

# FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY JUSTICE STUDIES PROGRAM IDENTITY STATEMENT



## MISSION

Our mission is to prepare students for careers in criminal justice where they will be innovative, and ultimately, instrumental in shaping the future of justice administration.



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### Theoretical Inquiry

Identifying and defining problems in criminal justice through logic and observation is central for solution, change, and understanding.

### Applied Inquiry

Using theory as a basis for decision-making, it is imperative to take what one knows and apply it to real-world experiences. Will it work? If not, can it be modified to work?

### Resolution of Conflict

Criminal justice studies the phenomenon of social control in organized societies with the rule of law as the primary control mechanism. Identification of patterns in deviant human behavior serves as a basis for learning in respect to the identification and resolution of conflict.

### Citizenship and Civic Responsibility

Criminal justice is conducted in and around public service. Students must assume responsibility by actively engaging in service as agents for the purpose of increasing the quality of life in their organizations and communities.



## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The Justice Studies Program will acquaint students with the major sub-disciplines in the field, important facets of cultural significance, and the thought patterns conducive to scholarship in the criminal justice field and beyond.

- Students will promote public service efforts to improve the intellectual and cultural environment of the program, FHSU, the local community, the service district, the state of Kansas, and beyond.
- Students will become justice system professionals with enhanced critical thinking skills and the ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and by the written word.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze the impact of social policies on the criminal justice system and system consumers.
- Students will learn to evaluate and conduct research studies and translate their findings into justice system operations.
- By making use of the technological infrastructure at FHSU, students will be able to learn more effectively and efficiently. This approach will also acculturate the student to an ever-increasing technological working environment in the justice system, which demands an ever-increasing technical and computer-based competency.



## ORGANIZING THEMES

### Development of the Scholar-Practitioner

In this post-industrial age of information technology and knowledge societies, it is imperative that justice studies students prepare for and assume careers with an equitable understanding of both theory and practice. It is our goal for students to create, acquire and transfer knowledge for purposes of growth and responsibility as vested citizens and justice system workers in their respective communities. To do this, it is critical for students to receive contemporary and comprehensive information from their faculty and curriculum. It is in this spirit, through comprehensive theory and field applications, that students will truly become knowledgeable, marketable, and position themselves positively for employment.

### Jurisprudence

Criminal justice studies the phenomenon of social control in organized societies with the rules of law as the primary social control mechanism. To be an effective and productive individual in the justice system, it is our belief that students and practitioners should have a foundation of knowledge and practical skill in the law, including philosophy and theory of the law. Within the framework, instruction focuses on an array of jurisprudence subjects, including analysis of the legal structure and substantive and procedural law, comparative justice, and sociological jurisprudence in which actual social effects of legal institutions, doctrines, and practices are examined. With jurisprudence as a foundation in the field of criminal justice, students will be able to understand how a particular career or variable fits into the larger scheme of things and will further be able to make informed decisions.



## GRADUATE CHARACTERISTICS

### Community-Minded

Dedicated to the ideals of service and citizenship

### Problem Solvers

Take an analytical approach to situational dilemmas

### Innovative/Adaptive

Are knowledgeable about technologies pertinent to criminal justice and can develop and use new applications

### Possess Cross-Cultural Competence

Interact with persons of varied cultural, ethnic, and gender backgrounds

### Strategy-Minded/Intuitive

Are users of intuition and skills of perception

### Lifelong Learners

Are knowledgeable about current theories, skills, and approaches to justice system operations and further understand the need for continuous improvement and the imperatives of change.



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