

Graduate Council

Agenda for October 17, 2010 Electronic Meeting

1. Minutes for last Meeting, September 19, 2011

2. Graduate Faculty Nominations

Department of Medical Lab. Sciences
Heping Han New Graduate Faculty
Sara Taylor New Graduate Faculty
Dale Telgenhoff New Graduate Faculty

Department of English & Languages
Kathleen Mollick New Graduate Faculty

Department of EDLPS
Julia Frink Pending to Graduate Faculty

Department of Communication Studies
Gay Wakefield New Graduate Faculty

3. Graduate Curriculum Items

10408 Change in Course CJ 514

Proposed Catalog Description:

Demonstration of competency in criminal justice through completion of the master's comprehensive examinations and a substantial research project incorporating independent study and critical analysis of a specialized area of the field. This is the capstone course for the Master of Criminal Justice Program. Course fee: \$35.00.

Nature of Change Requested:

Description, prerequisite, fee

Justification for Change:

Change will increase the level of academic rigor for this course as students will receive actual letter grade based on quality of work rather than simply a pass or fail. In addition to covering research methods and theory, CJ 514 has the comprehensive exam embedded within the course. The course fee is directly related to the administration of the comprehensive exam, creating the exam in an online format, changing and updating, committee grading, recording and notifying students by mail of the results. Although a passing grade on the comprehensive exam is required for graduation, there is no additional fee to retake the exam. The criminal justice graduate program has experienced enormous growth over the last two years. We are well over 125 enrolled students and expect another 25-30 for the Spring 2012. Online degree students are represented

from locations throughout Texas including El Paso to Houston and several military personnel serving overseas. We now find it necessary to offer CJ514 every semester. Since the comprehensive exam is embedded into the course it is not only extremely difficult to build and maintain a constantly changing Blackboard base exam but requires considerable time. It is no longer possible to even consider a face-to-face comprehensive exam. We have been looking at a number of testing software that will assist the student and add to increase the integrity of the testing format. The plan is to purchase a testing software program because we cannot keep up with the current growth trend. Many universities impose a fee for the criminal justice comprehensive exam and is fairly common in this field. Additionally, the Tarleton CJ graduate degree has been reduced from 36 credits to 30 credits saving the student far more than a small \$35.00 fee.