Corrections Management Certificate

CURRICULUM

The objective of the Corrections Management Certificate is to promote public safety and provide professional development opportunity for personnel working in the corrections, probation and parole, and rehabilitative services fields. Persons working in correctional environments are tasked with providing care and supervision of offenders while preparing them for successful re-entry to society. The Corrections Management Certificate will prepare correctional staff for career advancement with enhanced leadership, policy, and personnel management skills. This certificate supports the mission of the College of Liberal Studies (CLS) to provide high quality interdisciplinary education to non-traditional, working adults, and to promote lifelong learning.

The curriculum for the Corrections Management Certificate is embedded within the components of the Master of Science in Criminal Justice (MSCJ) degree. It consists of 12 credit hours, with two core courses and two electives from the MSCJ Corrections track.

Core courses (6 hours):

LSCJ 5153  Ethical Decision-Making for Criminal Justice
LSCJ 5363  Penology

Corrections Track Electives (6 hours):

LSCJ 5223  Community Justice in the 21st Century
LSCJ 5263  Restorative Justice Programs for Drug Offenders
LSCJ 5303  Correctional Leadership
LSCJ 5313  Special Populations in Criminal Justice: Race
LSCJ 5323  Juvenile and Elderly Offenders in Prisons
LSCJ 5333  Special Populations in Criminal Justice: Class
LSCJ 5343  Mental Illness and the Criminal Justice System
LSCJ 5353  Women and Crime
LSCJ 5383  Collateral Effects of Incarceration
LSCJ 5463  Gangs in the United States
LSCJ 5700  Topics in Criminal Justice
LSAL 5113  Theories of Management and Leadership

Other relevant MSCJ courses as approved by an academic advisor.
DEMAND

1. Student demand:

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts faster than average growth for criminal justice careers through 2018. The Master of Science in Criminal Justice (MSCJ) degree, which was approved in January 2013, reflects this growth trend. In the past 18 months, the program has enrolled more than 90 MSCJ majors. Further, this growth has been rapidly accelerating, with the program experiencing more than 50% growth in the last six months. It is anticipated this trend will continue, with the program leveling off at around 150 students. Of the current MSCJ majors, approximately 25% are currently working in, or are seeking, corrections-related positions. The College of Liberal Studies also administers a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice (BSCJ) with current enrollment of approximately 300 students. The BSCJ provides a steady flow of new students to the MSCJ and can be expected to similarly contribute to any related certificate programs.

2. Employer demand:

In 2013, the College of Liberal Studies contracted with Education Advisory Services to conduct a market survey for a Corrections Management Certificate. The following are key findings of the survey:

- Demand for corrections management positions has increased by 134 percent between the first half of 2010 and the first half of 2013.
- Only 29 percent of job postings require or prefer a graduate degree, indicating that graduate certificates in corrections management may target a niche market of higher level supervisors.
- An analysis of job postings confirms that corrections employers require leadership, administrative, policy, and personnel management skills. Additionally, many postings require expertise in health-related topics, such as mental health.
- State governments, prison bureaus, and higher education institutions posted the most openings for corrections managers between June 2012 and May 2013, indicating accelerating employment and promotional trends.
- Only five public or private higher education institutions currently offer Corrections Management Certificates at the graduate level.

Given the criminal justice growth curve as predicted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the growth of the BSCJ and MSCJ degrees at OU, and the information provided by the Education Advisory Services survey, it is anticipated that there will be a significant market niche for the Corrections Management Certificate.