted if they meet SAT requirements calculated on a sliding scale.

Transfer students must meet the following minimum standards: 12-23 university-level credit hours and a 2.50 university GPA; or up to 23 university-level credit hours, a 2.00 university GPA, and a high school transcript that meets the admissions standards for freshman applicants (SAT required); or 24 or more university-level credit hours and a 2.00 university GPA.

PROGRAM ENROLLMENT PROJECTION

	# of Students Year 1	# of Students Year 2	# of Students Year 3	# of Students Year 4	# of Students Year 5
New Full Time	25	25	25	25	25
Continuing Full Time		19	19 16	19 16 15	19 16 30
Totals	25	44	60	75	90

CURRICULUM (Attachment A)

The proposed program requires a total of 32 courses (128 credit hours). The proposed multidisciplinary program combines a set of core criminology-focused sociology courses with courses in psychology, political science, business, economics, and ethics. All students will be required to integrate and apply the knowledge accumulated throughout the curriculum in a culminating capstone experience completing an internship.

Framingham State University offers numerous internships that are appropriate for the criminology program:

- Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
- Framingham Police Department
- Marlboro District Court Department of Probation
- M.C.I. Norfolk-Second Thoughts Program
- Massachusetts Trial Court Internship Program
- Massachusetts Correctional Institute (M.C.I.)
- M.C.I. Framingham Pre-Release Center
- Natick Police Department, Investigational Department
- New Hope South Central Battered Women
- Prison Book Program
- Somerville District Court Trial Department
- South Middlesex Correctional Center
- Suffolk Superior Court Criminal Clerk's Office
- Westboro Detention

RESOURCES AND BUDGET (Attachment B)

Administration and Faculty

The proposed program will be housed in the Sociology Department. A search for a new faculty line has been authorized for fall 2010. The selected individual will serve as the program coordinator and will be responsible for coordinating the recruitment of new students, coordinating with participating departments to ensure course availability, developing internship sites, and overseeing supervision of research projects. A Criminology Program Committee, consisting of at least three faculty from outside the Sociology Department, will work with the coordinator to oversee implementation of strategies to achieve program goals, to assess progress with these goals and in achieving learning outcomes, and to provide support for student capstone experiences.

Faculty members will be drawn from the following departments: seven from sociology, three from psychology, two from government, two from economics, one from biology, and one from philosophy. The University expects to reallocate a position by the third year of the program, thus establishing two dedicated full-time faculty to the criminology program. The University will continue to allocate new faculty lines in the affected departments commensurate with the growth of the program. Revenues from increased enrollment will support the hiring of new faculty.

Library

The University's electronic databases provide coverage of the criminology field. InfoTrac affords access to over 150 journals in the criminology/criminal justice field, and other databases include 96 journals in the social sciences, including criminology, penology, and juvenile justice. In establishing the new program, the University will also seed the program \$10,000 to begin improvement to its print collection in the discipline.

Fiscal

The University submitted a budget for the proposed program, indicating that revenues will begin to exceed expenses starting in year two. A copy of the budget is attached as Appendix B.

PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS

Framingham State University submitted goals and objectives for the proposed Bachelor of Arts in Criminology program as follows:

Goal	Measurable Objective	Strategy for Achievement	Timetable
Generate an average of approximately 25-30 admissions to the program per year	Enrollment of 100 students.	Promote the program among students already enrolled at the University, as first year program admissions are expected to come significantly from internal transfers. Finalize articulation agreements for Criminology with Massachusetts Bay, Middlesex and Quinsigamond Community Colleges	By the fifth year of program.
Maintain student-faculty ratios by providing additional sections of courses to accommodate projected enrollment growth.	Student-faculty ratios are maintained as the program grows.	Hire new faculty positions as enrollment grows. Reallocate a second position by the third year of the program. Closely monitor demand for courses to determine need for additional sections.	Establish two full-time program faculty by the third year of program.
Progressive review of curriculum and of course syllabi to ensure that program goals are met. Develop and administer assessment tools to evaluate course-level and program outcomes. Use results of assessment to identify shortfalls and to improve the program	Outcomes are assessed in every course offered in the program. Program outcomes are assessed for seniors completing the major. Areas indicated by assessment to need improvement are identified and addressed.	Review all course syllabi to ensure that critical knowledge and skill areas are adequately covered. Promote faculty participation in University-wide development opportunities in assessment best practices.	At the end of the first year of the program.
Form an internship committee made up of faculty in participating departments to review student proposals for internships. Provide appropriate internship opportunities to all Criminology majors.	All students have access to appropriate internship opportunities.	Work with contacts at local and state agencies and with private sector organizations to formalize and expand existing internship opportunities and to develop new internship agreements. Collaborate with host institutions to ensure that the internship experience is designed to meet the needs of Criminology majors.	At the end of the first year of the program.

EXTERNAL REVIEW AND INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE

The proposed program was reviewed by Dr. Dennis MacDonald, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Sociology, Saint Anselm College; and Dr. Peter Yeager, Department of Sociology, Boston University.

Both reviewers expressed strong support for the proposed program, stating that it meets or exceeds academic standards, is consistent with the academic mission of the University, addresses a significant public need at the local, state, and federal levels, and demonstrates sufficient commitment of resources in terms of faculty, facilities and equipment for successful implementation.

With regard to the curriculum and administration, the external reviewers recommend that the University articulate more clearly the theoretical content of the proposed curriculum; include exercises and examples related to crime prevention and control in the research methods sequence; develop courses on crime and social policy, white collar crime, and ethics and moral reasoning; strengthen internship opportunities outside of criminal justice settings; address the concern of the possible impact of the criminology program on existing programs and resources; and ensure that a strong advising system is in place to guide student choices and monitor progress.

In its institutional response, the University outlined actions taken or in progress in accordance with each review report recommendation and/or issue raised. Specifically, the University will promote the development of courses on crime and social policy and on white collar crime and will consider the feasibility of adding a core course in criminology and ethics. Likewise, the University recognizes the need for more clarity in the proposed program's theoretical content. In response, the Sociology Department Curriculum Committee will meet in the fall semester of 2010 to address the need for clarity in the program's course descriptions. The University has discussed with instructors of the Research Methods course the need to include exercises and examples related to crime prevention. In turn, they have located crime-oriented datasets for students to use in the development of research projects for the year-long course. The University will also expand internship opportunities in the program with those currently available in the Sociology Department and through the efforts of the selected program director. The University will respond to the concerns over the impact of the criminology program on existing programs and resources by maintaining strong commitment to manage the numbers in the new program as enrollment changes. In response to advising, the University is confident that the current advising system will provide an effective system for student advising. The University will work with the acquisitions library staff to provide access to JSTOR and criminology-related journals.

STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION

Department staff thoroughly reviewed all documentation submitted by Framingham State University and external reviewers. Staff recommendation is for approval of the Bachelor of Arts in Criminology.

Upon graduating the first class for this program, Framingham State University shall submit to the Board a status report addressing its success in reaching program goals as stated in the application and in the areas of enrollment, curriculum, faculty resources and program effectiveness.

APPENDIX A: CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
SOCI 101	Introduction to Sociology	4
SOCI 121	Criminology	4
SOCI 234	Investigating Social Forces in the United States	4
SOCI 302	Sociological Methods I – Research Design	4
SOCI 303	Sociological Methods II – Data Collection & Analysis	4
SOCI 329	Social Deviance	4
SOCI 495 or POSC 450	Internship in Sociology/Anthropology (in a criminology-related area) Internship in the Judicial System	4
Sub-total Core Course Credits		28
Other Required Courses in Related Subject Areas (# Total Courses Required = 6) Electives must be taken in at least 2 departments other than Sociology		
Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
<i>Law and the Legal System (Choose Two)</i>		
BADM 215	Legal Environment of Business	4
POSC 210	Crime and Social Policy (to be developed)	4
POSC 250	American Legal Systems	4
POSC 315	Judicial Politics and Policy	4
POSC 316	U.S. Constitutional Law and Politics	4
SOCI 230	Law and Society	4
<i>Social/Structural Dimensions (Choose Two)</i>		
ECON 230	Urban Economics	4
HIST 255	History of Crime in the United States (to be developed)	4
POSC 337	Legislative Politics and Policy	4
SOCI 130	Social Problems	4
SOCI 245	Race and Ethnic Relations	4
SOCI 263	Social Inequality	4
SOCI 265	Sociology of Violence (to be developed)	4
SOCI 266	Victimology (to be developed)	4
<i>Individual Behavioral Dimensions (Choose Two)</i>		
INTD 225	Biopsychology	4
PHIL 102	Introduction to Ethics: Why Be Moral?	4
PSYC 212	Adolescent Psychology	4
PSYC 271	Principles of Behavior Modification	4
PSYC 322	Abnormal Psychology	4
SOCI 224	Juvenile Delinquency	4
Sub-total Related Course Credits		24

APPENDIX A: CURRICULUM OUTLINE (CONTINUED)

Distribution of General Education Requirements and Free Electives	Credit Hours
Attach List of General Education Offerings (Course Numbers, Titles, and Credits)	
Arts and Humanities, including Literature and Foreign Languages	20
Mathematics and the Natural and Physical Sciences	12
Social Sciences	16
Sub-total General Education Credits	48
Free Electives	28
Sub-total Free Elective Credits	28
Curriculum Summary	
Total number of courses required for the degree	32
Total credit hours required for the degree	128
Prerequisite or Other Additional Requirements:	

The table below provides information on the College's enrollment projections for the program as well as the incremental revenue and expenditures that are attributable to the program:

<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>	<u>Year 4</u>	<u>Year 5</u>
Enrollment Assumption (FTE):					
Annual Initial Enrollment	25	25	25	25	25
Continuing Enrollment		19	19	19	19
			16	16	16
				<u>15</u>	<u>30</u>
Aggregated Enrollment	25	44	60	75	90
Incremental Revenue					
Fee Assumption	<u>\$ 6,030</u>	<u>\$ 6,480</u>	<u>\$ 6,960</u>	<u>\$ 7,390</u>	<u>\$ 7,760</u>
	\$ 150,750	\$ 285,120	\$ 417,600	\$ 554,250	\$ 698,400
<u>Expenses</u>					
Incremental Faculty					
Year 1 addition - 1 FTE (plus F.B.)	\$ 98,999	\$ 101,969	\$ 110,279	\$ 121,539	\$ 133,948
Year 2 addition - 1 FTE (plus F.B.)			\$ 97,999	\$ 108,005	\$ 119,032
Year 3 addition - .3 FTE (Utilization Inc;VL)			\$ 9,200	\$ 9,250	\$ 9,250
Year 4 addition - .3 FTE (Utilization Inc;VL)				<u>\$ 9,250</u>	<u>\$ 9,250</u>
Aggregate Incremental Faculty Costs	\$ 98,999	\$ 101,969	\$ 217,478	\$ 248,044	\$ 271,480
Incremental Marketing Costs	\$ 8,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,300	\$ 10,815	\$ 11,356
Incremental Departmental Support Costs	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 31,500	\$ 33,075
Incremental Academic Support Costs	\$ 19,375	\$ 34,100	\$ 46,616	\$ 58,506	\$ 70,317
Incremental Student Support Costs	\$ 18,750	\$ 33,000	\$ 45,113	\$ 58,506	\$ 70,317
Incremental Institutional/Infrastructure Costs	<u>\$ 34,520</u>	<u>\$ 39,540</u>	<u>\$ 52,218</u>	<u>\$ 69,731</u>	<u>\$ 81,769</u>
	<u>\$ 90,645</u>	<u>\$ 136,640</u>	<u>\$ 184,247</u>	<u>\$ 229,058</u>	<u>\$ 266,834</u>
Aggregate Incremental Expenses	<u>\$ 189,644</u>	<u>\$ 238,609</u>	<u>\$ 401,725</u>	<u>\$ 477,102</u>	<u>\$ 538,314</u>
Net Impact	\$ (38,894)	\$ 46,511	\$ 15,875	\$ 77,148	\$ 160,086