LETTER OF NOTIFICATION – 1

NAME CHANGE OF EXISTING CERTIFICATE, DEGREE, MAJOR, OPTION

OR ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT

(No change in program curriculum, option/emphasis or organizational structure)

* 1. Institution submitting request: University of Arkansas Fayetteville
  2. Contact person/title: Dr. Terry Martin, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
  3. Phone number/e-mail address: (479) 575-2151/tmartin@uark.edu
  4. Proposed effective date: Fall 2018
  5. Current title of degree/certificate program: NA
  6. Current title of major or option: NA
  7. Current title of organizational unit: Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice
  8. Proposed name of certificate/degree: NA
  9. Proposed name of major or option: NA
  10. Semester credit hours for proposed major or option: NA
  11. Proposed name of organizational unit: Department of Sociology and Criminology
  12. Program CIP Code: NA
  13. Degree/Department Code: NA/2285
  14. Reason for proposed action: In 2015, the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice adopted a *2015-2019 Strategic Plan* in support of our vision to become a regional leader in our areas of expertise by 2025 by integrating and rewarding the diverse strengths of the faculty in teaching, research and public service. With the exception of one faculty who holds a PhD in criminal justice and another faculty who has a PhD in public policy, all other full time faculty members have degrees in Sociology and/or Criminology, remaining research active in those two areas (and not in Criminal Justice). In fact, over the past decade we have almost exclusively hired faculty with criminology expertise, which has had an effect on our curriculum. With the exception of a few lower-level courses taught by part-time practitioners, the CMJS curriculum, including several required courses, that is currently delivered by the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice builds on a broader sociological and criminological knowledge base, skill set, research experiences, and theoretical orientations. As result, our students’ learning experiences are more versatile and broader than what is typical of criminal justice programs.

In comparison to Criminal Justice that is more narrowly tailored for professional working in the CJ field, Criminology degree is more expansive, adding several other skill-sets that go beyond knowing criminal procedures, being familiar with criminal evidence or criminal investigations. Since we will retain a CMJS minor and continue to teach on the justice system processes and procedures, our proposed changes will enable a wider range of options by exposing students to social science research and theories examining correlations and consequences of victimization, principles of community-oriented policing, or successful rehabilitation strategies. Specifically, given our research orientation, over the years we have developed an interdisciplinary, sociology/criminology, curriculum that enables students to critically examine 1) the strengths, challenges and issues relating to deviance and criminal behavior, society’s responses to crime, its perpetrators and victims, and 2) the social research based theories of criminal behavior and its patterns as well as crime prevention and public safety strategies. In all, the focus on the social science-based study of crime and its effects on society and communities will greatly enhance marketability and enable students to tailor degrees to a wide variety of career goals.

Moreover, at the graduate level, we offer the MA in Sociology with concentrations in General Sociology and Criminology, preparing our students for professional careers (e.g., research analysts, nonprofit work, substance use education, community outreach, human resources, justice administration, etc.) and doctoral studies in those two areas. In this context, the name change from the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice to the Department of Sociology and Criminology would describe much better what we do, who we are, and what we offer to our students, i.e., the name change will provide truth in advertising. And, given our strategic plan and vision, the change will create a better momentum for the accomplishment of our vision.

To our knowledge, while several UA system institutions have a CMJSBA programs, no institution in the UA system offers a criminology major to Arkansas citizens or has a strong group of very research active and interdisciplinary faculty working together to blend sociology-and criminology based approaches.

* 1. Provide the curriculum/credit hours for the certificate/degree/major/option listed above.

NA

* 1. Provide additional program information if requested by ADHE staff. N/A

President/Chancellor Approval Date: January 8, 2018

Board of Trustees Notification Date: March 29, 2018

Chief Academic Officer: James S. Coleman Date: January 2, 2018