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2018

## **Academic Learning Compact : Forensic Studies [Effective 2018]**

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# 2018-19 Academic Learning Compact Report

## ALC - Forensic Studies (BS) (CIP CODE 45.0401)

**Program Mission:** The mission of the bachelor's degree program is to use a multidisciplinary approach to provide students with a specialized understanding of investigations as a coordinated set of knowledge, skills, and abilities to solve crimes, civil, and other events in question. The program seeks to enable students to critically evaluate all forms of evidence, particularly physical or forensic evidence. It encourages students to become aware of biases that affect investigations and the methods to mitigate those biases.

**Program Vision:** Overall, the Forensic Studies and Justice Program aims to prepare students for careers and graduate studies in investigations, law enforcement, law, and other investigative or justice-related fields and for a lifelong commitment to learning, service, and justice.

**Assessment Committee Members:** Max Houck

<i>Program Outcomes</i>	<i>Means of Assessment</i>	<i>Findings</i>	<i>Use of Findings</i>
<p><b>Content/Discipline Knowledge Skills (Investigations):</b> - Demonstrate an understanding of major investigative perspectives and theories of investigations that involve physical evidence, the cognitive processes that can lead investigations astray and those that keep them on track, as well as the policy and procedural implications of these theories.</p> <p><b>Outcome Status:</b> Active</p> <p><b>Planned Assessment Cycle:</b> 2018 - 2019, 2019 - 2020</p>	<p><b>Direct Measure</b> - In CJE 4731, students take a midterm exam covering these concepts and theory.</p> <p><b>Criterion for Success:</b> Based on a rubric, 75% of the students will achieve an average or better score on these exams.</p> <p><b>Person(s) Responsible:</b> Max Houck</p>	<p><b>Reporting Period:</b> 2018 - 2019</p> <p><b>Conclusion:</b> Inconclusive</p> <p>New program; not yet assessed under this plan. (04/25/2019)</p>	<p><b>Use of Findings:</b> n/a (04/25/2019)</p>
	<p><b>Direct Measure</b> - In CJE 4731, work a series of fact-based cases using a variety of methods that integrate the concepts. Student discussion and critical written briefs foster an appreciation and expression of their understanding of these concepts and theory.</p> <p><b>Criterion for Success:</b> Based on a rubric, 75% of the students will achieve a score of 2 or better score during these discussions and assignments. Scores are as follows: (3) Demonstrates and applies the concepts and theories clearly and accurately; (2) Demonstrates or applies the concepts and theories</p>	<p><b>Reporting Period:</b> 2018 - 2019</p> <p><b>Conclusion:</b> Inconclusive</p> <p>New program; not yet assessed under this plan. (04/25/2019)</p>	<p><b>Use of Findings:</b> n/a (04/25/2019)</p>

Program Outcomes	Means of Assessment	Findings	Use of Findings
	<p>sufficiently; (1) Fails to demonstrate or apply the concepts and theory accurately.</p> <p><b>Person(s) Responsible:</b> Max Houck</p>		
<p><b>Content/Discipline Knowledge Skills (Forensic Science):</b> - Students are expected to be conversant with forensic applications, be able to explain how they work, and how they are used in investigations.</p> <p><b>Outcome Status:</b> Active</p> <p><b>Planned Assessment Cycle:</b> 2018 - 2019, 2019 - 2020</p>	<p><b>Direct Measure</b> - In CJE 3650, students take a series of exams (with a percentage cumulative after the first exam) that test their knowledge of forensic applications and their use.</p> <p><b>Criterion for Success:</b> Based on a rubric, 75% of the students will achieve an average or better score on the majority of tests.</p> <p><b>Person(s) Responsible:</b> Max Houck</p>	<p><b>Reporting Period:</b> 2018 - 2019</p> <p><b>Conclusion:</b> Inconclusive</p> <p>New program; not yet assessed under this plan. (04/25/2019)</p>	<p><b>Use of Findings:</b> n/a (04/25/2019)</p>
<p><b>Communication</b> - Students will demonstrate analytical reading for content, the ability to develop effective written briefs and case reports, and the ability to create and deliver effective oral presentations, including briefings in relevant formats.</p> <p><b>Outcome Status:</b> Active</p> <p><b>Planned Assessment Cycle:</b> 2018 - 2019, 2019 - 2020</p>	<p><b>Direct Measure</b> - Based on a rubric, 75% of the students will achieve an average or better score on the majority of assigned cases. The instructor will continue to emphasize effective critical thinking and communication through discussion and feedback throughout the course.</p> <p><b>Criterion for Success:</b> Based on a rubric, 75% of the students will achieve an average or better score on the majority of assigned cases. The instructor will continue to emphasize effective critical thinking and communication through discussion and feedback throughout the course.</p> <p><b>Person(s) Responsible:</b> Max Houck</p>	<p><b>Reporting Period:</b> 2018 - 2019</p> <p><b>Conclusion:</b> Inconclusive</p> <p>New program; not yet assessed under this plan. (04/25/2019)</p>	<p><b>Use of Findings:</b> n/a (04/25/2019)</p>
	<p><b>Direct Measure</b> - In CCJ 4877, students are required to review cases of ethical issue in criminal justice context. The students are required to discuss the significant</p>	<p><b>Reporting Period:</b> 2018 - 2019</p> <p><b>Conclusion:</b> Inconclusive</p> <p>New program; not yet assessed under this plan. (04/25/2019)</p>	<p><b>Use of Findings:</b> n/a (04/25/2019)</p>

Program Outcomes	Means of Assessment	Findings	Use of Findings
	<p>aspects of the ethical issues, the pros and cons of various viewpoints, and answer written short-form questions about the cases and their relationship to ethical criminal justice policy and practice.</p> <p><b>Criterion for Success:</b> Based on a rubric, 75% of the students will achieve an average or better score on the majority of assignments. The instructor will continue to emphasize effective critical thinking and communication through discussion and feedback throughout the course.</p> <p><b>Person(s) Responsible:</b> Max Houck</p>		
<p><b>Critical Thinking Skills (Analytical abilities):</b> - Students are expected to be able to review materials related to a case, analyze the processes and applications used, evaluate their effectiveness, and prepare a written or oral brief summarizing the strengths and weaknesses of the approach and outcomes.</p> <p><b>Outcome Status:</b> Active</p> <p><b>Planned Assessment Cycle:</b> 2018 - 2019, 2019 - 2020</p>	<p><b>Direct Measure</b> - In CJE 4244, students are required to analyze a series of real-world cases and prepare written and oral briefs on each. These briefs are presented to the class and discussed for strengths, weaknesses, and alternate approaches.</p> <p><b>Criterion for Success:</b> Based on a rubric, 75% of the students will achieve an average or better score on the majority of assigned cases. The instructor will continue to emphasize effective critical thinking and communication through discussion and feedback throughout the course.</p> <p><b>Person(s) Responsible:</b> Max Houck</p>	<p><b>Reporting Period:</b> 2018 - 2019</p> <p><b>Conclusion:</b> Inconclusive</p> <p>New program; not yet assessed under this plan. (04/25/2019)</p>	<p><b>Use of Findings:</b> n/a (04/25/2019)</p>
<p><b>Civic Engagement (Ethical norms &amp; Challenges):</b> - Demonstrate the ability to understand and articulate the ethical, social, systematic, and political factors influencing the</p>	<p><b>Direct Measure</b> - In CCJ 4487, students take exams that test their understanding of ethical issues in criminal justice.</p> <p><b>Criterion for Success:</b> Based on a</p>	<p><b>Reporting Period:</b> 2018 - 2019</p> <p><b>Conclusion:</b> Inconclusive</p> <p>New program; not yet assessed under this plan. (04/25/2019)</p>	<p><b>Use of Findings:</b> n/a (04/25/2019)</p>

<i>Program Outcomes</i>	<i>Means of Assessment</i>	<i>Findings</i>	<i>Use of Findings</i>
<p>criminal justice system, the investigative process, and wrongful convictions. Graduates are expected to be conversant about the main ethical norms and challenges in the criminal justice system, the effects these have on the justice system and its outcomes.</p> <p><b>Outcome Status:</b> Active</p> <p><b>Planned Assessment Cycle:</b> 2018 - 2019, 2019 - 2020</p>	<p>rubric, 75% of the students will achieve an average or better score on the majority of exams.</p> <p><b>Person(s) Responsible:</b> Max Houck</p>		