

**Criminal Justice Session Notes**

**Disciplinary Segmental Leaders**

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1. The following documents were distributed to all attendees.

a. *MassTransfer* Pathway – Criminal Justice: See table below.

Common Course Areas	Bridgewater	Fitchburg	Frammingham	Salem	UMArherst	UMBoston	UMDaetmouth	UMLowell	Westfield	Worcester
Introduction to Criminal Justice	1	1		1		2	1	1	1	1
Corrections	1	1		1		1		1	1	1
Court System	1			1		1			1	1
Criminology	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
Policing	1	1		1		1		1	1	1

- b. *MassTransfer* Pathway – Criminal Justice Courses: A list of criminal justice courses offered by baccalaureate institutions, including the course’s MAST (Massachusetts Articulated System of Transfer) title, the institution offering the course, the course’s institutional department code, the course’s institutional number and the course’s institutional title.
2. Ms. Gromstein invited all present to introduce themselves and tell the group a little about their criminal justice programs. At many of the institutions the criminal justice program was the third or fourth largest in terms of student enrollment. At all of the institutions except the University of Massachusetts campuses at Amherst and Boston, criminal justice constitutes its own program. At UMass Amherst criminal justice is a certificate program within the Sociology Department and at UMass Boston it is a degree program within the Sociology Department.
  3. The group engaged in discussions of the following issues.
    - a. The mathematics courses required at the community colleges, i.e. college algebra vs. statistics.
    - b. The location of the statistics courses required for criminal justice, i.e. the Mathematics Department, the Criminal Justice Department or some other department.
    - c. The courses criminal justice students take in their first two years of baccalaureate programs. Some institutions have students take foundational courses in first two years, while other institutions have students take foundational courses in third and fourth years. Some universities have students concentrate on general education courses in the first two years.
    - d. While most institutions offer criminal justice as a stand-alone degree program, UMass Amherst offers it as a certificate program within the Sociology Department and UMass Boston offers it as a degree program within the Sociology Department.
    - e. The role that the Certification Standards for College/University Criminal Justice/Criminology Baccalaureate Degree Programs of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) might play in developing *MassTransfer* Pathways for criminal justice.
    - f. The role that the nine-course certificate requirements for police officers agreed to by the community colleges might play as a model for identifying foundational courses in criminal justice.
    - g. The related foundational courses for criminal justice in psychology, sociology and mathematics.
    - h. The way criminal justice courses transfer, i.e. as an equivalent course, as a major elective or as a general elective.
    - i. The need for students to have to take some courses twice when a baccalaureate institution does not accept a community college version of a course.
    - j. Online and blended courses, i.e. course that combine online and in-person components.
  4. The group discussed the meaning of foundational courses and identified all of the courses required by associate degree criminal justice programs and those required in the first two years of bachelor degree criminal justice programs. The list below shows the courses identified and the number of institutions that require each course. In the cases of Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure and Criminal Investigations, some institutions cover the material in one semester, while others cover the material in two-semester sequences. Where the material is covered in two semesters, one half is counted for each semester.

<i>Course</i>	<i>Institutions requiring it</i>
Criminal Law (I)	13½
Introduction to Criminal Justice	12
Criminology	10
Criminal Procedure (I)	8½

<b>Course</b>	<b>Institutions requiring it</b>
Corrections	8
Criminal Investigations (I)	5½
Policing	5
Juvenile Justice	4
Multicultural Diversity in Criminal Justice	4
Evidence/Court Procedure	3
Management of Criminal Justice	3
Adjudication/Court System	1
Communications	1
Criminal Investigations II	1
Criminal Law II	1
Criminal Procedure II	1
Criminalistics (for developmental students)	1
Forensics	1
Internship in Criminal Justice	1
Introduction to Security	1
Police Administration	1
Report Writing	1
Substance Abuse	1
Women in the Law	1

The group recognized the variability among institutions in the sequence of required courses, the inclusion of statistics or not, and the year in a baccalaureate program when the foundational courses are taken. There seemed to be general agreement on what an ideal criminal justice program should look like, but disagreement on when the courses should be taken: community colleges do them in two years, while universities do them in four years.

- The group identified the following seven foundational courses, grouping them into three levels. The group wanted to have a chance to review course descriptions before coming to a final conclusion about the foundational courses. There was general agreement that the top five probably would be foundational, but less agreement about the last two. The group agreed to send copies of course descriptions to Elena Quiroz-Livanis, Special Assistant to the Commissioner/Director of Postsecondary Success Strategies, Massachusetts Department of Higher Education ([equiroz@bhe.mass.edu](mailto:equiroz@bhe.mass.edu)) by Friday, November 6, 2015.

**Foundational Courses in Criminal Justice**

*Level I*

1. Introduction to Criminal Justice
2. Criminology

*Level II*

3. Corrections
4. Criminal Law
5. Policing

*Level III*

6. Diversity/Ethics
7. Courts/Court System

6. The segment leaders requested an email list of the criminal justice faculty representatives to facilitate communication within the group.