

February 9, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of several criminal justice program coordinators (CJ PCs) within the CT Community College system, we would like to share our experience and perspective regarding the curriculum alignment process.

There are presently twelve community colleges, ten of which have criminal justice programs each with a designated program coordinator. In 2013, even prior to the consolidation announcement, the CJ PCs recognized the importance and need for an aligned system-wide criminal justice curriculum. We proactively met to share experiences, course outlines, syllabi, etc., formulating common program objectives and course outcomes. Unbeknownst to us, the work we started would serve as the foundational framework for the system's curriculum alignment initiative that was announced in 2018.

Over the last two years, the CJ PC work group has made enormous strides in the creation of two fully aligned degree programs: Criminal Justice, A.S. Degree and Criminology Studies, A.A. Degree. Our alignment proposal was submitted during the fall of 2020 and was one of the first programs to receive BOR approval in 2021. An outline that summarizes our work can be found at the conclusion of this letter.

The CJ PCs take pride in being a progressive minded and proactive workgroup. Even though we have finished our alignment work we will continue to fine tune our degree programs to ensure they meet the needs of our students and reflect our ever-changing society.

Respectfully Submitted:

Asnuntuck Community College:	Dr. Kobie Stewart
Capital Community College:	Professor Arthur Kureczka
Manchester Community College:	Dr. Kathryn Kleis
Middlesex Community College:	Professor Rebecca Rist-Brown
Northwestern Community College:	Professor Michael Emanuel
Tunxis Community College:	Professor Jessica Waterhouse

## Summary of CJ PC Workgroup Report.

### Background:

In January of 2020, members of the CJ PC group met with BOR alignment managers. The goal was to identify a path to complete the alignment work in a timely manner without conflicting with student obligations. Alignment work commenced in June of 2020.

Over the next 7 months the CJ PCs created a single Criminal Justice Program, a Criminology TAP Program, new course outlines, a certificate program, and many other curricula documents. In December 2020, the CJ PCs presented their report, which was ultimately approved by the Board of Regents (BOR).

### Hubs of Expertise:

Within the new Criminal Justice Degree, eight areas of concentration were developed. These concentrations include law enforcement, corrections, juvenile justice, victimology, computer crimes investigations, criminal investigations, homeland security, law and legal and a general, non-specific concentration. The concentrations reflect student interests, faculty areas of expertise, and employment trends. Individual campuses were identified as “hubs” for the various concentrations based upon faculty expertise, current course offerings and campus resources.

### Program Revision:

- Added a criminal justice specific diversity course requirement to the core requirements of the Criminal Justice Program (in addition to the FYE embedded diversity requirement). The courses under this requirement directly address specific diversity issues as they pertain to the criminal justice system and criminal justice professionals.
- Developed a Criminal Justice Course Chart that includes the course descriptions, learning objectives, and prerequisites for each course offering.
- Finalized a new consolidated Criminal Justice Associate of Science Degree Program with eight Concentration Areas.
  - Developed descriptions for areas of concentration, as well as outcomes, and a listing of courses that can be used to fulfill concentration requirements.
  - Outlined a four-semester CJ course sequencing guide.
  - Identified campuses as hubs for each of the concentrations. Geographic location, faculty expertise, campus resources and community partnerships already in existence helped to drive decision-making and designation of campuses.
- Revised the Criminology Studies, A.A. TAP Pathway Degree.
- Developed a side-by-side Comparison Chart for the new Criminal Justice A.S. Degree and the Criminology Studies A.A. TAP Degree.
- Revision of Homeland Security Certificate Program for employment with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

- Engaged in collaboration with Students First Consolidation Managers and other Students First Workgroups (Cybersecurity, Political Science, Psychology, Fire Science and Administration, and Sociology).

### **Individual Course Revision:**

- 121 CJS Courses Reviewed:
  - 50 courses eliminated due to duplication, inactive status in the system, or no longer offered.
  - 71 course outlines were revised. Revisions included:
    - Ensured learning objectives were measurable and appropriately aligned with Bloom's taxonomy.
    - Reviewed program to ensure diversity, equity, and multiculturalism were clearly and appropriately reflected in course descriptions, objectives, and content.. Course objectives were revised to ensure measurable assessment of diversity-based outcomes.
    - Modernized instructional units to reflect current criminal justice trends.
    - Mindfully adopted prerequisites to foster student success.
    - Aligned curriculum with Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council Basic Training Academy (POST-C) curriculum to promote continuing education, where appropriate.
    - Revised course titles and numbers.
    - Formatted course outlines to new Students First template.
    - Adapted teaching modalities for distance learning.
    - Developed a holistic four-semester sequence that aligns with the Criminology Studies, A.A Transfer Pathway curriculum and the Criminal Justice A.S curriculum.
    - Developed a five-semester sequence that includes remedial English and math coursework for both the Criminology Studies A.A Transfer Pathway and the Criminal Justice A.S curriculum.
    - Developed and modified courses to fulfill eight new areas of concentration.
    - Tailored courses to support guided pathways and high school partnership programs.
    - Ensured that course outcomes aligned with program outcomes through curriculum mapping and review of assessment methods.
  - Developed four New Criminal Justice courses, 2 of which focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion.
    - CJS 152: Introduction to Digital Forensic Investigations
    - CJS 245: Diversity and Multiculturalism in Criminal Justice
    - CJS 247: Fair and Impartial Policing
    - CJS 248: Research Methods in Criminal Justice

