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### Criminal Justice Collection Development Policy

Suping Lu

*University of Nebraska at Lincoln*, [slu1@unl.edu](mailto:slu1@unl.edu)

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## **Criminal Justice Collection Development Policy**

University Libraries, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Suping Lu, October 2009

Approved: CDC, October 7, 2009

### **I. GENERAL ACADEMIC PROGRAM INFORMATION**

The criminal justice collection supports the teaching, learning, research, and other related service activities of the entire university community. Its primary users are faculty, staff, and students of the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (Lincoln Program) in the College of Public Affairs and Community Service, which is based at University of Nebraska-Omaha. Its essential focus is support for the undergraduate curricula for criminal justice. The collection is supplemented through interlibrary loan services whenever special curriculum and research needs of criminal justice faculty and students arise. Although the collection is not developed for the general public and community users, they may benefit from the collection for their information needs. The main focus of the collection is works classified in Library of Congress call numbers HV6000+ (Criminology and Criminal Justice), however, curriculum and research needs of criminal justice are substantially supported by works classified in sociology, social work, and law.

#### **School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (Lincoln Program)**

In 1969, the Department of Law Enforcement and Corrections was established, offering undergraduate education on Omaha campus. The department was renamed the Department of Criminal Justice in 1971, and the undergraduate program was initiated on Lincoln campus. The master's programs were started in 1972 on Omaha campus, and the Ph.D. program in 1994. The department changed its status and renamed School of Criminology and Criminal Justice in 2006.

The School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (Lincoln Program) is committed to providing quality education to students and training them for the challenging careers in criminal justice system. The courses taught at the school are designed to provide the students with a general comprehensive knowledge of the criminal justice system with areas of concentration on the courts and law, law enforcement, corrections, criminal behavior, and other contemporary criminal justice topics.

The School of Criminology and Criminal Justice is housed in the College of Public Affairs and Community Service and is administered through the University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO). The Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice (BSCJ) can be completed in its entirety on either Lincoln or Omaha campus but the degree is granted by UNO. Graduate courses are primarily offered on Omaha campus, though certain courses can be completed on Lincoln campus. The Omaha campus award M.A., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in criminology and criminal justice.

There are currently 20 faculty members in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, with 12 being assigned primarily to the Omaha campus and 8 to the Lincoln campus. Of the 8 faculty members on the Lincoln campus, there is one full professor, four associate professors, and three assistant professors. These individuals have a wide variety of research interests including community and crime, computer crimes, corrections, crimes against humanity, criminal procedure, criminology, female homicide, youth gangs, gender difference in crime, history of

lethal violence in U.S., the judicial process, justice education, juvenile delinquency, law and social control, minorities and crime, organized crime, policing, probation and parole issues, quantitative and qualitative methods, research methodology, sexual assault, social context and delinquency, terrorism, urban crime, victimology, violent crime, and women and crime.

There are roughly 300 undergraduate criminal justice majors on each campus. Currently, there are 65 - 70 students pursuing master's degree and 35 working towards their Ph.D. degree on the Omaha campus. In the 2008-2009 academic year, 65 bachelor degrees were awarded to the students in the Lincoln program.

### **B.S. in Criminal Justice**

The BSCJ requires 39 credit hours of criminal justice course work, of which the required Lower Division core courses are CRIM101 (Survey of Criminal Justice), CRIM251 (Research and Methods), and two of the following: CRIM203 (Police and Society), CRIM211 (Criminal Court System), and CRIM221 (Survey of Corrections). After admission to the Upper Division, students must complete a minimum of 21 credit hours of upper division criminal justice course work, including CRIM335 (Criminology), CRIM351 (Criminal Procedure). Students are required to register for and complete CRIM499 (Senior Assessment) in the semester they plan to graduate. In addition, the degree requires 9 credit hours in English, 12 in Social Science, 12 in Humanities, 12 in Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and 3 in Statistics, as criminal justice heavily overlaps in varying degrees with the disciplines of sociology, political science, social work, psychology, law, and adult education.

### **Minor in Criminal Justice**

The Minor in Criminal Justice requires a minimum of 18 credit hours in criminal justice course work, including CRIM101 (Survey of Criminal Justice), two of the following: CRIM203 (Police and Society), CRIM211 (Criminal Court System), and CRIM221 (Survey of Corrections), and a minimum of 9 credit hours of upper division criminal justice course work, excluding CRIM300 (Applied Statistics).

### **Library Collection**

For decades, the University Libraries has committed to acquiring and collecting a wide range of resources to support the criminal justice academic programs. The materials in the library collection cover the areas of administration of justice, corrections, courts and law, crimes against humanity, criminal behavior, criminal psychology, forensic studies, juvenile delinquency, law enforcement, prison studies, research methodology, terrorism, urban crimes, and white-collar crimes. The guides of some of the above-mentioned areas can be found in other collection development policies, such as Sociology, Social Work, Psychology, and Political Science. The University Libraries is one of the regional centers of the U.S. federal document depository, and has a fairly complete set of U.S. federal government documents from executive, legislative, and judicial branches, which provide an abundant and invaluable resource for the criminal justice academic programs.

In terms of criminal justice resources, the library's collection is supplemented by the University of Nebraska-Omaha Library, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Schmid Law Library, Nebraska Commission Library, and Nebraska State Legislative Library. Due to the fact that the major

academic programs of criminal justice are based on Omaha campus, UNO Library has a solid collection and wide coverage in criminal justice. Since some of the Lincoln faculty members have teaching duties on Omaha campus, they use UNO Library collection conveniently.

## **II. GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE**

Geographical areas preferred are the United States, Great Britain, Canada, and Europe. Coverage of areas such as Russia and the rest of the world, as well as materials with a comparative international perspective, are also collected.

## **III. CHRONOLOGICAL COVERAGE**

Emphasis is on the current period. However, it is important to include works of historical analysis on certain topical areas such as police administration and the legal system. Other time periods are collected selectively and at the request of the faculty.

## **IV. IMPRINT DATE**

Primary emphasis is on current and recent publications. Materials in Criminology (HV6001-7220) and Criminal Justice (HV7223-9960) are collected at research level. Materials of earlier editions or published earlier are acquired at faculty request.

## **V. FORMAT**

Most materials are acquired in the form of monographs, reference works, and periodicals. Most materials are in print format, while an increasing percentage of periodicals are in electronic format, and a small number of e-books are in the collection. Up-to-date reference materials such as dictionaries, indexes, encyclopedias, directories, and handbooks are collected. Proceedings, symposia, and dissertations are collected selectively. Video materials in DVD format, which prove to be an effective teaching tool in classroom teaching, are purchased at faculty request. The acquisition of documents from the U.S. federal government and State of Nebraska satisfactorily supports the needs of criminal justice. Quite a few of the documents, in particular, the U.S. federal documents, can be accessed electronically.

## **VI. LANGUAGE**

English is the preferred language of publication for all materials. Non-English materials are collected selectively, usually at faculty request. Translations are preferred to non-English materials.

## **VII. ELECTRONIC DATABASES**

The University Libraries has acquired a number of electronic databases, including some full-text ones, in criminal justice and related areas: Criminology: A Sage Full-text Collection, Sociology: A Sage Full-text Collection, Sociological Abstracts, National Criminal Justice Reference Service, LegalTrac, Lexis/Nexis, U.S. Supreme Court Records and Briefs, and ICPSR (Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research). In addition, Academic Search Premier, Project Muse, and JSTOR, all of which are interdisciplinary databases, contain a substantial amount of criminal justice related full-text material. These databases greatly enhance the research capability and provide convenient and timely access to various resources.

**VIII. CLASSIFICATION AND INTENSITY LISTING**

HM 1033 Social psychology. General work RESEARCH

HV 6001-7220.7 Criminology RESEARCH

HV 7231-9960 Criminal justice RESEARCH

K Law in general. Periodicals BASIC

KD-KDG Law of the United Kingdom BASIC

KF 1-554 United States federal law (General) STUDY

KF 1246-1327 United States federal law (General). Torts (Extracontractual liability) BASIC

KF 3300-3771 United States federal law (General). Social legislation BASIC

KF 5399 Police STUDY

KF 8700-9075 Court. Procedure STUDY