

## IUPUI GAC Reviewer Form

Documents Reviewed: Abstract; Appendices; New Academic Degree Program Proposal Summary;  
Letters of Recommendation

Summary of Proposal:

1. Are the goals clear and achievable?

See comments below.

2. Is the program academically sound?

See comments below.

3. Are faculty resources available to offer this certificate without undercutting other key missions of the unit?

Yes.

4. Is there overlap, either real or potential, with any other unit that could harm the program or be exploited to help the program?

Might there be cooperation with the law school?

5. My recommendation, comments/concerns regarding this proposal.

See comments below.

## Comments regarding the proposed Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice and Public Safety

### Introduction:

The letters from various governmental officials in support of the degree program address the need and desirability for graduate studies in criminal justice, public safety and related areas. The Abstract and accompanying materials also convincingly suggest that graduate studies in these areas are warranted. The reviews presented below do not question the need or desirability for studies in this area. The review seeks clarification on various points regarding the proposed Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice and Public Safety.<sup>1</sup> The comments are not in any particular order.

(1) **Program Objectives.** According to the section of the Abstract labeled “Objectives” (page 2):

“This degree will offer a unique opportunity for central Indiana residents to pursue graduate studies in criminal justice with a management focus and provides the only opportunity for graduate study in the emerging field of public safety in our state.”

The Abstract on page 3 provides more detail of these objectives including to develop skills, to teach about decisions and decision-making, and to provide substantive training in “criminal justice and public safety”.

The Abstract appears to divide the degree program and objectives into two categories: (a) graduate study in criminal justice; and (b) graduate study in public safety.

### Questions include:

- (a) Are the two categories conjunctive or disjunctive?
  - (b) Will all students in the program be trained in both criminal justice and public safety? Is it possible for a person to receive the degree and take no courses in public safety?
  - (c) Are there in fact two separate disciplines that might more appropriately be covered in two separate degree programs?
  - (d) Could the degree program be considered a Master Degree in Criminal Justice, but then have a separate concentration in Public Safety?
- (2) The degree program appears to be geared towards recent college graduates and working professionals with experience. But, is the section entitled “Clientele to be Served” (Abstract, page 2) internally inconsistent? On the one hand, it suggests that “many will come from the IUPUI SPEA undergraduate population as well as other undergraduate disciplines” on campus, and from other undergraduate programs in Indiana. On the other hand, that section speaks to the significance of working professionals in the program, as follows:
- “The model of the executive Master’s degree for the working professional is a key component of the degree design and we will offer those students with significant professional experience, additional theoretical, analytic, and management skills.”  
(Abstract, page 2)

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<sup>1</sup> The comprehensive, interconnected nature of the proposal led to some review questions/issues being raised more than once herein. Apologies are offered for duplication (and for typos).

Questions include:

- (a) Is it envisioned that all students, full and part-time, will complete the program in two years by taking evening classes in the fall and spring semesters only? (*See* "The proposed degree program is a 36 credit hour program, which most students will complete in two years." (Abstract, page 2, section entitled "Curriculum")) (*See also, e.g.,* "Students will generally be able to complete the program in tow years", Abstract, page 3).
- (b) Does the Abstract adequately consider how needs of recent undergraduates and needs of working professionals may differ?
- (c) Will *all* courses be taught in the evening? If not, which courses will be taught in the day? Will some courses be taught in the day and evening?
- (d) Is it anticipated that working professionals participate in internships?
- (e) Do professional working students receive academic credit for their mid-career option (MCO)? (Abstract, page 2).

(3) The Abstract, on page 4 (paragraph 2(c)) provides:

"No limits will be placed on the number of students admitted into the program. We anticipate that the program will initially attract an annual cohort of 10-15 students and eventually a mature program (5 years) will enroll 40-50 full-time and 45-50 part-time students. The program will be offered as an evening program and thus will be available to traditional students and working professionals. Students may complete the degree on a part-time or full-time basis and required courses will be offered frequently enough for full-time students to complete the degree in two years."

Questions include:

- (a) Is it suggested that in five years, there would likely be 85 – 100 students on campus in the degree program? If so, how were these numbers ascertained? How many of these students would be newly enrolled? (It is not clear how these figures on page 4 match up with the figures given in Table 3 of the materials accompanying the proposal.)
  - (b) How long is it anticipated that a part-time working professional would take to complete the degree?
- (4) Abstract, page 6 lists a "Sample Plan of Study". Are the courses listed for Fall 2010 – Spring 2012 scheduled readily to permit part-time working professionals to enroll? That is, are adequate numbers of courses available in the evenings or weekends?
- (5) Pages 5 – 6 of the Abstract lists "Concentration" courses, and indicate that students must "choose four courses from one area" – either Criminal Justice *or* Public Safety. It appears that 8 of the 14 courses listed under Criminal Justice are identical to 8 courses listed under Public Safety. Criminal Justice has 4 courses that are not listed in Public Safety. Public Safety has 4 courses that are not listed in Criminal Justice.

Questions include:

- (a) Can a student receive a graduate degree in the combined disciplines (criminal justice and public safety) without taking courses in one of the two disciplines? Specifically, a person can

receive a degree in criminal justice without taking any public safety courses (even though the degree is named "Master of Science in Criminal Justice and Public Safety"). (The converse would not appear to be true, as a student would be required to take criminal justice courses even if they are concentrating in public safety.)

- (6) The chart on page 7 of the Abstract is introduced as follows: "Most of the courses for the proposed curriculum currently exist at IUPUI, as indicated below". That chart lists course numbers and the number of sections taught in the past 3 years. If the proposal is revised, would you consider listing course names next to course numbers? As presented, the reader who is unfamiliar with the courses and course numbers must search through the Abstract to match a course name to the course number.

- (7) On page 8 of the Abstract, the following appears:

"4. Describe form of recognition.

- a. Students completing the proposed program will receive a Master of Science in Criminal Justice & Public Safety from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University, Indianapolis. *Although substantively different in focus*, the rigor and breadth of the program matches other existing masters' degree programs offered by the school." (bold/italics added for emphasis)

Will you please explain what is meant by the phrase "*Although substantively different in focus*"?

- (8) Page 9 of the Abstract provides:

"The Indiana Public Policy Institute and the Criminal Justice Research Center infrastructure and support will be an essential part of this degree. "

Page 9, item 7(b) provides:

"There are no anticipated collaborative arrangements with other parties."

Will there be any collaborative arrangements with the Indiana Public Policy Institute or the Criminal Justice Research Center?

- (9) Is the clause following the semi-colon complete (Abstract, page 10)?

During this process, we surveyed other existing Master of Science in Criminal Justice programs, occupational outlooks for all aspects of criminal justice as well as trends in public safety, homeland security and emergency management; demand for the new degree programs and the lack of any options for students to pursue graduate studies in public safety in Indiana.

- (10) The Abstract on pages 10 – 11 discusses the Student Demand Surveys.

- (a) There were 242 student respondents. How many surveys were distributed?
- (b) How many criminal justice majors were there (are there)?
- (c) Were students permitted to answer the survey more than once?
- (d) Some students may have responded that they had never considered pursuing a graduate degree (question 5) or that they did not anticipate going to a graduate school or law school (question 6). Were surveys results tallied for students who had not considered pursuing a graduate degree?

- (e) The Abstract's Student Demand Section (Abstract, page 10) states

"More than 90% believe the new degree to be helpful to their career advancement".

This conclusion appears to be derived from question 8, which states:

"A masters' degree would be helpful for advancement within criminal justice agencies".

- (f) Is it clear from question 8 that a respondent's opinion about "advancement" would refer to his/her own advancement? Would it refer to his/her advancement in "criminal justice agencies"? Would it refer to his/her own advancement in public safety agencies as well?

(11) More about the Student Demand Survey

- (a) Questions 9, 10 and 11 refer to a degree in "criminal justice *or* public safety" (rather than "criminal justice *and* public safety", which is the degree in question. From these survey questions, and the answers, it is not clear whether respondents were referring to: (i) a criminal justice degree; (ii) a public safety degree; or (iii) a criminal justice and public safety degree. It is not clear how this question would likely lead to usable results. Will you please explain?
- (b) Questions 10 and 11 all address a respondent's "preference". But, is the link clear between the "preference" and the likelihood that a respondent would apply to one of the types of programs mentioned in those questions?
- (c) Does question 11 ask whether if IUPUI were to offer this degree, and the choice was between IUPUI and some other school, would the student choose IUPUI? Does the question include preferences of students who may have no desire to pursue a higher degree? Does the question presume that the person polled has already chosen to, or may choose to, attend graduate school? What if the person responding has no intention at all to attend graduate school (in any field)?
- (d) How relevant are statistics for persons polled who are not likely to attend graduate school because they have no "reasonable likelihood of meeting entrance requirements for graduate programs"? (See Appendix A to Abstract, page 1).
- (e) It appears that surveys were not distributed in courses taught by adjuncts or others who are not full time faculty? If they were not, why not? How many courses were taught by non-full-time faculty in the 2008 Spring?

(12) Final observation on Student Demand Survey

- (a) In the Student Demand Survey Summary (See Appendix A to Abstract, page 1), the term MSCJ is used in most instances, while the term MSCJPS is used in other instances. Was that distinction deliberate? Were "MSCJ" and "MSCJPS" intended to refer to the same degree program in this Appendix?
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