Mission, Role and Objectives of the Department of Criminal Justice

Peru State College

Mission. In educating the individual to the benefit of society, Peru State College cultivates the capacity and propensity for life-long learning by fostering independent inquiry and promoting the value of knowledge and discovery. Through innovative undergraduate and graduate programs, Nebraska's first college continues its commitment to making a vital contribution to the future of the region and the state.

Department of Criminal Justice

Role and Mission.
The mission of the Criminal Justice Department is to provide students with the skills and knowledge needed for successful careers and the pursuit of additional education.

Description and Purpose.
As a broad-based liberal arts program of study, the Criminal Justice curriculum is designed to offer students an interdisciplinary approach to the study of people, their interactions with one another, and the result of these interactions -- culture. Contemporary and historical perspectives are taken, with particular emphases on people’s impact on society and society’s response. The programs in this department foster the pursuit of free inquiry with students by exposing them to the scientific method, quantitative and qualitative research approaches, and the results of others’ research efforts. The Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees are offered in Criminal Justice.

Goals.

Pedagogical Goals:
1. Continuously review curriculum content to ensure best practices are represented.
2. Instill in our students the Peru State College Educational Goals:
   A. effective communication;
   B. computer and information literacy;
   C. independent critical thought;
   D. intellectual capacity for change;
   E. preparation to assume social and civic leadership roles; and
   F. the ability to pursue intellectually, ethically, aesthetically, and physically rewarding lives
3. Produce Criminal Justice graduates who demonstrate an understanding of the:
   A. fundamental psychological, sociological and criminological concepts from a social science and critical thinking perspective and how these concepts may be applied in a wide variety of settings;
   B. issues in the criminal justice field and the appropriate responses to these issues;
   C. problem solving techniques available to assist individuals with various needs;
   D. importance of belonging to professional organizations and the pursuit of life-long personal and professional development;
   E. techniques and resources available to conduct applied or theoretical research.

Research Goals:
4. Faculty will be affiliated with at least one relevant professional organization and will read the professional journals in their fields.
5. Faculty will, as part of their development plans, identify potential applied or theoretical research interests and will plan to conduct research and share the results with the appropriate audiences.
6. Faculty will help students identify opportunities for independent study, internships, and co-ops that have a research component.

Public Stewardship Goals:
7. Students will be offered opportunities to volunteer their time and talents to organizations through coursework or professional student organizations.
8. Course content and curricula will be continuously reviewed to ensure the needs of our various constituencies are represented.
9. The school will renew its commitment to ensuring the best adjunct faculty will be identified, supervised, and supported.
10. The school will develop proposals to improve on- and off-campus enrollment productivity while maintaining its commitment to student service.