

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 - 104 – Corrections in America**

Semester: SP / 18

Instructor: Andrew B. Kramer

Current Expected Learning Outcomes (to be revised starting SP '19)

1. The student will be able to identify and explain the sentencing goals of corrections.
2. The student will be able to define the theories of specific and general deterrence.
3. The student will be able to identify how the goals of corrections are challenged by budgets, overcrowding, management and legal issues.

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

The assessment of outcomes occurs through selected multiple-choice, short answer and matching questions included in both quizzes and exams on the basis of a field trip, guest speaker and instructor's material. Additional learning activities also generate results. These include group-work that generated both written and oral report-outs with associated class discussion thereon.

Outcome #1 has three (3) quiz items on which its assessment is based.

Outcome #2 has one (1) final exam item on which its assessment is based

Outcome #3 has three (3) mid-term exam items on which its assessment is based

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

For objective items (multiple choice/fill-in-blank), students must enter a correct response.

For other types of items (short answer, essay and/or discussion/group work report-outs, students must achieve a minimum of 75% of the total possible point value of the item of the responses in order to demonstrate satisfactory mastery of a specific outcome.

Results

Outcome #1 97% of the students achieved mastery

Outcome #2 100% of the students achieved mastery

Outcome #3 79% of the students achieved mastery

Follow-up (How have you used or how will you use the data to improve student learning?)
Results in outcomes 1 & 2 are very positive and reflect a high level of student mastery. The results for outcome 3 are slightly less so. This is explained below.

This is my second semester teaching Corrections in America. A review of the COG for this course from SP '17 will reveal that I made recommendations for revising the outcomes. I did not incorporate the revisions for this semester. This contributed to the challenge in identifying relevant and discrete assessment items with which to assess student learning. This was particularly the case for outcome #3, as it is overbroad and contains several areas which should be separated out into more logically grouped outcomes. The new outcomes for the course set forth below accomplish this. At any rate, issues of semantics and overbreadth were present in the existing outcomes that created some difficulty in assessment this semester.

Notably, moving forward, I have developed a good working relationship with:

- 1) Maj. Craig Rowe, Warden of the Washington County Detention Center
- 2) Denise Gelsinger, Warden of the Maryland Correctional Institution (MCI)

Major Rowe addressed the class each semester to discuss the impact of legal and management issues on jail operations. Similarly, Warden Gelsinger has invited the ADJ 104 class to tour MCI during the last 2 spring semesters. During the tours, the students receive a briefing specifically designed to review the manner in which management concerns and legislation impact prison operations. These two student experiences will provide assessment items that will allow student mastery in new, pared-down outcome #3 to be more readily measured moving forward.

The new outcomes for this course will be as follows starting in SP '19:

- 1. The student will be able to identify, explain and justify the sentencing goals of corrections and their individual applications in diverse sets of circumstances.**
- 2. The student will be able to understand and explain how the goals of corrections are impacted by overcrowding and recidivism**
- 3. The student will be able to understand and explain how the goals of corrections are impacted by legal and management issues**

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

As the MCI field trip has become a de facto part of the curriculum, I do request that the College continue to extend to the ADJ program its heretofore gracious use of HCC transport and drivers to allow the trip to take place – and extend my gratitude for its willingness to do so over the last two spring semesters.