

W-Course Guidelines for UW Tacoma Criminal Justice Degree

I) W- COURSE GOALS

The writing-related goals relevant to the criminal justice curriculum and criminal justice student development that will inform practices in W- designated courses include:

GOAL 1: Writing to learn and generate knowledge: Using writing to examine, summarize, critique, and demonstrate understanding of empirical research in the context of academic writing.

GOAL 2: Writing to communicate and disseminate knowledge: Using writing practices and forms relevant to professional contexts to share disciplinary understandings and communicate information.

W-course goals will be further articulated as writing-specific Student Learning Outcomes (SLO's) linked to two W courses in our curriculum and will be added to current W courses (TCRIM362 – Criminological Theory and TCRIM441 – Ethics and Professionalism in Criminal Justice) or, potentially, to other courses we choose to designate as W courses (to be determined).

II) W-COURSE STRUCTURE

Writing-related goals in W courses will be advanced via a) Standardized writing assignment criteria and b) Standardized rubric for evaluation to linked to at least one assignment in each W-course. While the specific *content* of assignments will be determined by individual faculty teaching the course, the *structure and metrics* of these assignments will adhere to an agreed-upon framework and evaluation rubric. Criminal justice faculty will use disciplinary knowledge, articulated writing goals, and writing-related SLO's to create:

- **Writing Assignment Requirements:** A framework outlining required elements (including scaffolding/number of scaffolds, peer review, etc.) for writing assignment in W courses. Faculty teaching W courses will create and use at least one assignment which adheres to these criteria.
- **Standardized Writing Evaluation Rubric:** A standardized rubric used to measure/give feedback on important criteria necessary for advancing writing skills. This rubric will be linked to W-course goals and will be used for at least one assignment in each W course.

III) W-COURSE ASSESSMENT

In addition to regular collection of W course syllabi (per APCC request), assessment of program's success in meeting our writing related goals in W courses will consist of two measures:

- **Course Evaluations:** Writing-related item to be developed and included on course evaluations for all W courses.
- **Assignment/Rubric Review and Analysis:** Writing assignments designed/used to fulfill established requirements will be reviewed regularly to ensure they're adhering to structures and fulfilling goals, standardized writing evaluation rubrics will be randomly sampled and reviewed to ensure consistency and usefulness in advancing writing related goals, and writing assignment scores will be recorded and analyzed.

Implementation: Implementation will occur over time: Specific elements related to these guidelines (SLO's, assignment guidelines and rubrics) will be developed through Spring and Autumn 2019 (when newly hired faculty and faculty currently on sabbatical are able to contribute) and all aspects of W Course Guidelines will be implemented by Winter 2020.