

**CARLETON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON  
QUALITY ASSURANCE**  
**Cyclical Review of the undergraduate programs in Criminology and Criminal Justice  
Executive Summary and Final Assessment Report**

This Executive Summary and Final Assessment Report of the cyclical review of Carleton's undergraduate programs in Criminology and Criminal Justice are provided pursuant to the provincial Quality Assurance Framework and Carleton's Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP).

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The undergraduate programs in Criminology and Criminal Justice resides in the Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice, a unit administered by the Faculty of Public Affairs.

As a consequence of the review, the programs were categorized by Carleton University's Senate Quality Assurance and Planning Committee (SQAPC) as being of good quality. (Carleton's IQAP 7.2.13-7.2.14).

The External Reviewers' report offered a very positive assessment of the programs. Within the context of this positive assessment, the report nonetheless made a number of recommendations for the continuing enhancement of the programs. These recommendations were productively addressed by the Director of the Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice and the Dean of the Faculty of Public Affairs in response to the External Reviewers' report and Implementation Plan that was submitted to SQAPC on May 25, 2023.

**Criminology and Criminal Justice**  
**Unit Response to External Reviewers' Report & Implementation Plan**  
**Programs Being Reviewed: Undergraduate Programs**

**Note: This document is forwarded to Senate, the Quality Council and posted on the Vice- Provost's external website.**

**Introduction & General Comments**

Please include any general comments regarding the External Reviewers' Report.

*The Institute of Criminology & Criminal Justice was pleased to receive the very positive External Reviewers' report on January 21, 2023. This report was shared with our faculty and staff, and we are committed to the continual improvement of our programs to enhance the student, staff, and faculty experience. This document contains both a response to the External Reviewers' Report and an Implementation Plan (Section B) which have been created in consultation with the Dean(s).*

For each recommendation **one** of the following responses must be selected:

**Agreed to unconditionally:** used when the unit agrees to and is able to take action on the recommendation without further consultation with any other parties internal or external to the unit.

**Agreed to if additional resources permit:** used when the unit agrees with the recommendation, however action can only be taken if additional resources are made available. Units must describe the resources needed to implement the recommendation and provide an explanation demonstrating how they plan to obtain those resources. In these cases, discussions with the Deans will normally be required and therefore identified as an action item.

**Agreed to in principle:** used when the unit agrees with the recommendation, however action is dependent on something other than resources. Units must describe these dependencies and determine what actions, if any, will be taken.

**Not agreed to:** used when the unit does not agree with the recommendation and therefore will not be taking further action. A rationale must be provided to indicate why the unit does not agree (no action should be associated with this response).

**Calendar Changes**

If any of the action items you intend to implement will result in calendar changes, please describe what those changes will be. To submit a formal calendar change, please do so using the Courseleaf system.

**Hiring**

Where an action item requires additional hiring (faculty or staff) the owner should at minimum include the Dean of the faculty and member of the unit.

## UNIT RESPONSE AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Programs Being Reviewed: Undergraduate Degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice

Prepared by (Nicolas Carrier, Director, Institute of Criminology & Criminal Justice, 2023-02-21):

External Reviewer Recommendation & Categorization	Unit Response (choose only one for each recommendation): 1- Agreed to unconditionally 2- Agreed to if additional resources permit (describe resources) 3- Agreed to in principle 4- Not agreed to Rationales are required for categories 2, 3 & 4	Action Item	Owner	Timeline	Will the action described require calendar changes? (Y or N)
<p>1. We recommend at minimum five additional tenure track faculty members be added over and above the current complement of nine full time faculty in part through Indigenous specific faculty positions. This is a pressing concern that requires immediate remedial action to address negative impacts to the quality of the program in terms of student experience. (Weakness)</p>	<p><b>2 - Agreed to if additional resources permit</b></p> <p><i>We agree with the reviewer's recommendation that additional faculty positions be added and will advocate for such positions with the Dean of FPA. However, we are cognizant of the fact that the Faculty is currently facing budgetary pressures and has effectively frozen new hires for at least the next 2-3 years.</i></p>	<p><i>The director of the ICCJ will meet with the Dean of the Faculty of Public Affairs to petition for additional tenure track faculty positions. Given the current budgetary context at the Faculty level, the Dean may not be in a position to satisfy this request without financial support from the University's central administration. In this context, it is acknowledged that new positions may not be available before 2025</i></p>	<p><i>ICCJ Director, Dean FPA</i></p>	<p><i>2025 onwards</i></p>	<p><i>N</i></p>
<p>2. We recommend that one full time equivalent administrative staff person be added to assist with general student advising and field placements. (Weakness)</p>	<p><b>2 - Agreed to if additional resources permit</b></p> <p><i>We agree with the reviewers that a new full-time administrative staff position is needed to more effectively deliver our programs. This position would be dedicated to the management of our field placement programs (providing support to our field placement coordinator) and to general administrative and program support tasks (providing support to our undergraduate and institute administrators).</i></p>	<p><i>The ICCJ director will engage in discussion with the Dean of FPA to hire, if resources permit, a new full time administrative staff position for an initial 6 months contract, starting in Spring 2023. The need to produce a new, distinct job description for this position shall be examined during this period.</i></p>	<p><i>ICCJ Director, Dean FPA</i></p>	<p><i>Spring 2023</i></p>	<p><i>N</i></p>

<p>3. We recommend that the ICCJ disband the original Institute structure and gain autonomy as a department or school of criminology and justice studies. We note that the last review made the same recommendation, so we believe this requires immediate remedial action. (Weakness)</p>	<p><b>3 - Agreed to in principle</b></p> <p><i>We agree with this recommendation, but recognize that it is contingent upon the ICCJ being granted additional resources (recommendation #1); discussions to that end shall not commence before then.</i></p>	<p><i>The director of the ICCJ will engage in discussions with the Deans of the Faculty of Public Affairs and of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences to move towards the creation of an autonomous Department of Criminology once additional faculty resource commitments have been secured.</i></p>	<p>ICCJ Director</p>	<p>2025 onwards</p>	<p>N</p>
<p>4. We recommend the ICCJ work collegially with contributing departments to modify degree requirements to eliminate unnecessary overlap in course content. Courses containing overlapping content should be reduced as much as possible. Cross-listing courses, for example, might be used to minimize impact on contributing departments. (Concern)</p>	<p><b>3 - Agreed to in principle</b></p>	<p><i>The ICCJ curriculum committee, which includes representatives from two contributing units (Law &amp; Legal Studies and Sociology &amp; Anthropology), shall work towards recommendations to eliminate redundancies in the curriculum. The ICCJ director will liaise with the chairs and directors of all contributing units to find strategies to minimize impact.</i></p>	<p>ICCJ curriculum committee/Chairs and Directors: Law and Legal Studies, Sociology &amp; Anthropology, Psychology, Criminology &amp; Criminal Justice</p>	<p>2024 onwards</p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>5. We recommend a full year, 1.0 credit introductory course in criminology and criminal justice to introduce new students to the full breadth of the field. (Opportunity)</p>	<p><b>3 - Agreed to in principle</b></p>	<p><i>The ICCJ curriculum committee, which includes representatives from two contributing units (Law &amp; Legal Studies and Sociology &amp; Anthropology), shall work towards recommendations to transform CRC1000, currently a 0.5 credit course, into a full year 1.0 credit (or into a pair of 0.5 credit introductory courses). The ICCJ director will liaise with the chairs and directors of all contributing units to discuss the impact of the proposed calendar changes. Although the implementation of this recommendation may depend on item 1 above, the ICCJ curriculum committee shall examine the possibility to implement this modification without additional resources.</i></p>	<p>ICCJ curriculum committee/Chairs and Directors: Law and Legal Studies, Sociology &amp; Anthropology, Psychology, Criminology &amp; Criminal Justice</p>	<p>2024</p>	<p>Y</p>

<p>6. We recommend adding a new course at the upper level in the area of criminal justice policy as a useful enhancement of the curriculum. (Opportunity)</p>	<p><b>3 - Agreed to in principle</b></p>	<p><i>The ICCJ curriculum committee, which includes representatives from two contributing units (Law &amp; Legal Studies and Sociology &amp; Anthropology), shall work towards recommendations to strengthen and diversify the offer of 3000- and 4000-level CRCJ courses, including a course in the area of criminal justice policy. Although the implementation of this recommendation may depend on item 1 above, the ICCJ Director may be able to allocate this new course to contractual instructors.</i></p>	<p>ICCJ curriculum committee ICCJ Director</p>	<p>2024</p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>7. We recommend diversifying the interdisciplinary focus by adding new upper division courses in cutting edge areas such as Historical Criminology, Carceral Geography, and/or Environmental Justice, reflecting an expanded view of interdisciplinary criminology and justice studies. (Opportunity)</p>	<p><b>3 - Agreed to in principle</b></p>	<p><i>The ICCJ curriculum committee, which includes representatives from two contributing units (Law &amp; Legal Studies and Sociology &amp; Anthropology), shall work towards recommendations to strengthen and diversify the offer of 3000- and 4000-level CRCJ courses, including courses in carceral geography, green criminology, history of crime and punishment, as well as a land-based Indigenous course. Although the implementation of this recommendation may depend on item 1 above, the ICCJ Director may be able to allocate these new courses to contractual instructors, and/or offer them on a rotational basis to increase the variety of upper division courses.</i></p>	<p>ICCJ curriculum committee ICCJ Director</p>	<p>2024</p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>8. We recommend the ICCJ be provided institutional support to develop a branding and marketing campaign to highlight the strengths of the program with a focus on a broader conception of justice. (Opportunity)</p>	<p><b>2 - Agreed to if additional resources permit</b></p> <p><i>An ICCJ Branding committee was struck in 2021, which includes faculty and staff representatives, to work on a review of the ICCJ website, unit messaging, and image/reputation. We will work</i></p>	<p><i>The director of the ICCJ will engage in discussions with the Dean of the Faculty of Public Affairs, or their delegates, to facilitate branding and marketing of the academic unit, particularly its upcoming curricular changes and potential structural</i></p>	<p>ICCJ Director, ICCJ Branding Committee</p>	<p>2024 onwards</p>	<p>N</p>

	<i>to secure institutional support for these efforts, particularly given our upcoming curricular changes (new concentration in Mind &amp; Behavior, and new non-concentration BA pathways).</i>	<i>changes</i>			
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