

MEMORANDUM

TO: 2023-2024 Senate Executive Committee
 FROM: Teri Hogg
 Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Subcommittee
 DATE: March 14, 2024
 SUBJECT: Minor in Forensic Investigations

The Undergraduate Curriculum Subcommittee reviewed and supported the proposal from the College of Liberal Arts for a new minor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Public Administration in the College of Liberal Arts . We find that the proposal requires no Senate review.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this new concentration.

Approved	Opposed	Absent	Non-Voting
Laurel Campbell Claudio Freitas, Teri Hogg Jordan Marshall Lee Roberts Xiaoguang Tian Emily Tock			Terri Swim

Degree/Certificate/Major/Minor/Concentration Cover Sheet

Date:

Institution: Purdue

Campus: Fort Wayne

School or College:

Department:

Location: 80% or more online: Yes No

County:

Type:

Program name:

Graduate/Undergraduate:

Degree Code:

Brief Description:

Rationale for new or terminated program:

CIP Code:

Name of Person who Submitted Proposal:

Contact Information (phone or email):



Undergraduate Academic Program Memo

Date: 1/10/24

From: Dr. Jospeter Mbuba, Chair, Department of Criminal Justice and Public Administration

To: Dr. Carl Drummond, Vice Chancellor for Academic Programs

Re: Proposal for a new minor - Forensic Investigations

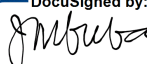
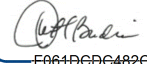
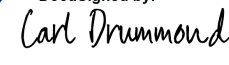
Brief description of the program:

This minor will be hosted in the Department of Criminal Justice and Public Administration. Students declaring the minor will be required to take a minimum of 18 credit hours or 6 courses with a 2.00 grade point average. The program requires four (4) courses and two (2) elective courses. No more than 3 resident credits will be below the 20000+ level. Students taking this minor will gain skills and understand the techniques used in criminal investigations. They will learn how to analyze crime scenes, collect and preserve evidence, and apply scientific methods to solve complex criminal cases. Legal and ethical considerations in forensic work will also be covered.

Brief rationale for program request:

Students have consistently inquired about forensic studies programs. At the same time, the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a “much faster than average” growth rate for jobs whose roles include collecting, identifying, and analyzing physical evidence related to criminal investigations, with a projected national growth rate of 13% from 2022-2032. In Indiana, this growth rate is even higher at 16%. Moreover, the Bureau projects an “average” growth rate for jobs under “Detectives and Criminal Investigators” with a projected nationwide annual growth rate of 2% from 2022 to 2032. In Indiana, a slightly higher growth rate of 4% is anticipated for the same period. This minor can be administered with no additional resources beyond what is currently available in the department and collaborating academic units.

CIP Code: 43.0104**For completion by Office of Academic Affairs**

<small>DocuSigned by:</small>  <small>57E3F1335B05464...</small>	1/15/2024
<i>Department Chair Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>
<small>DocuSigned by:</small>  <small>F061D0DC482G4E6...</small>	1/17/2024
<i>School Dean Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>
<small>DocuSigned by:</small>  <small>27109142004745C...</small>	1/16/2024
<i>Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>

PLEASE NOTE: The Office of Academic Affairs will collect electronic signatures from the Chair, Dean, and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs after the form has been filled out and submitted to the Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Programs with the rest of the program proposal.

PFW
Request for a New UG Minor

Proposed Title of Minor:
Forensic Investigations

College/School and Department Offering the Minor:
College of Liberal Arts, Department of Criminal Justice and Public Administration

Projected Date of Implementation: Fall 2024

I. Brief Description of Minor: *This may be published in the Catalog. A brief explanation of what the student will experience and/or learn; no more than 2-3 sentences.*

Students taking this minor will gain skills and understand the techniques used in criminal investigations. They will learn how to analyze crime scenes, collect and preserve evidence, and apply scientific methods to solve complex criminal cases. Legal and ethical considerations in forensic work will also be covered.

II. Why is this minor needed? *Rationale, including market research and/or survey results.*

Rationale: Over the recent years, the Department of Criminal Justice and Public Administration has undergone significant programmatic changes, transitioning from offering a Bachelor of Science in Public Affairs to gaining approval for the current Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education in 2020, followed by its official launch in 2021. The introduction of the BSCJ significantly enhanced the prominence of the criminal justice program on our campus. Consequently, prospective students consistently inquire about forensic studies programs during the annual New Students Orientations. Additionally, students majoring in Biology, Chemistry, and Anthropology have occasionally expressed similar interests. These inquiries affirm the demand for a minor in forensic investigations and justify why this proposal should be approved.

Evidence of Labor Market Need: The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a “much faster than average” growth rate for job positions whose roles include collecting, identifying, and analyzing physical evidence related to criminal investigations. Specifically, within the category of “Forensic Science Technicians” which encompasses roles such as crime lab analysts, crime scene analysts, crime scene technicians, criminalists, crime scene investigators, evidence technicians, forensic science examiner, forensic scientists, and forensic specialists, among others, the projected national growth rate from 2022-2032 is 13%. Within the state of Indiana, this growth rate is even higher at 16%. In terms of remunerations for these positions, the reported current wages are \$30.64 per hour and \$63,740 annually.¹ This bright outlook for the job market in forensic studies provides further justification why this proposal should be approved.

¹ <https://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/19-4092.00>

Additionally, the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, as reported by the Occupational Information Network (onetonline.org), projects an “average” growth rate for the category of jobs under “Detectives and Criminal Investigators.” This category includes crime scene investigators, criminal investigators, detectives, fugitive detectives and investigators, narcotics detectives, narcotics investigators, police detectives, and special agents, among others. The projected annual growth rate for this job category nationwide from 2022 to 2032 is 2%. In the state of Indiana, a slightly higher growth rate of 4% is anticipated for the same period. The reported wages for these positions are currently \$41.48 hourly, \$86,280 annually.²

Moreover, a recent online job search for *forensic investigation* positions posted 30 days prior to November 15, 2023, by ZipRecruiter – an employment marketplace for both job seekers and employers – revealed the availability of 36 jobs within a 100-mile radius of Fort Wayne, 6 within 50 miles, 4 within 25 miles, and 2 within 10 miles. For *criminal investigations* jobs during the same timeframe, there were 46 job postings within 100 miles of Fort Wayne, 27 within 50 miles, 23 within 25 miles, and 14 within 10 miles. Job opportunities span various agencies, ranging from the Juvenile Probation office to the IRS. Although some agencies may impose additional qualification requirements, such as specific years of experience, the demand for the skill set that the proposed minor aims to provide is clear and well demonstrated.³

III. Prospective Curriculum: *Please create a plan of study for the degree. If new courses are being created, all course proposals must be completed in order to add to this block.*

Only one of the required courses, Forensic Linguistics, needs to be developed. This course will be at the 2000 level. The proposed syllabus is attached here.

IV. Credits required:

The proposed minor requires a minimum of 18 credits or 6 courses.

V. List all specific **program completion** requirements, including courses, minimum course GPA, minimum overall GPA, number of credits completed in residence, maximum time allowed from the completion of the first course, how many courses can be applied to another certificate or program of study, etc.

This minor should be declared within the Department of Criminal Justice and Public Administration. The minor requires a minimum of 18 credit hours or 6 courses with a 2.00 grade point average. The 6 courses include 4 required courses and 2 electives. At least 9 credits must be earned as resident credits at the 2000+ level or above.

Required courses:

- CRIM 10100 – The American Criminal Justice System
- CRIM 22200 – Introduction to Criminalistics
- CRIM 34800 – Criminal Investigation
- PSY 33200 – Forensic Psychology or LING 2xx – Forensic Linguistics

² <https://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/33-3021.00>

³ <https://www.ziprecruiter.com>

CRIM 10100 (The American Criminal Justice System) is a prerequisite to all CRIM courses and requires a grade of C– or better. This course can also be completed as part of the General Education requirements (B.5) or the College of Liberal Arts Thematic Area C.

Elective Courses:

- AD 20201 – Introduction to Photography
- HSRV 10500 – Basic Interviewing Skills
- HSRV 35000 – Drugs and Society
- ANTH 42600 – Human Osteology
- SOCI 20100 – Sociology of Serial Killing
- CRIM 20100 – Causes of Crime (only for non-criminal justice majors)

VI. Describe student population to be served and summarize the benefits to them, including focus and/or career relevance.

The Forensic Investigations minor will be available to students who are enrolled in baccalaureate programs including the Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. The minor will equip students with practical skills in crime scene analysis, evidence collection, investigative techniques, and a hands-on understanding of criminal procedures. It will provide valuable specialization to enhance their competitiveness in job markets where expertise in forensic investigations is needed. The minor will also enhance the career opportunities for liberal arts and other majors. Upon the successful completion of this program, students will benefit from the following program learning outcomes:

1. Develop the necessary skills in crime scene management including evidence collection and preservation as well as documentation of findings.
2. Demonstrate the ability to interpret forensic evidence to support decision-making in the management of criminal cases.
3. Apply forensic techniques in criminal investigations including surveillance, interviews, and interrogations.
4. Differentiate the principles of criminal profiling and behavioral analysis, including the development of offender profiles.
5. Understand the importance of maintaining the integrity of evidence and ensuring that evidence is admissible in court.
6. Evaluate the strengths and limitations of different types of evidence and techniques used in forensic investigations.
7. Apply critical thinking and investigative skills to solve complex crime-related issues.

VII. How does this minor complement the institution, college, or departmental missions?

The introduction of the Forensic Investigations minor aligns with Purdue Fort Wayne’s mission to “educate and engage our students and communities with purpose” and supports the College of Liberal Art’s education agenda that emphasizes a broad education for students in an ever-changing world. This minor expands academic offerings in the Department of Criminal Justice and Public Administration, offering students a new set of skills in line with the institution and college’s missions.

VIII. Describe any relationship to existing programs within the university.

Programs that exist at PFW with courses that are relevant to the proposed minor include Criminal Justice, Psychology, Arts and Design, Human Services, Anthropology, Sociology, and International Language and Culture Studies. Thus, the proposed minor incorporates courses from these programs.

- IX. List and indicate the resources required to implement the proposed minor. Indicate sources (e.g., reallocations or any new resources such as personnel, library holdings, equipment, etc.). *

The proposed minor will be offered by the Department of Criminal Justice and Public Administration, part of the College of Liberal Arts. The department currently consists of three tenured/tenure-track faculty members, one clinical faculty member, and an administrative assistant. Additionally, there is an academic advisor shared equally with the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. The department also benefits from the assistance of three regular limited term lecturers. Furthermore, the department has a strong and supportive Community Advisory Board comprised of criminal justice professionals in the region. The proposed minor can be administered with the resources currently available in the department. For the elective courses, consultations with the relevant departments offering them have confirmed that the electives are offered regularly enough to fulfill the requirements of the minor.

Liaison Librarian Memo

Date: 1/11/24
From: Emily Tock, Reference & Instruction Librarian, COLA Liaison, GovDocs Coordinator
To: Carl Drummond
Re: Forensic Investigations minor

Describe availability of library resources to support proposed new program:

Helmke Library currently subscribes to a number of criminal justice databases, such as The Criminology Collection and Criminal Justice Database, which should provide a base for this minor program, as well as cross-disciplinary databases that would also provide classroom and research support (16 databases in total). In addition, Helmke has access to 29 current forensic science journal titles and a current count of 139 monograph/edited collection titles dating from 2018. This collection of resources is commensurate with other criminal justice programs with forensic science programs/minors in Indiana and across the Midwest. As with other programs, Document Delivery Services can provide materials not located within Helmke's physical and digital collections.

Comments:

I feel that Helmke Library is adequately-equipped to provide materials support for this new minor. However, there is a larger question of librarian research/reference support. As the liaison for all of COLA and with my government documents coordinator duties and various outreach duties, I am stretched quite thin at the current time. Additionally, we currently only have four other reference & instruction librarians supporting university academic programs, one of whom is doing double/triple duty as library director, director for library academic services and liaison to Education and Health Sciences. Even with the opportunity to hire an additional reference & instruction librarian for COS support in July of 2024, that still leaves us short one reference & instruction librarian from the optimal number of library faculty to ensure best services practices to academic programs. Currently, Helmke Library faculty are able to provide research and reference support - and this additional minor will be fully supported. However, continued growth in the number of academic programs will become an issue without analogous growth in Helmke Library faculty.



11 January 2024

Liaison Librarian Signature

Date

Please email academic_program@pfw.edu with questions about this form.
Send signed original to Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Programs
Kettler Hall, Room 174