Restorative Justice Administration Certificate

CURRICULUM

Restorative Justice is a philosophy that seeks to repair the harm done by crime by holistically addressing the needs of victims, offenders, and the community. Persons working in this field typically work with courts, law enforcement and correctional agencies, non-profits, and other governmental entities. The objective of the Restorative Justice Administration Certificate is to provide professional development opportunity for persons working in these fields and prepare them to assume a leadership role in their respective agencies and communities. The program curriculum emphasizes leadership, program and project development, victim and offender services, community-oriented approaches to crime prevention and restoration, as well as communications and relational 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 Restorative Justice Administration 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 Restorative Justice track.

Core courses (6-hours):

LSCJ 5153 Ethical Decision-Making for Criminal Justice
LSCJ 5203 Victimology and Restorative Justice

Restorative Justice Track Electives (6-hours):

LSCJ 5133 Criminal Justice Policy Development
LSCJ 5213 Mediation and Conflict Resolution for CJ Professionals
LSCJ 5223 Community Corrections in the 21st Century
LSCJ 5243 Community Policing
LSCJ 5700/5253 Juvenile Justice
LSCJ 5263 Restorative Justice Programs for Drug Offenders
LSCJ 5283 Human Trafficking
LSCJ 5313 Special Populations in Criminal Justice: Race
LSCJ 5333 Special Populations in Criminal Justice: Class
LSCJ 5353 Women and Crime
LSCJ 5383 Collateral Effects of Incarceration
LSCJ 5463 Gangs in the United States
LSCJ 5700/5553 Interpersonal Communications for Criminal Justice
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 trend. In 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 40% are currently working in, or are seeking, restorative justice-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:

While the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics does not yet track jobs in Restorative Justice, it lists Restorative Justice as a “New and Emerging Occupation... with work activities, skills, and knowledge that are so new that they cannot be classified under the existing system” (Occupational Outlook Quarterly, 2012, p. 21). The victim services movement in the United States has been steadily expanding since the 1990s. Currently, federal law, typically mirrored by state law, mandates certain victim rights, services, and compensation. In addition, recent budgetary constraints and policy shifts have moved the criminal justice system away from offender incarceration and toward diversionary strategies. Growing victim advocacy, combined with increasing offender diversion, have resulted in rapid expansion of employer demand for restorative justice professionals.

Given the criminal justice growth curve as predicted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the growth of the BSCJ and MSCJ degrees at OU, it is anticipated that there will be a significant market niche for the Restorative Justice Administration Certificate.