

Eastern Wyoming College

Instructional Program Review 2011 - 2012

**Program: Criminal Justice
Associate of Arts
Associate of Applied Science
Certificate--Corrections**

**Prepared by:
Larry Curtis, Instructor & Division Chair
Arts, Humanities, Social, and Behavioral Sciences
Dr. Rick Patterson, Instructor
Dr. Dee Ludwig, Vice President for Learning**

Date of Report: July 1, 2012

EASTERN WYOMING COLLEGE Instructional Program Review 2011-2012

Program Name: Criminal Justice

Part I: Statistical Data from the past three years:

	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	Average
Annualized FTE Enrollment	29.5	26.7	29.5	25.0
Annualized FTE Faculty	2.8	1.8	2.1	2.2
# Students	49	69	89	62
# Graduated	9	6	7	7

FTE = Full-time equivalent

Modes of Delivery:

Online compressed video face-to-face

Advisory Committee Member Agencies and Organizations:

Wyoming Department of Corrections:
 Wyoming Medium Correctional Institution
 Probation and Parole
 Torrington Police Department
 Goshen County Sheriff's Department
 Lingle Police Department
 Ft. Laramie Police Department
 Wyoming Highway Patrol
 EWC Criminal Justice Club

Community Partners or Internships:

Wyoming Department of Corrections: Wyoming Medium Correctional Institution Torrington Probation and Parole, Torrington Wyoming Honor Conservation Camp, Newcastle Wyoming Boot Camp, Newcastle Wyoming Women's Center, Lusk Wyoming State Penitentiary, Rawlins WDOC Training Academy, Rawlins	Southeast Wyoming Drug Task Force, Division of Criminal Investigation
	Wyoming Game and Fish Department
	Lingle Police Department
	Ft. Laramie Police Department
	Goshen County Attorney's Office, Torrington
	Wyoming Public Defender's Office, Torrington
Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy, Douglas	Torrington City Attorney's Office
Goshen County Sheriff's Department, Torrington	Converse County Sheriff's Department, Douglas
Big Horn County County Attorney's Office, Buffalo	Converse County Solutions For Life Mental Health Center, Douglas
Evanston Police Department	Teton County County Drug Court, Jackson

Revisions in Curriculum Since Last Review:

Since the last review, in 2004-2005, many changes have been made. These include added degree offerings, expanded program requirements, sequence changes, additional course offerings, course revisions and deletions and an expanded online delivery program. Ongoing articulation of programs and courses occur on a rotating yearly basis with UW, Chadron State College, WLEA and the other community colleges. Specific changes include:

*A Criminal Justice Associate of Arts Degree with a Corrections Emphasis has been added to the Program of Instruction.

*The entire Criminal Justice Program of Study is available online with the exception of one class--MATH 1000 Problem Solving which has been available via compressed video.

*A two semester Corrections Certificate has been added to the Program of Instruction.

The following course changes have been made to the AA and AAS programs of study:

1. CRMJ 2250 Police Administration has become an elective rather than a required class.
2. CMAP 1900 Integrated Applications I: Microsoft Office has been deleted as a required class
3. PSYCH 2210 Drugs and Behavior has been deleted as an elective.
4. CRMJ 2590 Drugs and Criminal Justice has been developed and added as an elective for the Law Enforcement Emphasis AA program and remains a requirement for the AAS program. It is required for the Corrections Emphasis AA Program.
5. BIOL 2025 Introduction to DNA Technique has been deleted as an elective.
6. CRMJ 2570 Criminalistics (Forensics) has been added as an elective.
7. CRMJ 1510 Police Science I and CRMJ 1520 Police Science II have been revised and updated. They are now CRMJ 1510 Law Enforcement Procedures and CRMJ 1520 Law Enforcement Operations.
8. CRMJ 1510 Law Enforcement Procedures is now a required class for the AA degree.
9. CRMJ 1700 Firearms I (3-6 credits) and CRMJ 1705 Firearms II (3-6 credits) have been replaced by CRMJ 1700 Use of Force I (3 credits) and CRMJ 1705 Use of Force II (3 credits).
10. COSC 1200 Computer Information System has been deleted as a required class.
11. CRMJ 2670 Police Photography (1 credit) has been deleted as a required class.
12. CRMJ 2680 Police Report Writing has been deleted as a required class.
13. HLED Drug Use and Abuse (2 credits) has been deleted as a required class.
14. CRMJ 2160 Forensic Psychology was developed and added as an elective for the AA degree Law Enforcement Emphasis program and became a requirement for the AAS degree program and the Corrections Emphasis and Certificate Programs.
15. CRMJ 2380 Institutional Corrections was developed and added as a requirement for the Corrections Emphasis program.
16. CRMJ 2400 Criminology was developed and added as an elective for the Law Enforcement Emphasis program and became a requirement for the Corrections Emphasis.
17. An Outcomes Assessment Departmental Paper became required for the Corrections Certificate.

Part II Narrative Analysis

Description of Community Need:

The most obvious change in criminal justice locally occurred with the opening of WMCI, the Wyoming Medium Correctional Institution. WMCI received its first inmates on January 10th, 2010 and today's count is about 645. WMCI employs over 239 uniformed staff and over 116 non- uniformed and professional staff. It was noted by Warden Steve Hargett recently that upon the opening of WMCI 60 percent of the staff did

not have one day of correctional experience and that it may take 3 to 5 years to get the institutions systems and operations into place. Integrated within the Wyoming Department of Corrections agency culture is education. During the hiring process education, training and experience are highly valued qualities to be evaluated. Then after hiring promotions are based on similar values with education in the form of college degrees and classroom work at the forefront.

In addition to WMCI, our EWC service area also contains two other DOC locations with the Wyoming Women’s Center in Lusk and the Boot Camp and Honor Conservation Camp in Newcastle. In addition, probation and parole offices are located in the service area counties.

Law Enforcement continues its trend toward the need for more education to supplement their training requirements. This is particularly true in the area of administration where graduate degrees are the norm rather than the exception. To that end it is a priority in the EWC Criminal Justice Program to develop within the student the personal value of continuing education rather than simply accumulating credits, hours or awards. We therefore advise students to consider continuing their education and obtain a BA and then an MA once they have obtained a degree from EWC.

A strong partnership with the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy in Douglas continues to provide participants with credit for their classes which are articulated and reviewed on a regular basis with EWC faculty and administration.

Description of State and National Trends: Several job classifications exist for criminal justice areas. The following two are representative of common classifications.

United States	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings
	2010	2020		
Police and Sheriff’s Patrol Officers	663,900	718,500	8%	24,940
Correctional Officers & Jailers	457,300	499,800	5%	10,810
Wyoming	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings
	2010	2020		
Police and Sheriff’s Patrol Officers	1,070	1,210	13%	40
Correctional Officers & Jailers	720	790	11%	20

Location	Pay Period	Year 2010				
		10%	25%	Median	75%	90%
United States Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers	Hourly	15.24	19.63	25.74	33.21	40.15
United States Correctional Officers & Jailers	Hourly	12.52	14.97	18.77	25.25	32.33
United States Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers	Yearly	31,700	40,800	53,500	69,100	83,500
United States Correctional Officers & Jailers	Yearly	26,000	31,100	39,000	52,500	67,200
Wyoming Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers	Hourly	17.35	20.05	23.93	27.59	29.28
Wyoming Correctional Officers & Jailers	Hourly	14.91	16.14	19.01	22.16	25.56
Wyoming Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers	Yearly	36,100	41,700	49,800	57,400	60,900
Wyoming Correctional Officers & Jailers	Yearly	31,000	33,600	39,500	46,100	53,200

Activities in Support of Student Recruitment and Retention:

1. Participate in early registration days.
2. Technology Days presentations to high school students.
3. Collaboration with EWC student recruiters so as to be available for tours and one-on-one meetings with students and parents.
4. Regional high school student visitation days.

5. Participation in design of Criminal Justice Program tri-fold brochure for distribution.
6. Video presentation for television ad recruiting students to EWC and the CJ Program.
7. Group presentations to WLEA student police officers, sheriff's deputies, highway patrol officers, game and fish officers and communication dispatchers.
8. EWC Criminal Justice Club activities including ACJA/American Criminal Justice Association competitions, criminal justice related speakers, criminal justice related training including use of force such as a firearm and taser. Both instructors participate as club advisors.
9. Student participation in facility tours whether as a class member or an invitee. This to include WMCI and other major Wyoming state DOC facilities, the old Wyoming State Penitentiary, area jails and law enforcement facilities and the WLEA.
10. By request or invitation arranged activities to include police ride a longs, court case visits and prison tours.
11. Active advising role by both instructors. Rather than divide and direct the students toward one instructor or the other duties are shared and students can meet with either instructor for a consultation.

All of these activities are done with the intention of increasing the visibility and knowledge of EWC and the Criminal Justice Program and the field of Criminal Justice, thereby, attracting future students and retaining current students.

Assessment of Student Learning:

Degree seeking students arrive at the EWC Criminal Justice Program either having taken the ACT or complete Compass testing. This testing provides placement information for Math, Reading and Writing. Then along with traditional classroom grading and evaluation rubrics used to measure knowledge, various classroom assessment techniques are used to improve student's learning. At the conclusion of the Program the student is required to complete a Capstone paper. This provides them with an opportunity to write the story of their learning from the beginning of their classes through the last semester. Finally if enrolled in an Associate of Arts program, the students are asked to take the CAAP test to measure their education upon graduation as compared to their level when they enrolled.

Strengths of the Program and Faculty:

Both full-time instructors are also practitioners in their fields. Both maintain a working professional employment relationship with the Torrington Police Department, WMCI, WLEA and the Wyoming Department of Corrections. This involvement also brings them into contact, for professional reasons, with all other areas of the criminal justice system in Goshen County as well as many state and area law enforcement agencies, social service and mental health agencies, Department of Corrections agencies and court systems in the EWC service area and other parts of the state. These relationships allow for maintaining education as well as up to date certifications and training in the field of criminal justice. Additional benefits are seen in the increase of community partnerships raising internship opportunities and student/practitioner interaction opportunities. The instructors are teaching not just theoretical concepts of criminal justice they are teaching from a practical hands-on approach and work to provide this opportunity to each EWC Criminal Justice student.

Part III Recommendations

Faculty Recommendations:

My recommendations for continuous improvement include:

1. Integrate EWC marketing and recruiting strategies with our partnership collaboration efforts among service area and regional criminal justice and social service agencies. Currently students at the end of their program enroll in a class called Supervised Lab Experience commonly know as an internship. We will search for a recruiting activity that demonstrates how our relationships with partnering agencies are a part of a student's education.
2. Promote EWC as a regional center for educational opportunities for Criminal Justice students and practitioners to study or teach Law Enforcement, Corrections, Probation Parole, Juvenile Justice, Social Work and other city, county, state and federal enforcement functions or special topics within each discipline.
3. Create and implement a new strategy promoting the AAS degree program. This can include new courses and articulation agreements with out of area schools. This should include out of state schools and online colleges.

Action Plans - Year One through Year Three (attached)

Advisory Committee Recommendations:

Advisory Group members describe state requirements by POST (Wyoming Peace Officers and Standards) for Correctional and Law Enforcement Officers and Communications Specialists to maintain certifications as a certain number of hours per year or every other year. However educational or training course offerings are generally ad hoc and do not come along in a planned or considered way or are recommendations of supervisory staff. The Group recognizes that the officer/employee by enrolling at EWC in a program or class is directing their own studies and working on their own goal of a degree or certificate. And so in addition to maintaining their POST certification and education they are developing the agency and personal value of lifelong learning. To that end the Group wants to maintain a robust collaboration with the EWC Criminal Justice Program staff through meetings between all concerned parties.

Division Chair Recommendations:

The Criminal Justice Program is a critical part of the Arts, Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences Division and EWC. It has also been a successful program. With the construction and staffing of WMCI, virtually every important element of the State of Wyoming Criminal Justice System is represented in Torrington in a significant way---Law Enforcement, the Courts, Corrections and Juvenile Justice. Within our service area, additional facilities include WLEA, the Wyoming Women's Center and the Wyoming Honor Farm and Boot Camp. This presents an educational opportunity for our students that no other college in the state possesses. This requires maintaining relationships with these agencies and entities that can help us support student learning not just in the Criminal Justice Program but other Programs in the Division. Conversely EWC will be able to support employee education in these agencies. These relationships will also help EWC identify courses of value to these partners and to that end the Program needs to be flexible and creative, this to include online, outreach, campus and special topics classes.

The final component along with strong relationships, support for student learning and new courses will be identifying the new criminal justice student. There is the graduating high school student, the non-traditional student who is changing careers and the practitioner--either a currently serving police officer or correctional officer who is usually doing shift work. These are distinct marketing and recruiting challenges and their

enrollment along with their progress towards a degree or culmination will not be neatly categorized. The recommendations by faculty, advisors and EWC staff address these concerns, and I would encourage their endorsement and support.

Vice President's Recommendations:

The Criminal Justice program at Eastern Wyoming College meets the workforce needs of a growing employment area in our service area. Additionally, many students continue their education at four-year institutions such as the University of Wyoming or Chadron State College. Both full-time instructors have excellent qualifications and stay involved in the profession by working in the field, serving as guest lecturers and instructors, and maintaining a professional network that is extensive and beneficial to the program as well as themselves. They are highly respected and admired by others in the field. The part-time instructors also have excellent credentials. For example, we have Patrick Korell, Goshen County Attorney, who teaches for us on a regular basis. In addition, the partnership we have formed with the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy brings with it highly qualified instructors who teach classes year-round in Douglas. The partnership includes with it credit for the articulated courses. The agreement is reviewed on a regular basis.

The Criminal Justice courses contribute heavily to the enrollment numbers at the college and have the potential to expand. The curriculum revisions were extensive and designed in part to help delineate the educational pathway for law enforcement from correctional officers. At the same time, the faculty members have embraced distance learning offerings and provide a regular rotation of the courses required in the various programs.

Employment opportunities in the criminal justice field are stable and growing, particularly within our service area. The Department of Corrections jobs represent some of the most desirable employment as they provide a sustainable wage as well as State of Wyoming benefits. The Advisory Council provides programmatic advice such as emphasizing the importance of student internships which have grown in recent years. As indicated by the long list of partnering agencies, EWC Criminal Justice students participate in internships across the state.

I have the following recommendations for the criminal justice programs.

1. Continue to attend regular articulation meetings with the Wyoming community colleges, the University of Wyoming and Chadron State College. In addition, meet on a yearly basis to keep the WLEA agreement up-to-date and reflect changes as appropriate.
2. Review the distance education offerings to ensure we have timely rotations of all required classes for the Associate of Arts degrees and the Corrections Certificate.
3. Review and revise as necessary the Associate of Applied Science degree in order to ensure that the offerings are appropriate, aligned with other criminal justice courses, and students are being advised into this major.
4. Expand marketing and recruiting of the Criminal Justice programs by working closely with college recruiters and College Relations. These programs have the potential for further growth and stronger enrollment in specific courses.