

Proposal for a New Minor Public Justice

A. Nature and Mission of the Department of Public Justice

The overall mission of the Department of Public Justice is to provide quality education at the undergraduate level to prepare students to work in a variety of public justice settings or to pursue graduate education in a related field. The Department seeks to develop our students' understanding of, and insight into, the systems and institutions that collectively represent public justice. Its aim is not only to educate students in the core areas of law, human services and criminal justice, but to engage them in conversation about the political, economic, and social factors that shape and interact with such systems and institutions.

The Department considers it important to enable students to acquire skills that are critical to their ability to be successful in the workplace and/or graduate school and to prepare students for active participation as citizens in an increasingly diverse and global political economy. It encourages students to think critically about the public justice system, rather than simply to apply pre-determined ideologies or frameworks of analysis. Therefore, the Public Justice curriculum is interdisciplinary in nature and encourages students to draw from other disciplines in the social sciences, such as political science, sociology, and psychology, to round out their educational experience.

B. Learning Outcomes & Assessment

1. Learning Outcomes

The Department's curriculum is centered on a philosophy that embraces an interdisciplinary approach, integrates both theory and practice, and provides exposure to the realities of the field. Students examine the theoretical concepts, policies, systems, and processes of justice, as well as the problems involved in the provision of human, legal and social services to the public by professionals in a variety of public justice settings. Students are exposed to a wide range of social problems from an interdisciplinary perspective. More specifically, the learning objectives of the public justice major include the following:

1. *Description/explanation-background and foundation:* The public justice curriculum includes an overview of the public justice field. Students completing the public justice major will be able to:

- Describe and explain the component parts of the criminal justice system