

Dr. Belle S. Wheelan
President, Commission on Colleges
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, GA 30033

July 16, 2012

Dear Dr. Wheelan,

I write to notify you of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's intent to request authority to initiate a new program that constitutes a substantive change: a Master of Science in Criminal Justice within the College of Liberal Arts. The intended date of implementation is January 16, 2013. The University will submit a full Substantive Change Prospectus at least three months prior to initiation.

The College of Liberal Arts already offers numerous M.S. degrees including psychology and Communication, and several Ph.D.'s, including Applied Language and Speech Sciences, English and Francophone Studies. The program will build on the University's existing B.S. in criminal justice program and faculty, with the addition of one new faculty member. The program will emphasize juvenile justice, and will fill the need created by a projected 16 % increase in criminal justice occupational positions requiring a master's degree in criminal justice. Although five Universities in the state offer graduate degrees in criminal justice, none is located in the South-Central region.

Within the proposed program, students may select a thesis or non-thesis track that includes a core curriculum of 6 hours of methods courses, 3 hours of theory, 9 hours in the delinquency emphasis and 12 hours of electives from outside the department. The 36-hour thesis track will be completed with 6 hours of thesis and the 39-hour non-thesis track with 9 hours of criminal justice electives. All students will be required to pass a comprehensive final exam which will have written and oral components.

Again, a full substantive Change Prospectus will be forthcoming at least three months prior to implementation, together with documented approvals from the University of Louisiana System Board (already obtained) and the Louisiana Board of Regents (pending).

Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

Jordan Kellman
Interim Director

cc. President E. Joseph Savoie
Vice President for Academic Affairs Carolyn Bruder
Dr. Nuria Cuevas, Vice President, SACS-COC



**Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Commission on Colleges
Substantive Change Letter of Notification**

Name of institution: University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Name of the change proposed: Initiation of a Master of Science in Criminal Justice degree Program

Credential(s) involved: Master of Science in Criminal Justice

Starting date: January 16, 2013

Closely related programs already approved for the institution:

- Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice
- Master of Science in psychology
- Master of Science in Communication