Ozarka College
Criminal Justice Leadership
Program Review

Since the inception of the Criminal Justice Leadership Associate of Applied Science degree program, a total of 42 students have enrolled (1997-2002). Of these students four have graduated and seven are currently enrolled.

The Criminal Justice Leadership Associate of Applied Science degree program is a unique program offered by Ozarka College. This degree program is an innovative, flexible, practitioner-based degree program designed to meet the educational and professional advancement needs of officers already working in various criminal justice areas. By combining traditional college level courses in general education, telecourses, web-based courses, correspondence courses, and short courses sponsored by professional associations and institutes, criminal justice practitioners are able to complete a degree while still being employed full-time as law enforcement and corrections officers. Through these combinations, professional certification courses provided by the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy, the Department of Correction Training Academy or similar entities, and credit for courses based on specified amalgamations of documented professional education or training completed within the preceding five years, law enforcement personnel may earn a degree.

The purpose of the Criminal Justice Leadership program, approved by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board in 1997, is to provide area law enforcement and corrections officers with the educational experiences and credentials needed to strengthen management and performance skills so that they may increase their effectiveness and advance on the job. A social science professor at Ozarka oversees this program with assistance of a professional formally from the Criminal Justice Institute providing the subject matter expertise. Only a few law enforcement professionals have taken advantage of this degree offering; however, there is no additional cost to the College for making the degree program available to the community. If one student every five years chooses to enroll and complete the degree, that individual will add to the community’s welfare intellectually, socially, and technically. In addition, as a community service, Ozarka College waives tuition fees to certified law enforcement officers.

Cognate programs “borrow” courses from other certificate and degree programs of the institution and are marginal in cost. Cognate programs, therefore, are exempt from further review.

The Criminal Justice Leadership Associate of Applied Science degree program at Ozarka College is clearly a cognate program and is not subject to the Arkansas Department of Higher Education Program Review guidelines.

Should there be questions regarding this degree program, please contact Linda Morgan, Vice President for Academic Affairs at 870.368.7371 or lmorgan@ozarka.edu.