

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE AND BOARD ACTION

COMMITTEE: Assessment and Accountability

NO.: AAC 06-06

COMMITTEE DATE: December 8, 2005

BOARD DATE: December 15, 2005

APPROVAL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMS AT BRIDGEWATER STATE COLLEGE

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education approves the **Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice** and the **Master of Science in Criminal Justice at Bridgewater State College** under the *Guidelines for Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Academic Programs*. The programs have been found to meet or exceed all quality standards established by the *Guidelines*.

As stated in the *Guidelines*, the institution shall submit two copies of a report to the Board annually, certifying that each program is being maintained and operated within the provisions and spirit of the criteria and guidelines set forth by the *Guidelines*.

Authority: Chapter 41, Section 108L (as amended)

Contact: Aundrea Kelley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Policy

Massachusetts Board of Higher Education
Review of Criminal Justice Programs
 December 2005

S U M M A R Y A S S E S S M E N T R E P O R T

<i>Institution</i>	Bridgewater State College
<i>Program</i>	Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice
<i>Degrees Awarded (AY 2004-05)</i>	84

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N D E T A I L S	
<i>Recommendation of Review Team</i>	Approval
<i>Response Received from Institution?</i>	Yes
<i>BHE Staff Analysis</i>	Staff concurs with team recommendation.
<i>Recommendation of BHE Staff</i>	Approval The program is in compliance with all Quality Standards for Criminal Justice Programs, i.e., all standards are substantively met.
<i>Reason for Board Action</i>	Program is in substantive compliance with all standards.

SUMMARY EVALUATION (BY REVIEW TEAM)
 Bridgewater State College – Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice

Key for completing the form – The program:

- 1 is substantively in compliance with the standard
- 2 is partially in compliance with the standard and has provided credible evidence that it will be in compliance with the standard no later than June 2006
- 3 is partially in compliance with the standard but has provided insufficient credible evidence that it will be in compliance with the standard by June 2006
- 4 is not in compliance with the standard and has not provided sufficient credible evidence that it will be in compliance by June 2006

Standard	Assessment	Comments
A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 3 4	The mission of the program is consistent with priorities 5, 6 and 7 described in the University mission to develop strong links with communities and institutions in the region and also to incorporate ideals and practices of cultural diversity. The program should be applauded--and there should be continued support forthcoming from the institution--for the Department's willingness to host annual conferences related to hate crimes and corrections since these conferences clearly contribute to the mission of the College.
B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 3 4	The undergraduate program is nicely documented on the website and in the catalog (B1). The program has clearly demonstrated that it has met each of the content areas requested by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education. Consistent with the mission of the College, the program also has a focus on diversity and offers several courses in that area. There is no question that the program is as rigorous as other programs at Bridgewater. We believe that if the commitment by the College to the program remains strong, this program could be considered one of the College's elite programs. There is evidence that the program will continue to improve as all levels of administration have indicated continued resources and encouragement for the Department. The newly hired faculty and Chair have developed an exciting set of courses that are cohesive, traditional in the core (e.g., Courts and Criminal Law), and responsive to new developments in the field (e.g., Privatization of Criminal Justice -- see B1, B2, B11). Core courses are prerequisites for electives.
C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 3 4	<p>Full time faculty currently teach approximately 80% of all the criminal justice courses in the Department. This percentage will likely increase with the addition of two faculty members that the Department plans to hire in the Fall of 2006. The full time faculty all have criminal justice degrees from nationally known criminal justice programs. While the full time faculty are relatively new in their careers, the reviewers felt that they were highly committed to teaching, research and service. The reviewers were concerned about the heavy teaching load of the faculty while they try to engage in research, community service and build the Department. Thus, we suggest that at least one of the new hires occur at the associate professor level.</p> <p>There is no current evidence that there is consistent allocation of teaching assistants in the program. This is because all assistantships are handed out at the College level and criminal justice is often left out of the allocation. The College plans changing the way teaching assistants are allocated to more fairly distribute them among the programs in the college. This will benefit the Department of Criminal Justice because teaching assistants aid faculty in their academic responsibilities.</p>
D	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 3 4	The program has clear expectations about the granting of credits that are consistent with MBHE requirements. This is in the true spirit of the Quinn Bill.
E	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	We are concerned about the centralized budget (standard E1) and the potential that it may limit support for the Criminal Justice Program. However, there is overwhelming evidence indicated through the recent hire of five new faculty combined with two current searches that the

	1 2 3 4 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 3 4	Dean, Provost and President are committed to the creation of a quality program in Criminal Justice.
F	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 3 4	Undergraduate student advising is mandatory. Students indicated to us that they had access to faculty and that their advisors were always available to help with career development.
G	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 3 4	Documentation is excellent and available in print as well as online format.
H	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 3 4	N/A
I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 3 4	The Department engages in periodic reviews as required by the College . The next review will take place in 2008-2009. Much of that review is consistent with the MBHE program review requirements. The Department has also scheduled an ACJS review for 2009-2010.

Massachusetts Board of Higher Education
Review of Criminal Justice Programs
 December 2005

S U M M A R Y A S S E S S M E N T R E P O R T

<i>Institution</i>	Bridgewater State College
<i>Program</i>	Master of Science in Criminal Justice
<i>Degrees Awarded (AY 2004-05)</i>	10

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N D E T A I L S	
<i>Recommendation of Review Team</i>	Approval
<i>Response Received from Institution?</i>	Yes
<i>BHE Staff Analysis</i>	Staff concurs with team recommendation.
<i>Recommendation of BHE Staff</i>	Approval The program is in compliance with all Quality Standards for Criminal Justice Programs, i.e., all standards are substantively met.
<i>Reason for Board Action</i>	Program is in substantive compliance with all standards.

SUMMARY EVALUATION (BY REVIEW TEAM)
 Bridgewater State College – Master of Science in Criminal Justice

Key for completing the form – The program:					
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Standard	Assessment				Comments
A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The mission of the Program is consistent with priorities 5, 6 and 7 described in the College's mission to develop strong links with communities and institutions in the region and also to incorporate ideals and practices of cultural diversity. The program should be applauded--and there should be continued support forthcoming from the institution--for the Department's willingness to host annual conferences related to hate crimes and corrections since these conferences clearly contribute to the mission of the University.
	1	2	3	4	
B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The graduate program is nicely documented on the website and in the catalog (B1). The program has also clearly demonstrated that it has met each of the content areas requested by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education. Consistent with the mission of the college, the program also has a focus on diversity and offers several courses in that area. There is no question that the program is as rigorous as other programs in the College. We believe that if the commitment by the University to the program remains strong this program could be considered one of the its elite programs. There is evidence that the program will continue to improve as all levels of administration have indicated continued resources and encouragement for the Department. The newly hired faculty and Chair have developed an exciting set of courses that are cohesive, traditional in the core and responsive to new developments in the field. Students with deficiencies at the graduate level are encouraged to take courses at the undergraduate level prior to taking core graduate courses.
	1	2	3	4	
C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Full time faculty currently teach approximately 80% of all the criminal justice course in the Department. This percentage will likely increase with the addition of two faculty members that the Department plans to hire in the Fall of 2006. The full time faculty all have criminal justice degrees from nationally known criminal justice programs. While the full time faculty are relatively new in their careers the reviewers felt that they were highly committed to teaching, research and service. The reviewers were concerned about the heavy teaching load of the faculty while they try to engage in research, community service and build the Department. Thus, we suggest that at least one of the new hires be at the associate level to ensure continued certification. Nearly all faculty attend major annual professional meetings such as those sponsored by the American Society of Criminology.
	1	2	3	4	
D	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The program has clear expectations about the granting of credits that are consistent with MBHE requirements. This is in the true spirit of the Quinn Bill.
	1	2	3	4	
E	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We are concerned about the centralized budget (standard E1) and the potential that it may limit support for the Criminal Justice Program. There is, however, overwhelming evidence indicated through the recent hire of five new faculty combined with two current searches that the Dean, Provost and President are committed to the creation of a quality program in Criminal Justice.
	1	2	3	4	
F	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Graduate advising is sufficient. Graduate students indicated to us that the sequence of courses was evident. Also graduate students noted that they had access to faculty and that their advisors were always available to help with career development.
	1	2	3	4	

G	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 3 4	Documentation is excellent and available in print as well as online format.
H	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 3 4	N/A
I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 3 4	The department engages in periodic reviews as required by the University. The next review will take place in 2008-2009. Much of that review is consistent with the MBHE program review requirements. The Department has also scheduled an ACJS review for 2009-2010.