

# Evaluation Report for Program Review Face to Face Meeting University of Wisconsin-Whitewater: Criminology (BA, BS) Majors and Minors, 2024-2025

**Date:** 3/12/2025

**In Attendance:** Provost John Chenoweth; Dean Jason Janke (L&S); Associate Dean Angela Harlan; Department Chair Loren Wilbers; Program Coordinator Paul Gregory (author, not in attendance); faculty and staff in the Criminology program Michael Friedson; Program Review Team Chair Bill Miller; Program Review team members Rachel Chaphalkar, Pascal Letourneau; Assessment Representative Katy Casey

## Overview of review team evaluation, program comments:

- a) The program's strengths were recognized by the review team and include strong collaborations with surrounding communities, an active advisory board, and curriculum that is responsive to workforce expectations.
- b) The program shared the ways the curriculum reflected student interests in the creation of two certificates, one in forensic science and another in behavioral health.

## Discussion of Review Team's evaluation:

### 1 – Provide an update on the current staffing plan. What are your strategies for faculty retention?

The program is not concerned about retaining faculty in the program. The recent turnover was not due to factors within the program's control, and they acknowledged the number of faculty leaving in a short period of time. However, this was primarily due to retirement. The program has completed two searches successfully already this year.

### 2 – The review team appreciated how much data was being collected by the program, and recognized the time and energy this takes. How is assessment work distributed among the members of the program?

The previous program coordinator completed most of this work, willingly, on his own without much engagement from the other faculty and staff in the program. There was discussion about the benefits of sharing this responsibility. Some reasons include maintaining consistency of standards (so the program does not feel like it is starting over every time a coordinator changes) and increasing understanding on program level assessment and its key role in student learning and development. It was suggested the program consider attending an assessment institute before the next review period to learn more about effectively managing, analyzing, and reporting program level data.

### 3 – Student enrollment has been declining, what is your perspective on this decline and efforts to turn it around?

The program feels an optimal number of students is around 200. They noted a potential reason for the decline in enrollment was less interest in policing (which is most of their students' career of choice). To address the changing interests of students, they are working on adding options for students to specialize in areas of interest through certificates as noted above (i.e., Forensic Science, Behavioral Health).

## Recommended Actions:

### Recommended Action #1

Assessment planning: a) Include a curriculum map that shows where content from each SLO is being taught (not just where it is assessed), b) reflect on the placement (i.e., when and in what classes) the assessment of the program SLOs occur, c) set criteria for student performance on each SLO, then compare the assessment results to the criteria for each of the SLOs, and d) share changes the program made based on this process.

### Recommended Action #2

Describe the ways in which the program has improved upon existing student recruitment and retention activities.

### Recommended Action #3

Conduct a thorough review of the curriculum with the objective of facilitating the transfer process and enabling students to count more of their previously earned credits towards their degree, while maintaining academic standards and rigor.

## Recommended Result:

Continuation with minor concerns

## Next Self-study and/or Progress Report Due Dates:

1 - Next FULL self-study will be due to the Dean on May 1, 2031 and to the Assessment Office on August 1, 2031

*For a copy of the full evaluation report and detailed comments, please reach out to the assessment office: [assessment@uww.edu](mailto:assessment@uww.edu).*