

Course Outcomes Guide

Directions: Please complete this form to document your progress toward improving student learning. For each item, indicate your progress and your anticipated next steps. Thank you!

Course/Program Title: ADJ-204, Criminal Investigation

Date: May 17, 2017

Semester: FA/16

Course/Program Team: Andrew B. Kramer

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify and briefly explain the seven (7) fundamental steps of a preliminary investigation after a crime has been reported or observed.

Assessment (How do or will students demonstrate achievement of each outcome?)

Outcomes are assessed through two (2) short answer questions on Quiz 1, administered immediately after the unit in which the material is covered.

Validation (What methods have you used or will you use to validate your assessment?)

Students must achieve a minimum of 80% accuracy in these 2 combined questions to achieve satisfactory mastery in this outcome.

I accept and adopt the previous instructor's basis for the inclusion of this outcome as stated below in language retained from most recent COG on file for the course.

The decision to use this outcome was based on the review of six (6) textbooks in the academic field in addition to discussions with a prior investigator for the state's attorney's office, current internal affairs investigator, first line supervisor and commander of a municipal criminal investigation division, a prior and a current criminal investigator.

Results (What do your assessment data show? If you have not yet assessed student achievement of your learning outcomes, when is assessment planned?)

.Outcome No. 1: 88% of students achieved satisfactory mastery in this outcome.

Follow-up (How have you used or how will you use the data to improve student learning?)

FA/16 was my first experience in teaching this course. Initially, I felt somewhat apprehensive about doing so. However, I believe that my experience as a prosecutor allowed me to approach

the material in a manner that was relevant and meaningful to student learning; and that allowed me to engage the material positively and enthusiastically. On that basis, the following are my concerns and recommendations for a more comprehensive set of SLOs that will adequately address the breadth of student learning we should expect from this course.

- 1) The sole SLO is acceptable and may be retained. However, it is primarily an objective “identify and explain” outcome. It was easy to assess and required that students identify and place the steps of a preliminary investigation in the proper order. However, it does not challenge students to apply or critically evaluate the concepts in diverse factual scenarios.
- 2) The sole SLO is inadequate in assessing other, highly relevant course subject matter, and, therefore, additional SLOs must be included for the course, as follows:
 - a) Identify, and apply accepted techniques in criminal investigations to scenarios in specific types of criminal conduct
 - b) Identify and evaluate issues in the gathering & admissibility of evidence, including, but not limited to: crime scenes, interview, confessions, search & seizure, forensic & fingerprint evidence

Budget Justification (What resources are necessary to improve student learning?)

The proposed HCC Mock Courtroom will offer meaningful opportunities to students in this class in experiencing the transition from investigation and evidence-gathering processes, ultimately, to their testimony at trial to authenticate and admit that evidence.