

Long-term Assessment Plan 2018

After we did extensive research regarding the best measurements on the market to evaluate university-level criminal justice content (the focus of our next five-year assessment plan), we picked the top three assessments to evaluate. After careful evaluation, we have picked the **Peregrine** assessment of criminal justice content as our chosen vendor.

Assessment 1: Lectica

Description: Lectica is a company that uses the integral justice theory to evaluate critical thinking skills. They do not have criminal justice content at this time. The test takes approximately one hour to complete, the assessment is delivered online, and the test taker types their responses into the program. The answers are qualitative, and they have a rubric they use to grade the tests and to provide information to each test taker regarding their level of critical thinking and what they can focus on next to continue improving their skill set.

Pros: We can evaluate a critical skill using open ended questions.
Test takers get a lot of information back to use.
We would get feedback regarding how to increase our students' critical thinking skills.
The results are both reliable and valid.

Cons: We are trying to assess criminal justice content for the next five years and thus this assessment does not help us meet our goals.

Assessment 2: ETS' Major Field Test/Heighten critical thinking assessment

Description: ETS is a large company that creates and monitors a wide variety of assessment instruments. Their MFT covers a lot of different criminal justice content that fits with our program. The assessment is administered online but would need to be proctored as the questions are the exact same for all students taking the test. We can add our own questions, but we would need to score them ourselves. They also have Heighten, a critical thinking test (only \$12 per assessment) but we are not looking for an assessment for critical thinking this next five years. There are many reports available, but the reports cost extra money per year. The reports have basic information included.

Pros: We can evaluate our curriculum using this CRJ Major Field Test.
The assessment can be taken online.
We can purchase several reports that will give us basic information.
We can see how our students did compared to other programs.
Questions have been analyzed with statistical programs to ensure that the exam is reliable and valid.

Cons: We will need to do our own calculations for some of the variables we want to know about, as the reports are not polished nor do the break down all of the information we will need for the annual assessment report.
Even though the assessments are not expensive (\$24/student) the reports cost extra per year (minimum \$700).
We need to proctor all students taking the exam.
We have no flexibility with the questions (adding or subtracting is difficult to do).

Assessment 3: Peregrine

Description: Peregrine has a criminal justice content test that they can configure to the department's interests/what they teach. Flexible content and questions can be added before (a screening for graduates asking anything we would like), including typed in answers. There are multiple questions for each topic, so the content is different for each test taker, enabling the students to be able to take this assessment unproctored. There are numerous clear and complex reports that are included in the total cost per student (\$38/student). All analyses (comparing our group over time, comparing our group to other programs in the U.S.) are completed and are put in a nice package to be able to include as is in our annual assessment report. We also get immediate feedback as to how long each student took taking the assessment, making it easier to weed out those that did not take enough time for completion.

Pros: This assessment has the content we need, flexibility, helpful and complete reports we can use in our annual report.
We do not need proctors.
We can compare how our students do over time and to other groups.
The contacts at Peregrine were exceptionally nice and helpful to us, and past relations have been excellent with this company.
The questions have gone through statistical analyses so that the test is reliable and valid.

Cons: This assessment is costly at \$38 per student (but all reports are available as part of this overall cost, making it comparable to the other two assessments)

Comprehensive Assessment Plan for Division of Criminal Justice Undergraduate Programs

Overarching Program Learning Goal	PLOs?	Which courses assessed?	Which years & how often?	How data collected?	Data collection tools?	How & by whom data collected?	How will data be reported & standard of performance	Who will analyze data?	Who will use the data for what?
Competency in the discipline	Comprehensive core content exam	CRJ 190 (senior capstone) each fall semester	Each year; once per academic year	Course-based objective exam (5% of course credit for successful completion) (web-based administration)	Peregrine Criminal Justice Assessment	Course-based; students directed to online link; Division's APD committee oversees	Aggregated for program assessment; disaggregated for student and instructor use; compare within program and with others in discipline	Exam administrator & Division's APD committee	Division faculty for course & program development; Students for standardized feedback on academic progress within and across CRJ programs & for personal growth
Intellectual & Practical Skills	Applied Critical Thinking (i.e., Problem Solving)	To the same population taking the comprehensive core exam	At the same time as the regular content questions	Through the administration of problem-solving questions on standardized exam IF ABLE TO	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	Division faculty for course & program development; Students for personal growth

Info in table completed by:

Undergraduate information: 2017-18 APD Committee Members (L. Lee & J. Singer co-chairs)