

**BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

**NO.:** BHE 24-41

**BOARD DATE:** March 19, 2024

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**APPROVAL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMS UNDER THE GUIDELINES FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

**MOVED:** That the Board of Higher Education approve the application by **Fisher College for the Degrees of Associate of Science in Criminal Justice; Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice; and Master of Science in Criminal Justice** under the *Guidelines for Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Academic Programs*. All three programs have been found to meet or exceed all quality standards established by the *Guidelines* making them eligible for police career incentive pay increases under the Police Career Incentive Pay Program (PCIPP) formally known as the Quinn Bill.

**ACTION:** Motion approved and advanced to the full BHE by the Executive Committee on 3/11/2024; and adopted by the BHE on 3/19/2024.

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

Contact: Richard Riccardi, Sc.D., Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs & Student Success

**Massachusetts Board of Higher Education**  
*Review of Criminal Justice Program Application*

| <b>Summary Assessment Report</b>              |   |
|---|---|
| <i>Program</i>                                | <b>Associate of Science in Criminal Justice</b> |
| <i>Degrees Awarded (AY21-22)</i>              | 1   |
| <b>Recommendation Details</b>                 |   |
| <i>Recommendation of External Review Team</i> | Approval  |
| <i>Response Received from Institution?</i>    | Yes   |
| <i>BHE Staff Analysis</i>                     | Yes   |
| <i>Recommendation of BHE Staff</i>            | Approval  |
| <i>Board Action</i>                           | TBD   |

| <b>Summary Assessment Report</b>              |  |
|---|--|
| <i>Program</i>                                | <b>Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice</b> |
| <i>Degrees Awarded (AY21-22)</i>              | 24   |
| <b>Recommendation Details</b>                 |  |
| <i>Recommendation of External Review Team</i> | Approval                                       |
| <i>Response Received from Institution?</i>    | Yes  |
| <i>BHE Staff Analysis</i>                     | Yes  |
| <i>Recommendation of BHE Staff</i>            | Approval                                       |
| <i>Board Action</i>                           | TBD  |

| <b>Summary Assessment Report</b> |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <i>Program</i>                   | <b>Masters of Science in Criminal Justice</b> |
| <i>Degrees Awarded (AY21-22)</i> | 10  |

| <b>Recommendation Details</b>                 |          |
|---|----------|
| <i>Recommendation of External Review Team</i> | Approval |
| <i>Response Received from Institution?</i>    | Yes      |
| <i>BHE Staff Analysis</i>                     | Yes      |
| <i>Recommendation of BHE Staff</i>            | Approval |
| <i>Board Action</i>                           | TBD      |

## Approval of Criminal Justice Program

### Background

The Police Career Incentive Pay Program (PCIPP), formerly known as the “Quinn Bill,” was enacted by the Legislature in 1970 for the purpose of encouraging police officers in participating municipalities to earn degrees in law enforcement and criminal justice and to provide educational incentives through salary increases. The Quinn Bill was amended in June 2002 to give the Board of Higher Education (BHE) authority to, among other things, develop and implement quality guidelines (*e.g.*, program standards and a review process) for programs seeking to participate in the PCIPP, and periodically review programs for compliance with the standards (M.G.L. c. 41, §108L). The Board approved the *Guidelines for Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Programs* in February 2003 for implementation on January 1, 2004, and approved a subsequent amendment to the [Guidelines](#) at its June 19, 2018, meeting. The *Guidelines* include quality standards and the process to be followed for new programs and program review.

On March 1, 2022, Fisher College sent a letter of intent (LOI) to the Commissioner of the Department of Higher Education seeking approval of its existing, BHE-approved criminal justice programs to be certified for the Police Career Incentive Pay Program.<sup>1</sup> The LOI identified September 15, 2022, as the date when Fisher College planned to submit its PCIPP application, with September 29, 2022, as its actual submission date.

By late February 2023, following work between Fisher College and the DHE to perfect the application during the convening months, the application was ready for external review. The DHE secured external evaluators by April and gave them until the end of June 2023 for completion. Unfortunately, the first set of external evaluators did not complete the task requiring the DHE to seek out a new external review team. It took the DHE until late October to identify new evaluators. The new evaluators began their review in late November and completed the task by the end of December.

The evaluators found Fisher College met or exceeded the requirements for each submitted program – the associate’s, bachelor’s and master’s degree. The evaluators commented that Fisher College met the burden of rigor and assessment for a robust educational experience for students and, further, that the faculty, course offerings and library services helped to provide meaningful learning opportunities.

### Recommendation

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<sup>1</sup> The Board’s predecessor entity (the Board of Regents) granted Fisher College general approval for an Associate of Science in Criminal Justice on November 28, 1956 (no individual subjects are listed or were ever added), and the Board of Higher Education granted Fisher College its Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice on June 19, 2012, and its Master of Science in Criminal Justice on May 24, 2018.

Board staff have thoroughly reviewed materials submitted by Fisher College and have found that the materials demonstrate full compliance with all standards found within the Guidelines for Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Programs and recommend approval.

See Appendix A below for a list of all approved PCIPP serving institutions.

## Appendix A

With the approval of these additional three programs, 45 programs offered by 35 institutions are on the approved program list for the Police Career Incentive Pay Program.

### Programs Approved for Police Career Incentive Pay Program

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| <b>American International College</b>    | Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice  |
| <b>Anna Maria College</b>                | Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice  |
| <b>Anna Maria College</b>                | Master of Science in Criminal Justice    |
| <b>Berkshire Community College</b>       | Associate in Science in Criminal Justice |
| <b>Bridgewater State College</b>         | Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice  |
| <b>Bridgewater State College</b>         | Master of Science in Criminal Justice    |
| <b>Bristol Community College</b>         | Associate in Science in Criminal Justice |
| <b>Bunker Hill Community College</b>     | Associate in Science in Criminal Justice |
| <b>Cape Cod Community College</b>        | Associate in Science in Criminal Justice |
| <b>Curry College</b>                     | Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice     |
| <b>Curry College</b>                     | Master of Arts in Criminal Justice       |
| <b>Dean College</b>                      | Associate in Science in Criminal Justice |
| <b>Endicott College</b>                  | Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice  |
| <b>Fisher College</b>                    | Associate in Science in Criminal Justice |
| <b>Fisher College</b>                    | Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice  |
| <b>Fisher College</b>                    | Master of Science in Criminal Justice    |
| <b>Fitchburg State College</b>           | Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice  |
| <b>Greenfield Community College</b>      | Associate in Science in Criminal Justice |
| <b>Holyoke Community College</b>         | Associate in Science in Criminal Justice |
| <b>Lasell College</b>                    | Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice  |
| <b>Mass Bay Community College</b>        | Associate in Science in Criminal Justice |
| <b>Massasoit Community College</b>       | Associate in Science in Criminal Justice |
| <b>Middlesex Community College</b>       | Associate in Science in Criminal Justice |
| <b>Mount Wachusett Community College</b> | Associate in Science in Criminal Justice |

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|--|--|
| <b>Northeastern University</b>                 | Master of Science in Criminal Justice                        |
| <b>Northeastern University</b>                 | Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice                      |
| <b>Northern Essex Community College</b>        | Associate in Science in Criminal Justice                     |
| <b>North Shore Community College</b>           | Associate in Science in Criminal Justice                     |
| <b>Norwich University</b>                      | Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice                         |
| <b>Quincy College</b>                          | Associate in Science in Criminal Justice                     |
| <b>Quinsigamond Community College</b>          | Associate in Science in Criminal Justice                     |
| <b>Roger Williams University</b>               | Master of Arts in Criminal Justice                           |
| <b>Roxbury Community College</b>               | Associate in Science in Criminal Justice                     |
| <b>Salem State College</b>                     | Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice                      |
| <b>Salem State College</b>                     | Master of Science in Criminal Justice                        |
| <b>Springfield Technical Community College</b> | Associate in Science in Law Enforcement/<br>Criminal Justice |
| <b>University of Massachusetts Boston</b>      | Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice                         |
| <b>University of Massachusetts Lowell</b>      | Master of Arts in Criminal Justice                           |
| <b>University of Massachusetts Lowell</b>      | Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice                      |
| <b>University of New Haven</b>                 | Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice                      |
| <b>Western New England College</b>             | Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice                      |
| <b>Westfield State College</b>                 | Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice                      |
| <b>Westfield State College</b>                 | Master of Science in Criminal Justice                        |
| <b>Worcester State College</b>                 | Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice                      |