

Administrative and Educational Support Report*

Department of Criminal Justice

**Annual Action Plan
Annual Assessment Report**

June 2006 – May 2007

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



Annual Action Plan: June 1, 2006–May 31, 2007

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: **S. George Vincentnathan**

Unit Mission: The mission of the Criminal Justice Department is to impart knowledge and promote critical thinking about the crime problem, and its control through criminal justice institutions and public cooperation. The Department emphasizes development of knowledge through research and scholarly activities. Students receive comprehensive criminal justice education in criminal law, criminology, policing, courts, corrections, and crime prevention, in the context of a general and liberal arts education, with background in the social sciences. The Department seeks to help students become agents of change in criminal justice organizations and serve well the communities in which they are located. 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 discovery, research, collaboration, and dissemination of knowledge 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.

UTPA Goal: Provide students with a quality educational experience that enables them to complete their educational goals in a timely fashion.

Academic Affairs Objective: Ensure that graduate programs are academically rigorous and research centered, promoting independent learning and preparing graduates to contribute successfully to their chosen professions.

College/AVP Objective: Enable students to complete their educational goals in a timely fashion.

Annual Action Plan June 1, 2006–May 31, 2007

Unit Objective	Strategy(ies) to Achieve Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	New Resources Needed in FY07
<p>Improve the curriculum to enhance quality education and timely completion of the degree requirements at the undergraduate level. (1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct ongoing curricular review. • The capstone course for all majors will be re-gearred to emphasize and integrate content from throughout the major • Encourage the use of WebCT for classroom and on-line courses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The departmental curriculum committee will review and revise the curriculum to increase the emphasis on justice studies. • Increase student learning outcomes results for AY 06-07 • The number of courses using WebCT will be greater than in AY 2005-2006. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The revised curriculum will be completed by May 2007 and submitted to the university curriculum committee at the beginning of fall semester 2007. • Assessed student learning outcomes will increase by at least 10% in comparison to AY 2005-2006. • The number of courses using WebCT will increase 10% in AY 2006-2007 in comparison to AY 2005-2006. 	<p>None</p>

UTPA Goal: Provide students with a quality educational experience that enables them to complete their educational goals in a timely fashion.

Academic Affairs Objective: Ensure that graduate programs are academically rigorous and research centered, promoting independent learning and preparing graduates to contribute successfully to their chosen professions.

College/AVP Objective: Provide all students with a quality educational experience.

Annual Action Plan June 1, 2006–May 31, 2007

Unit Objective	Strategy(ies) to Achieve Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	New Resources Needed in FY07
Develop research, writing, critical thinking, and oral presentation skills at the graduate level. (2)	Use rigorous course assignments and activities that build graduate students' research, writing, and oral presentation skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All graduate courses will include class discussion and research paper activities/assignments. • All students will build satisfactory research, writing, and oral presentation skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of all graduate syllabi will indicate use of research papers and class discussion in 100% of graduate courses. • 80% of graduate students will earn at least an 80% average on their final course grades in all of their graduate courses. 	None
Increase graduate enrollment. (3)	Prepare and recruit academically strong undergraduate students for graduate school.	An increasing number of UTPA criminal justice undergraduates will apply and be admitted to the graduate program.	The Graduate Program will show a 10% increase in SCHs due to increased enrollment in AY 2006-2007 over AY 2005-2006.	None
Foster hands-on experience for undergraduate students (4)	Promote internship opportunities for students in the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host Criminal Justice Career Day, in which potential employers come to campus, at least once during the academic year. • Increase the number of potential internship site contacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal Justice Career Day will be hosted at least one time during AY 2006-2007. <p>Contacts with potential internships will be increased at least 5% in comparison to sites contacted in AY 2005-2006.</p>	

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UTPA Goal: Become an outstanding research institution, emphasizing collaborative partnerships and entrepreneurship.

Academic Affairs Objective: Provide support for the improvement of the research infrastructure.

College/AVP Objective: Generate support for research and develop a culture of research.

Unit Objective	Strategy(ies) to Achieve Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	New Resources Needed in FY07
Promote a departmental culture in favor of research and scholarly activities. (5)	Encourage increased faculty research activity.	Faculty research productivity, as indicated by the number of professional presentations and publications, will increase.	The number of faculty presentations and publications will increase by at least 5% in comparison to AY 2005-2006.	None

UTPA Goal: Enhance UTPA's engagement with the community to meet challenges and maximize opportunities.

Academic Affairs Objective: Promote engagement with existing organizations to address challenges and opportunities.

College/AVP Objective: Increase community awareness and understanding of the College.

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Develop partnerships with community groups and agencies. (6)	Maintain contact and communication with relevant community interest groups.	Contact will be maintained with relevant community interest groups.	A central department list of relevant community interest groups will be created and contact with each group will be documented at least every six months.	None

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UTPA Goal: Infuse Inter-American and global perspectives throughout the University community.

Academic Affairs Objective: Infuse international and inter-American content into the curriculum.

College/AVP Objective: Infuse inter-American and global perspectives into the curriculum.

Unit Objective	Strategy(ies) to Achieve Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	New Resources Needed in FY07
Develop intercultural understanding and experience. (7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in Pan American Days and International Week. • Plan and develop exchange programs for faculty and students with other countries. • Bring in speakers on international topics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal Justice faculty will participate in these events at similar levels as previous years. • Initiate discussions with at least one university regarding faculty/student exchanges. • At least one speaker will be invited and will present a talk on an international topic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal Justice faculty will participate in Pan American Days and International Week at similar levels as AY 2005-2006 (i.e. 5 faculty). • At least one university outside of the United States will be contacted regarding criminal justice exchange programs by May 2007. • At least one speaker will be invited to present a talk on an international topic by May 2007. 	<p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>\$4,000.00</p>



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Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	Assessment Results (Use actual data to describe annual performance)	Use of Results (What change was made?)
<p>Improve the curriculum to enhance quality education and timely completion of the degree requirements at the undergraduate level. (1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The departmental curriculum committee will review and revise the curriculum to increase the emphasis on justice studies. Increase student learning outcomes results for AY 06-07 The number of courses using WebCT will be greater than in AY 2005-2006. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The revised curriculum will be completed by May 2007 and submitted to the university curriculum committee at the beginning of fall semester 2007. Assessed student learning outcomes will increase by at least 10% in comparison to AY 2005-2006. The number of courses using WebCT will increase 10% in AY 2006-2007 in comparison to AY 2005-2006. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CJ Curriculum Committee met 5 times and reviewed the undergraduate curriculum. It came up with 6 new/revised courses. If the proposal is approved Fall 2007, there will be a greater thrust toward justice studies theories than having the main focus on a CJ system approach. During Spring 2006, 70% of the graduating seniors achieved only a score of 49% or more in the Capstone assessment class, but in Fall 2006 70% achieved a score of 66% or more, exceeding our 10% improvement expectation. During 2005-06 WebCT was used in only 3 courses; in 2006-07 it was used in 9 courses, far exceeding the expectation of 10% increase. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The change in the curriculum might happen during Fall 2007, and if approved appropriate changes will be made. Efforts were made to improve the results by involving one other faculty to facilitate a general overview of criminal justice, so that there could be further improvements. This increased access to instructors and increased instructor/student communications, and improved learning.

UTPA Goal:

Provide students with a quality educational experience that enables them to complete their educational goals in a timely fashion.

Academic Affairs Objective:

Ensure that graduate programs are academically rigorous and research centered, promoting independent learning and preparing graduates to contribute successfully to their chosen professions.

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College/AVP Objective:

Provide all students with a quality educational experience.

Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	Assessment Results (Use actual data to describe annual performance)	Use of Results (What change was made?)
Develop research, writing, critical thinking, and oral presentation skills at the graduate level. (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All graduate courses will include class discussion and research paper activities/assignments. All students will build satisfactory research, writing, and oral presentation skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of all graduate syllabi will indicate use of research papers and class discussion in 100% of graduate courses. 80% of graduate students will earn at least an 80% average on their final course grades in all of their graduate courses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In all graduate courses research papers were required, and all classes involved discussions, student presentations, and opportunities for critical thinking and responses. Some classes were run in a seminar fashion. 96% of graduate student earned at least 80% on their final grades, exceeding expectations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These helped improve research, writing and critical thinking and oral presentation skills. Results are used to help improve student learning and performance in research, writing, critical thinking and oral presentations
Increase graduate enrollment. (3)	An increasing number of UTPA criminal justice undergraduates will apply and be admitted to the graduate program.	The Graduate Program will show a 10% increase in SCHs due to increased enrollment in AY 2006-2007 over AY 2005-2006.	The SCH for the Graduate Program increased by 17.6% from 2005-06 to 2006-07, exceeding the 10% expectation.	We are working on changing the curriculum to meet this expanding need, and give new and improved direction to the curriculum, focused on Justice Studies, toward establishing a doctoral program.
Foster hands-on experience for undergraduate students (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host Criminal Justice Career Day, in which potential employers come to campus, at 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criminal Justice Career Day will be hosted at least one time during AY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 career days were hosted during AY 2006-07. Many federal, state, and local CJ agencies participated in their 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This helped to increase student employment opportunities, and

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	<p>least once during the academic year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of potential internship site contacts. 	<p>2006-2007.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contacts with potential internships will be increased at least 5% in comparison to sites contacted in AY 2005-2006. 	<p>employment recruitment, and increase their agency visibility. Susan Chapa, Assistant Director of Career Placement Services, and the CJ Department worked together in making these events useful to the students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During AY 2005-06 there were 11 internship slots available and committed to student internships, while in AY 2006-07 21 new opportunities were added and committed, an increase of 91%, well over 5% expected. 	<p>many agencies have contacted the students and department in their recruitment efforts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These internships helped students gain new and challenging experiences, which could help in their careers.

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Promote a departmental culture in favor of research and scholarly activities. (5)	Faculty research productivity, as indicated by the number of	The number of faculty presentations and publications will increase	In AY 2005-06 there were 12 publications and 10 presentations. During	This has helped to promote a research and scholarly oriented departmental

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	professional presentations and publications, will increase.	by at least 5% in comparison to AY 2005-2006.	2006-07 there were 3 publications, 20 presentations, and 6 manuscripts in process of publication/consideration. While publications declined, presentations and preparations toward publication increased beyond 5%. Furthermore 5 faculty have engaged in grant-writing and research.	environment.

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Develop partnerships with community groups and agencies. (6)	Contact will be maintained with relevant community interest groups.	A central department list of relevant community interest groups will be created and contact with each group will be documented at least every six months.	A list has been created with possibilities for expansion. Contacts have been maintained with over 25 community groups and agencies. They include police agencies, courts, and correctional institutions, particularly	The list is used to expand services to students for field visits, internships, volunteer work, and career opportunities. It is also used for faculty and community in such activities as faculty giving presentations and advisory

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			close to the Edinburg/McAllen area. Other community agencies, such as Channel 5, the Monitor, Texas Defense Lawyers Association, and other agencies that provide internship and employment opportunities for students. Contacts have been maintained on an ad hoc basis, based on the needs to help students and community agencies, rather than periodically or frequently, as stated here.	counsel to community agencies, and faculty benefiting by this experience in teaching, scholar activities, and community service.

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Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	Assessment Results (Use actual data to describe annual performance)	Use of Results (What change was made?)
Develop intercultural understanding and experience. (7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criminal Justice faculty will participate in these events at similar levels as previous years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criminal Justice faculty will participate in Pan American Days and International Week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During AY 2005-06 there were only 3 presentations or active participation. In 2006-07 there were 6 presentations/participation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These participations have helped to create intercultural and global learning and understanding among

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate discussions with at least one university regarding faculty/student exchanges. • At least one speaker will be invited and will present a talk on an international topic. 	<p>at similar levels as AY 2005-2006 (i.e. 5 faculty).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least one university outside of the United States will be contacted regarding criminal justice exchange programs by May 2007. • At least one speaker will be invited to present a talk on an international topic by May 2007. 	<p>In addition, 4 faculty participated in the International Criminological Conference held in the University of Tamaulipas in Reynosa, Mexico.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An exchange student from France took criminal justice courses during Spring 2007. Arrangements are being made for 2 graduate students from the University of Tamaulipas Criminology Department to come to the UTPA campus for education, cultural enrichment, and research experience. At least one faculty from Spain, teaching in Mexico, will come for International Week 2007. • During Fall 2006, the CJ Department invited a criminology professor, and a victimology professor from two Japanese universities to give several presentations over a two-day period relating to criminal justice and education in Japan. 	<p>the students and faculty.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is anticipated that these student and faculty presence on campus would help toward increased cooperation so that our students and faculty, and students and faculty from elsewhere can develop solid exchange programs for intercultural learning. • Students appreciated the presentations and wanted to go abroad, see the differences and similarities in cultures, criminal justice systems, and educational perspectives.