

Administrative and Educational Support Report*

Department of Criminal Justice

**Annual Action Plan
Annual Assessment Report**

June 2005 – May 2006

*Student Learning Outcomes for this department are available at
<http://ie.panam.edu/CoSBSLearningOutcomes.htm>



Annual Action Plan: June 1, 2005–May 31, 2006

Unit: Department of Criminal Justice

UTPA Mission: The University of Texas-Pan American (UTPA) serves the higher education needs of a rapidly growing, international, multicultural population in the South Texas Region. The University preserves, transmits and creates knowledge to serve the cultural, civic, and economic advancement of the region and the state. The University provides students advanced instruction in academic programs offered through innovative delivery systems that lead to professional certification, and baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral degrees. Through teaching, research, creative activity and public service, UTPA prepares students for lifelong learning and leadership roles in the state, nation and world community.

Division: Academic Affairs **Unit Head:** Dr. S. George Vincentnathan

Unit Mission: The Department of Criminal Justice’s mission is to teach a body of knowledge and the critical-thinking skills of the social sciences; to add to this base of knowledge and skills through high-quality research; and to utilize the knowledge and skills in service to our local and professional communities. We will accomplish this mission with:

- Excellence of **teaching** that utilizes pedagogically sound teaching techniques, based on the principles of academic freedom, and that help our students to become committed to life-long learning, critical-thinking, social involvement, and to dealing ethically and empathetically with others.
- **Scholarship** that promotes collaboration in the discovery, testing, and dissemination of knowledge and that can improve the social conditions of our society, our region, the global community, and our professions.
- **Service** based on principles of collegial decision making that contributes to the well being of our university, our respective professions, and our regional, national, and international communities.

Unit Goal: Introduce improvements in teaching, learning, and curriculum in the **undergraduate program**

Link to UTPA Goal(s): 1. Ensure undergraduate student access and success

Unit Objective (Action Priority: #1 is highest)	Link to UTPA Objective	Expected Outcome for Unit Objective (AA-Measurable Objective)	Strategy(ies) to Achieve Expected Outcomes	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Expected Outcome	New Resources Needed in FY06
Introduce improvements in teaching, learning, and curriculum, based on assessment of	2	Student learning improvement plan developed will be implemented.	Facilitate educational improvement among faculty & students by sharing and discussing the assessment	Minutes of discussions and meetings, reports, and curriculum changes that reflects	None

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student learning outcomes. (1)			findings and the learning improvement plan.	improvements.	

Unit Goal:	Introduce improvements in teaching, learning, and curriculum in the graduate program
Link to UTPA Goal(s):	2. Enhance graduate education and research

Unit Objective (Action Priority: #1 is highest)	Link to UTPA Objective	Expected Outcome for Unit Objective (AA-Measurable Objective)	Strategy(ies) to Achieve Expected Outcomes	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Expected Outcome	New Resources Needed in FY06
Introduce improvements in teaching, learning, and curriculum, based on assessment of student learning outcomes. (2)	4	Student learning improvement plan developed will be implemented	Facilitate educational improvement among faculty & students by sharing and discussing the assessment findings and the learning improvement plan.	Minutes of discussions and meetings, reports, and curriculum changes that reflect improvements	None

Unit Goal:	Increase research, scholarship, creative activity, and supports.
Link to UTPA Goal(s):	1. Ensure undergraduate student access and success 2. Enhance graduate education and research

Unit Objective (Action Priority: #1 is highest)	Link to UTPA Objective	Expected Outcome for Unit Objective (AA-Measurable Objective)	Strategy(ies) to Achieve Expected Outcomes	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Expected Outcome	New Resources Needed in FY06
Increase student success through research and grant	2, 5	Comparatively higher accomplishments than the previous year in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching load reductions. 	Publications, conference presentations, on-going research, reports and	\$5,000 for involving advanced and academically good

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activity. (3)		these areas by faculty and students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel support to conferences. • Cooperative research projects. • Involvement of students in research. 	documents.	undergraduate students in research, in preparation for their graduate education.



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Unit Goal: Introduce improvements in teaching, learning, and curriculum in the **undergraduate program**

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Unit Objective (Priority: #1 is highest)	Link to UTPA Objective	Expected Outcome	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods	Assessment Results (Use actual data to describe annual performance)	Use of Results (What change was made?)
Introduce improvements in teaching, learning, and curriculum, based	2	Student learning improvement	Minutes of discussions and meetings, reports,	The Educational Testing Service (ETS) instrument used for assessment	In the criminology <u>theory</u> course the instructors introduced such changes as moving from simple to complex

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on assessment of student learning outcomes. (1)		plan developed will be implemented.	and curriculum changes that reflects improvements.	Spring 2005 revealed that overall 70% of graduating seniors (52 students) received a score of 75% in the 7 areas of CJ (lumped together). They are theory, law, law-enforcement, corrections, courts, critical thinking, & research methods & statistics. In the areas of <u>theory</u> , <u>critical thinking</u> , and <u>research methods/statistics</u> , they did not do as well, to an expected 70% level.	<p>levels of logic, using social & behavioral science concepts and theories, on which the criminological theories are founded.</p> <p>In promoting <u>critical thinking</u>, instructors in all classes increased debates, discussions, & critical analyses of topics. Students interviewed employees of the CJ system, & learned to appreciate & differentiate or integrate field & theoretical perspectives. Various assignments were given to promote critical thinking. Data sets were presented for comparison, critical analysis, integration or rejection. In many classes, papers were assigned to help students analyze issues and viewpoints. Also students were exposed to international comparisons and diverse manifestations of crime and CJ issues. In the Capstone class seniors evaluated their learning, & learned to integrate it. They also provided critical evaluation of the curriculum.</p> <p>Two instructors responsible for teaching <u>research methods & statistics</u> have introduced research projects in which students learn to do research subsequent to their understanding of the field in the classroom. Both individual and</p>

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					group projects were assigned & carried out. For instance, students developed questionnaires for surveys, critically evaluated them, made modifications, collected responses, & statistically analyzed them, & came up with data-based decisions for applied use. This will be continued. Plans are underway to reduce the size of research methods classes, so that personal attention & research experience can be augmented.

Unit Goal:

Introduce improvements in teaching, learning, and curriculum in the graduate program
2. Enhance graduate education and research

Link to UTPA Goal(s):

Unit Objective (Priority: #1 is highest)	Link to UTPA Objective	Expected Outcome	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods	Assessment Results (Use actual data to describe annual performance)	Use of Results (What change was made?)
Introduce improvements in teaching, learning, and curriculum, based on assessment of student learning outcomes. (2)	4	Student learning improvement plan developed will be implemented	Minutes of discussions and meetings, reports, and curriculum changes that reflect improvements	The 2004-05 assessment revealed that 100% of the students received 80% or higher scores, above the expectation that 80% would receive such scores. The faculty were satisfied, but felt the students needed greater preparation in critical thinking, policy-oriented thinking, & writing skills. In June 2006 an external	Improvements were made by increasing opportunities for discussion, critical analysis of topics, & development of policy-oriented thinking. The graduate instructors report that in all classes they have encouraged students' points of view & alternate ways of thinking. In the graduate research methods class, especially, students learned to critically evaluate research findings, & the use of different research methods for

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				reviewer examined the program and submitted a report. The report reveals that the program is very solid and good. There were some suggestions for change in the manner in which the program is constituted, especially in reference to requirements for graduation, which will be discussed in the faculty meetings for consideration.	different purposes, & to achieve informed understanding of a problem or issue. There were an increased number of written assignments, class presentations, and student participation & discussions.

Unit Goal:

Increase research, scholarship, creative activity, and supports in achieving these

Link to UTPA Goal(s):

1. Ensure undergraduate student access and success
2. Enhance graduate education and research

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Increase student success through research and grant activity. (3)	2, 5	Comparatively higher accomplishments than the previous year in these areas by faculty and students.	Publications, conference presentations, on-going research, reports and documents.	The faculty's accomplishments increased greatly. In 2004-05 they had 5 publications & 12 presentations. In 2005-06 they had 12 publications & 10 presentations. In addition assessment & internship related research was also carried out. 8 senior undergrad students were also involved in various research projects. The faculty/student research initiated was promoted to help undergraduate students choose graduate education.	Although this is a significant improvement, the CJ faculty intend to continue improving in these areas, and also involve students in various research project to help them prepare for graduate education.

