

Summary of Proposed Curriculum Revisions

Ouachita Baptist University
October 2021

The faculty **approved** these curriculum revisions at a faculty meeting on October 19, 2021.

[Education](#) | [Social Sciences](#)

The **short form** notation indicates informational level curriculum revisions submitted on the Curriculum and Academic Standards Committee's short form, which addresses course title changes, course time offering changes, and non-substantive changes to course content and/or descriptions. These short form revisions will NOT be brought to the faculty for discussion or a vote, unless questions are raised before the faculty meeting.

Education

Education (and Natural Sciences)	<p>Proposed Changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delete NSCI 2003 Earth Science• Modify degree requirements Middle School Education majors with a concentration in science will take a version of CORE 3023 Scientific Connections specifically designed for education majors. <p>Rationale</p> <p>Curriculum and competency revisions from the Arkansas Department of Education's Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) have caused us to review and subsequently recognize that a change in one area of our course offerings is warranted.</p> <p>Catalog Entry</p> <p>p. 82 Science – 22 Hours BIOL 1014 General Biology I BIOL 1024 General Biology II CHEM 1024 Fundamentals of Chemistry (Fall) PHYS 2024 College Physics I CORE 3023 Scientific Connections NSCI 3003 Natural Science for Elementary/Middle School Teachers (Spring) (note: the science emphasis will substitute for Scientific Inquiry in the Common Core)</p> <p>p. 141</p>

	2003 Earth Science is listed as a course offering – but should be removed from the catalog
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Social Sciences

<p>Sociology</p> <p>(Criminal Justice B.A.)</p>	<p>Proposed Changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Add a new major and degree</p> <p>Add a BA in Criminal Justice comprising of 120 hours of coursework to be completed by full-time residential students over four years and culminating in a baccalaureate degree. The program will be housed in the Department of Sociology.</p> <p>Add courses</p> <p>CJUS 1XX3: Introduction to Criminal Justice</p> <p>A freshman introductory seminar introducing students to the rudiments of law enforcement, including an overview of the United States criminal justice system and an inquiry into the issues, procedures, and methods pertinent to the proper function of its various elements. Fall.</p> <p>CJUS 2xx3: Police and Society</p> <p>A survey of the relationship between police and the court and correctional systems, as well as an inquiry into the relationship between police and other key social and organizational institutions. The course will also explore the philosophy of police as an instrument of social order.</p> <p>CJUS 3xx3: Juvenile Crime</p> <p>A survey of juvenile delinquency and crime with special emphasis on scale and causation, as well as methods of intervention, prevention, and rehabilitation.</p> <p>CJUS 3xx3: Drugs and Alcohol</p> <p>A survey of data related to the use and regulation of mood- and mind-altering substances in the United States. The course will consider patterns of illegal substance use and abuse, problems associated with illegal substance use, and policymaking aimed at both interdiction and limiting social harm created by illegal substance use.</p> <p>CJUS 3xx3: Forensics</p> <p>A survey of instrumental procedures and methods for the scientific analysis of physical evidence generated by criminal activity. Students will learn basic concepts in forensic investigation and apply them to evidence processing and analysis.</p> <p>PSCI 3xx3: Criminal Procedure</p> <p>A survey of constitutional law governing criminal procedure from arrest to trial, including right to counsel, arrest, searches, electronic surveillance, entrapment, interrogation and confession, pre-trial identification procedures, grand jury investigations, and witness preparation and conduct.</p>

PSYC 3xx3: Mental Health Issues in Law Enforcement

This course surveys the relationship of mental illness to crime. Topics include the nature, prevalence, and consequences of mental disorder, substance use, and violence among criminal offenders; violence risk assessment; compassionate response and communication; and the institutional treatment and rehabilitation of mentally ill offenders. Additionally, this course will review the psychological effects of secondary trauma and compassion fatigue that law enforcement professionals often experience.

CJUS 4xx3: Criminal Justice Practicum I

Designed to provide students with experiential learning within the field of law enforcement. Through the integration and application of the concepts and principles learned in the criminal justice program, students will develop proficiency in basic police tasks and functions. **Spring.**

CJUS 4xx3: Criminal Justice Practicum II

A three-week intensive culmination of the Criminal Justice Practicum credentialing completers as auxiliary officers licensed for part-time employment in uniformed law enforcement. Prerequisite: SOCI 4xx3. **May Term.**

CJUS 4xx3: Criminal Justice Internship

An internship with an approved law enforcement agency, court, or affiliated entity. Minimum 50-hour work requirement. **Fall, Spring.**

- **Modify course content**

Change **SOCI 3023: Crime and Deviance** to **CJUS 3023: Criminology**

This course explores criminal and deviant behaviors such as alcohol abuse, illicit drug use, mental disorders, crime, law enforcement deviance, and prostitution, focusing on social definitions and causal explanations. **Fall.**

Rationale

As evidenced by Admissions Counseling data, Criminal Justice has been among the top five areas of indicated academic interest by prospective students over a period of years. In the 2020-2021 recruiting cycle Admissions Counseling received over 2200 indications of academic interest in a Criminal Justice program, and at present have over 1300 indications in the '21-'22 cycle. A formal baccalaureate degree in Criminal Justice will bring new students to Ouachita who would have otherwise gone elsewhere, thereby increasing institutional enrollment and generating new revenue for the university. This program also carries the potential for future expansion into graduate-level credentialing.

Beyond the potential enrollment and revenue benefits, this program seeks to fill a need made acutely clear not only by national events in the last eighteen months, but by a rising dysfunction evident over years in the relationship between law enforcement professionals in the United States and the communities entrusted to their care. As calls for police reform have grown nationwide in both frequency and intensity, and as law enforcement professionals feel increasingly embattled in their efforts to protect the American citizenry, the need for a new police and criminal justice paradigm has become conspicuous: one that allows criminal justice professionals—whether in uniform, in a

courtroom, in a lab, or in a cubicle—to protect and serve the public and the public good in the manner in which they were trained, but at the same time understands and insists upon the basic dignity and decency to which all people are entitled, and seeks to effect both policy and practice through the lens of that understanding. This program seeks to confer that understanding to its graduates, who will then carry it forth to transform the nature of criminal justice work into a more humane and compassionate exercise for both the police and the policed. By situating a Criminal Justice degree within the Ouachita Christian Liberal Arts tradition, we have the capacity to train up law enforcement professionals in the image and with the ethos of Christ, and from there to send them into the world to do good.

Catalog Entry

[On pg. 187 in the 2021-2022 Undergraduate Catalog, beneath the course descriptions for Sociology, add the following:]

Criminal Justice (CJUS)

Criminal Justice is the study of the administration, organization, goals, processes, practices, roles, philosophies, and histories of organizations created to prevent and control crime and delinquency. Criminal Justice professionals and criminologists have assumed a central role in researching, formulating, implementing, and evaluating public policy designed to control crime. The Criminal Justice program at Ouachita Baptist University aspires to build in its graduates the competencies, knowledge, and skills necessary for lives of meaningful work as law enforcement professionals in the United States, whether local, county, state, or federal, while situating the preparation of its candidates squarely within the Christian Liberal Arts tradition. Students will benefit from coursework that leans into the practical dimensions of day-to-day law enforcement, the judicial process, and the dynamic interactions of law enforcement professionals and the communities they are pledged to protect and serve. In some cases, courses will be taught by experienced criminal justice professionals still active in the very fields that they will teach, and who will use real-world experience to inform their classroom instruction.

At the heart of the connection between communities and those tasked with their safety is a shared humanity and a dignity belonging to all people. An ongoing awareness and acknowledgement of that dignity—and the empathy and perspective required to perceive it—not only engenders a productive relationship between the police and the policed, but also reflects the inherent worth assigned to everyone through the lens of the Christian worldview. **The mission of the Criminal Justice program at Ouachita is to emphasize and instill these values as it prepares its students for success in the American criminal justice system.**

For students interested in a career in uniformed law enforcement, Ouachita's Criminal Justice program offers a capstone practicum in two sequential three-hour courses administered by the OBU Campus Police Department at the end of a student's undergraduate career. Upon completion, candidates are licensed as auxiliary police officers eligible to work part-time in conjunction with local or state law enforcement agencies. For all candidates, internship opportunities are available in partnership with the Clark County Sheriff's Office, the Clark County Prosecutor's Office, the Arkadelphia Police Department, and other state and local agencies.

Requirements for a major in Criminal Justice: A major in Criminal Justice includes the following required courses: CJUS 1xx3, CJUS 2xx3, SOCI 2053, CJUS 3023, CJUS 3xx3, CJUS 3xx3, PSCI 3xx3, PSCI 3033, PSYC 3xx3, and either SOCI 3053 or SOCI 2063. Students who choose the practicum pathway are required to complete CJUS 4xx3 (Criminal Justice Practicum I) and CJUS 4xx3 (Criminal

Justice Practicum II) for a total of 39 hours of required coursework. Students who choose the menu-option pathway must choose TWO (2) of the following: HIST 3xx3, HIST 3443, PSCI 3043, PSYC 3013, or CJUS 4xx3 for a total of 39 hours of required coursework.

Minor Requirements: Criminal Justice majors will be required to minor in another social science discipline (Psychology, History, Sociology, or Political Science) depending upon their specific area of interest for a minimum of 18 credit hours. Minor requirements specific to the chosen discipline will apply to Criminal Justice degree candidates.

[COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOLLOW HERE]