**Program Summary**

The Sociology and Law and Society convening groups are seeking to modify the existing Criminology minor into a Crime and Justice Studies minor. The existing Criminology minor draws primarily from the Sociology major, while the modified minor would draw from both Sociology and Law and Society. This interdisciplinary minor would provide students with the knowledge to understand the problem of crime in its broad societal context—social, cultural, political, and economic, both nationally and internationally. This includes understanding the causes and consequences of crime, criminal justice policy, and the role of law in redressing or reinforcing inequality and social problems with criminogenic ramifications.

The table below summarizes the proposed revisions:

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| --- | --- |
| Current criminology minor | Proposed revisions |
| Title: Criminology | **Title**: Crime and Justice Studies  Reason: a broader title better represents the core of the minor |
| Description:  The Criminology Minor brings together critical sociological, legal and psychological foundations for examining crime and societal responses to crime. The cluster of courses in the minor is meant to sharpen the students understanding of how ideological mechanisms and institutions are reproduced in the context of the criminal justice system. | **Description**:  The Crime and Justice Studies minor provides students with the knowledge to understand the problem of crime in its broad societal context—social, cultural, political, and economic, both nationally and internationally. This includes understanding the causes and consequences of crime, criminal justice policy, and the role of law in redressing or reinforcing inequality and social problems with criminogenic ramifications.  Main differences: the new description explicitly incorporates international aspects, in line with Ramapo’s mission to internationalize its curriculum. It also includes a more detailed and clearer description of the content of the minor. |
| Structure:5 courses  Required:  *Criminology*  *Introduction to Sociology*  *Sociology of Race Relations*  *Sociology of Deviance* (300-level)  and either  *Law and Society*, or *Introduction to Psychology* | **Structure**: 5 courses  Required:  *Criminology*  *Law and Society*  and three electives from the list (see below), one from Sociology, one from Law and Society, and a free elective from the list. In addition, at least one course needs to be at the 300-level).  Reason and main differences: the current minor is a bit too narrow and rigid. To offer students more flexibility and more choices, as well as to respond to the internationalization mandate of the College, we reduced the number of required courses from four to two, but increased the number of electives from one to three, and added to the list of electives more courses from both Sociology and Law and Society. We maintained the requirement of at least one course at the 300-level. |

To complete the minor, students would be required to take five courses, three of which would need to be distinct from their major. The proposed minor would be as follows:

Required courses:

SOCI 245 Criminology

LAWS 131 Law and Society

Three electives from the following list, with the restrictions that students must take at least one Sociology course, at least one Law and Society course, and at least one of the three courses must be at the 300-level:

SOCI 101 Introduction to Sociology

SOCI 215 Sociology of Race Relations

SOCI 250 International Migration & Human Rights

SOCI 255 Human Rights in the Context of Law Enforcement

SOCI 315 Sociology of Deviance

SOCI 345 Race, Crime, and Justice

SOCI 202 Social Inequality

SOCI 248 Crime and Media

SOCI 221 Social Movements

LAWS 228 Criminal Law

LAWS 332 Psychology and the Law

LAWS 351 Constitutional Liberties

LAWS 210 Law, Justice, and Morality

LAWS 320 Transitional Justice

LAWS 203 Criminal Investigation

LAWS 212 Issues in Criminal Justice

LAWS 213 Law Enforcement, Crime & Community

LAWS 334 Juvenile Justice

LAWS 337 Criminal Court Process

LAWS 347 Death Penalty in America

LAWS 348 Drugs, Crime and Society

PSYC 218 Forensic Psychology

The learning outcomes for the minor are:

Outcome 1: Students will understand the historical, theoretical, sociological, legal, and psychological foundations for examining crime and societal responses to crime.

Outcome 2: Students will understand the centrality of categories such as race, ethnicity, gender, class/status, religion, age, immigration status in the context of criminal justice.

Outcome 3: Students will be able to analyze how ideological mechanisms and institutions are reproduced in the context of the criminal justice system.

Our students, not just in law and society and sociology, have been increasingly interested in issues of crime and justice. The law and society major, and the criminology minor do not currently serve these students’ broader interests. Moreover, crime and justice has been identified as a growing area of interest for colleges, including in the Grant Thornton report commissioned by Ramapo last year.

**Impact on Other Programs**

We believe the revised minor would benefit other programs across campus: this is a truly interdisciplinary minor, grounded in the liberal arts, that is broad enough for students from other schools to take and gain some familiarity with issues of law, crime, and society. Students majoring in the social sciences, in particular, whether housed in SSHS or SSHGS, will benefit from this minor. The minor is not a subset of the law and society major, nor of the criminology concentration, but it draws from both to complement our respective majors.

**Program’s Need**

The Crime and Justice Studies minor would provide foundational knowledge and skills on topics that serve multiple professions in the criminal justice field. The minor would further the College’s mission of academic excellence through interdisciplinary and experiential learning. It would also allow us to be competitive with other colleges and universities in New Jersey that do offer a criminal justice minor (e.g. Montclair State University, Rutgers, New Jersey City University). Ours would be broader, and explicitly interdisciplinary and grounded in the liberal arts. Finally, the minor would allow us to maintain the integrity of our majors while expanding in a slightly new direction to serve our students better.

**Program’s Anticipated Enrollment**

The existing Criminology minor had 38 students enrolled in Spring 2017, and we anticipate that number to grow with a redesigned minor that appeals to an even broader student audience. Prospective students and parents always ask questions about this type of minor, and we are confident that the minor would have significant enrollment.

**Additional Resources for the First Five Years**

Because of the large number of courses that would satisfy the minor, and the fact that the minor would be run by the two convening groups together, we anticipate few additional resources (publicity would be one). In addition, we have a new faculty member in Law and Society (Jeffrey Ellsworth), so we would be able to offer sufficient courses every semester for our students to complete both their respective majors and the minor.