

IUSB Assessment Grant Final Report

Name of the Grant: Fall, 2008 Assessment Grant to pilot the Major Field Test in Criminal Justice

Department: Department of Criminal Justice, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Principal Faculty: Allen F. Anderson and Professor Xu Qiang

A. What are the results of the assessment project?

The Criminal Justice Major Fields Test (MFT) was administered during December, 2008, and May, 2009, by Prof. Xu Qiang in his capstone course CJUS-P410 (Analysis of Crime and Public Policy). Fifteen (15) students took the test during the fall administration, and 18 students in spring. The departmental mean for fall was 160, and 165 for spring. When these scores are compared to the institutional mean of 150.9 for all tests taken during 2005-2008 at 95 domestic institutions, it is clear that our students are doing well above average when contrasted to the national mean.

The MFT also breaks the CJUS discipline into seven sub-areas and offers a contrast between departmental performance and national performance in each of those areas. Again, our students tested above the national mean in all seven areas, often significantly (i.e., departmental mean on spring test critical thinking of 70, contrasted to a national mean of 52; departmental mean on spring test research methodology and statistics of 61, contrasted to a national mean of 44.1).

B. How will the results be used to improve your program's assessment of student learning outcomes?

Now that a baseline has been established, we can track our progress, as well as work toward the departmental goal of routinely scoring in the 70th percentile. This will be aided by tracking improvement in scores for each of the seven sub-areas, and working as a department to improve instruction in each.

C. Will the work started with this assessment project be continued? If so, how?

This project has proven to be so successful in contrasting our performance to a national standard that we will continue to use the MFT as the cornerstone of our assessment process, administering the test to near-graduates each fall and spring semesters.

D. How are the results of your assessment being shared with department faculty, students, IUSB faculty and other appropriate groups?

Departmental faculty discuss the results both individually and at department meetings. Broader audiences will be kept informed through an annual report that will be posted on the department website.