Criminology Quality Assurance Plan

Date submitted to SSCPR: May 26, 2025

Date Self-Study Report approved by SSCPR: November 29, 2023

Date of External Review: June 24 & 25, 2024

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM STRENGTHS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

Strengths

The Program Review Self-Study Report and External Review Report identify a number of program strengths.

Criminology programs are large and popular, with good student performance measures and good student satisfaction indicators, as measured by both student and alumni surveys. Criminology courses are spread across the University scheduling matrix, across a range of instructional modalities, with generally strong fill rates. Many Criminology courses are sought-after electives for non-Criminology students.

The Criminology faculty is diverse, and Criminology programs and students benefit from Instructors with a mix of backgrounds, perspectives, and areas of expertise. The faculty is collegial, highly involved in Department and University governance, and actively engaged in research and community service. As noted by the External Reviewers, "we witnessed a faculty committed to care, concern, support and respect for their colleagues, and an overwhelming commitment to students".

As part of this Program Review, Criminology drafted its first formal set of Program Learning Outcomes and completed a comprehensive curriculum mapping process. The process revealed that Criminology programs are well-aligned with our Program Learning Outcomes and Essential Skills, and ongoing course and program revisions continue to strengthen this alignment.

Criminology offers a good selection of experiential and applied learning opportunities, particularly at the upper level. Practicum, service learning, Honours and other applied research opportunities are consistently regarded as program highlights. They are engaging, effective in reinforcing learning outcomes, and they provide students with a bridge between theory and practice. As noted in the Self Study Report, "Our instruction resonates with our students when we are able to connect class content and learning outcomes to real-world applications, experiences, current events, and examples of practice".

The Criminology Department was commended by the External Reviewers "for its diligence in [...] prioritizing the ongoing development of Indigenous content in their programs". This work has been led by a dedicated departmental Indigenization and Decolonization Committee, and it has impacted all areas of department activity, from professional development and pedagogy to curriculum design.

Challenges and Opportunities

Recruitment and Retention are priorities. Criminology has dedicated considerable time and effort to responding to a rapid expansion in International student enrolment (particularly in lower-level elective courses) followed by a significant decline in International student enrolment driven by changes in Federal Government Immigration and Visa policies. The External Review report highlights the implication of this dynamic for faculty, International and domestic students, and Criminology Programs. The current context presents both challenges and opportunities, highlighting the importance of building Departmental recruitment and retention efforts, in partnership with other units at KPU (ex. Advising, Future Student Office). The Department will also need to prioritize flexibility and the removal of barriers to progression when planning program revisions. Expanding opportunities for students, alumni, and discipline sector professionals to connect, both inside and outside of the classroom, also has the potential to improve recruitment and retention.

As noted in the Self-Study Report, "Entry into sought-after career pathways and opportunities for further education is facilitated by the completion of BA-level programs. Students who complete Certificate, Diploma, and Associate of Arts programs are less certain about the relevance of the curriculum, and they have some difficulty entering into careers in areas related to Criminology. We need to do more to either connect these learners with career opportunities or support their entry into more advanced programs".

Both the External Review Report and the Self-Study Report acknowledge the high quality and correspondingly high levels of student satisfaction with upper-level experiential learning opportunities, while also noting that student awareness of these opportunities and pathways to entry at earlier stages of study require improvement. Earlier and more sustained promotion of practicum, Honours, service learning, and other applied opportunities is essential.

The Self-Study Report and External Reviewer Report highlighted areas for improvement in the coverage of some Program Learning Outcomes and Essential Skills, with an emphasis on oral communication and presentation skills, collaboration, research methods, and problem-solving. The External Reviewers also advised the Department to revise our Program Learning Outcomes with a view to removing references to specific assessment types (for example "a long-form written report") that might be constraining.

LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SELF-STUDY REPORT AND EXTERNAL REVIEW REPORT

The list of recommendations from the Self-Study Report and External Review Report are provided below. Note that each recommendation needs to be addressed in the Quality Assurance Plan. Any recommendation that the program is unable to address should be documented in the next section titled RECOMMENDATIONS THE QUALITY ASSURANCE PLAN DOES NOT ADDRESS, along with a rationale for why it cannot be addressed.

Self-Study Report (SSR) Recommendations	Page Number
1. Make a consideration of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) and academic integrity a component of the course outline development and revision process.	66
2. Maintain a 'living' curriculum map that informs updates to curriculum and programs and is in turn updated as course outlines are revised.	66
3. Update Criminology programs to add recently-developed courses and courses originally associated with the BA CCJ to the 'groups' of courses that students must complete in order to progress through credentials.	66
4. Recommendations based on a Review of Program Learning Outcomes: 4.1. Review Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) and determine whether the current emphasis on criminological content is appropriate or limiting. 4.2. Review the Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) and consider introducing a PLO for information and research literacy. This might help to further differentiate CLOs between existing PLOs (particularly PLO#1 and PLO#8). 4.3. Review the Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) and consider steps to embed PLO#10 (Use interpersonal and professional skills in discussions about complex crime, legal system, or social justice topics) in the Minor, Diploma, and Certificate.	66

5. Recommendations based on a Review of Program Requirements:
 	
5.1. Review the lists of courses that are currently listed in program groups (ex. 'choose x courses from the following group') and determine whether any of the current elective-only courses should become part of a grouping.
5.2. Establish departmental committees to study particular program areas, and to make recommendations for curriculum / program changes:
  5.2.1. A group should focus on Indigenization / decolonization. This group should, inter alia, consider whether INDG courses should be added as elective
  or required courses for Criminology programs, and advise the Department Co-Chairs and Search Committee regarding departmental teaching expertise
  gaps related to Indigenous content courses.
  5.2.2. A group should focus on other Arts programs with thematic connections to Criminology (including Policy Studies). This group should, inter alia,
  consider whether courses from these programs should be added as elective or required courses for Criminology programs.
	66

6. Recommendations based on Reviewing and Updating Course Outlines and Course Learning Outcomes:	67

Self-Study Report (SSR) Recommendations	Page Number
6.1. Update Course Outlines to (1) emphasize connections between Course Learning Outcomes and Program Learning Outcomes and (2) move key assessment and content features into Course Learning Outcomes where appropriate. 6.2. Update Course Outlines to further emphasize Program Learning Outcome #2 (BA: Plan and deliver an organized oral or digital media presentation on a topic related to criminology). 6.3. Update Course Outlines to further emphasize Program Learning Outcome #10 (BA: Use interpersonal and professional skills in discussions about complex crime, legal system, or social justice topics). 6.4. Update Course Outlines to further emphasize Program Learning Outcome #9 (BA: Reflect on personal contributions to a planned collaborative project through reflexive writing). 6.5. Update Course Outlines to further emphasize Program Learning Outcome #3 (BA: Develop an original proposal to address a current or emerging social, political, or technological problem). 6.6. Review the outlines and CLOs for upper-level courses, with a view to embedding PLO#7 (BA: Critically reflect on qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis methods through planned research projects and coursework).	
7. Design and develop a 2000-level 'Current Issues in Crime and Justice' course to serve as a 'special topics' course that also focuses on the development of communications skills.	67
8. Establish departmental working groups or 'communities of practice' dedicated to the core 1000-level course areas (CRIM 1100, - Criminology CRIM 1101 - Criminal Justice, CRIM 1107 - Law) and develop consistent capstone assignments that will be associated with these courses. Ensure that assessment methods and capstone assignments directly connect to Program Learning Outcomes and Essential Skills, and consider the 'laddering' of skills through the 'Introduced', 'Developing', and 'Advanced' levels.	67
9. Update program materials, course presentations, and web assets to better emphasize why we are teaching what we are teaching, and how our learning outcomes connect to pathways for employment.	68
10. Complete a Program Revision for the BA Criminology (Honours) program to bring the program within the 120 credits required by the BA.	68
11. Develop recurring events (ex. career forums) that will allow students to connect with a diverse group of discipline sector representatives and showcase the range of career pathways associated with Criminology. Create opportunities for discipline sector representatives to serve as guest speakers in classes, and for Criminology faculty to visit discipline sector workplaces.	68
12. Update course outlines and / or develop new courses to (1) ensure coverage of key themes, including (inter alia) anti-racism, Truth and Reconciliation, and comparative and international criminology, and (2) incorporate sought-after content areas, including mental health and trauma, forensics, technology, and specialized areas of law.	68
13. Showcase existing experiential learning opportunities (Practicum, Honours, Service Learning, Co-Op) in lower-level courses, and provide incentives for students to declare into credentials that offer these opportunities.	68
14. Develop experiential learning opportunities for students enrolled in the Associate of Arts credential (and other < BA credentials). Opportunities could include service learning or a 'lite' practicum.	68

Self-Study Report (SSR) Recommendations	Page Number
15. Update the Ed Plan to ensure that required and high-demand courses are offered across the semesters.	68
16. Maintain small class sizes and take advantage of the Instructor : student ratio by incorporating pedagogical features such as discussions with guest speakers, iterative assignments, debates, and team-based learning in class designs.	68
17. Establish departmental working groups or 'communities of practice' dedicated to the core 1000-level course areas (CRIM 1100, - Criminology CRIM 1101 - Criminal Justice, CRIM 1107 - Law). Task groups with reviewing course outlines and course presentations in these areas, at different levels, to (1) eliminate unnecessary duplication of content, (2) ensure effective laddering and skills progression, (3) ensure that there is parity in the coverage of PLOs and CLOs across modalities, and (4) explore opportunities to embed more experiential and applied components in CLOs.	68
18. Continue to lead in the adoption of Open Educational Resources. Develop new OER texts for core courses / areas.	68
19. Support outreach to prospective students by ensuring that the Criminology Department website is updated, reviewed, and refreshed at least annually. Make more active use of Department social media platforms to showcase faculty and student work.	69
20. Foster and maintain faculty passion for teaching through planned collaborative activities (conferences, speaker series, team teaching, workshops). Establish a departmental working group or 'community of practice' to coordinate collaborative work on assignment design, weighting, and assessment standards (or task other working groups with this work).	69
21. Update the Ed Plan to ensure that required and high-demand courses are offered in a range of modalities.	69
22. Reframe 'group work' as team work and consistently incorporate team-based activities in core Criminology courses.	69
23. Increase the use of guest speakers and other practices that connect course content to the discipline sector and showcase the practical applications of learning.	69
24. Establish a departmental working group to study and make recommendations for curricular and instructional changes to meet the needs of International students, particularly at the 1000-level.	69
25. Reinvigorate the Criminology Student Association to provide students with a shared sense of community.	69
26. Working in partnership with the Alumni Association, improve communication and relationships with alumni, and offer alumni opportunities to connect with current students and with the discipline sector. Offer more alumni-focused events.	69
27. Update the Criminology Department student space to improve its usefulness to students.	69
28. Improve faculty familiarity with Career Services and Advising Services. Work on Criminology-focused Career and Advising materials, and inform students of Career Services and Advising opportunities. Improve faculty familiarity with KPU services intended to promote and support student mental health and wellbeing, and ensure that student mental health is supported in Department and course policies.	69
29. Explore opportunities within the current budget and procurement processes to acquire one or more laptops equipped with specialized software (GIS, qualitative and quantitative data analysis software) for use by students in the Criminology Department.	69

Self-Study Report (SSR) Recommendations	Page Number
30. Explore opportunities to establish one or more classrooms commonly used by Criminology as a 'circle-first' space so that desks and chairs are oriented in a circle format by default.	70
31. Improve communication with students about the nature and usefulness of Library resources, with an emphasis on resources that are relevant to Criminology and to specific courses.	70

External Review Report (ERR) Recommendations	Page Number
32. The review team recommends the Criminology Department continue with their ongoing review and updates to program learning outcomes, course outlines, and course learning outcomes to ensure alignment. In particular, the ERT recommences review of special assessment descriptions "tagged" on to program learning outcomes.	4
33. The ERT recommends KPU and faculty in the Criminology Department reflect upon these comments and build upon their many strengths to address these challenges. One possibility might be a criminology foundations class that fills the gap for students who a) don't have a Law 12 equivalent, or b) international students without a basic understanding of Canadian criminal justice system could address increasing numbers of students without requisite skills for success in university. An elective course would be valuable for students interested in criminology and ensure that students with the requisite skills are taught at an appropriate level in the introductory criminology classes.	4
34. The ERT recommends KPU recognize faculty for their scholarship.	6
35. The ERT recommends earlier promotion of the honours program (first year and repeated in second and third year).	6
36. The review team also recommends that KPU consider including faculty as part of recruitment processes to better support the recruitment of domestic students.	6
37. The ERT recommends the Criminology Department continue to focus on improving upon opportunities for practicum students.	8
38. The ERT recommends that KPU explore a system that matches professorial ranks at other post-secondary institutions.	8
39. The ERT recommends that KPU consider making better use of, and increase the value of the research skills of its own faculty	8
40. Student surveys (see Self-Study Appendices) show that 76% of students reported that the approach to instruction supported their emotional safety. While this number is substantial, it would be valuable to explore why 24% did not support this finding. The rationale for this finding is unclear and could be further explored to ensure students are aware of available services and that existing services provide the support needed.	8

RECOMMENDATIONS THE QUALITY ASSURANCE PLAN DOES NOT ADDRESS

The Recommendations from the Self-Study Report and External Review Report that this Plan does not address as provided below, with a brief rationale for why these Recommendations cannot be addressed.

Recommendations	Indicate Self-Study Report (SSR) or External Review Report (ERR) and page number	Rationale for Not Addressing
16. "**Maintain small class sizes** and take advantage of the Instructor: student ratio by incorporating pedagogical features such as discussions with guest speakers, iterative assignments, debates, and team-based learning in class designs."	68	At KPU, class size policy is determined primarily through Collective Bargaining. The Department can and will promote the merits of small class sizes and take advantage of the instructor : student ratio, per the recommendation.
24. Establish a departmental working group to study and make recommendations for curricular and instructional changes to meet the needs of International students, particularly at the 1000-level.	69	The Department has explored the prospects of a lower-level foundations course geared specifically towards International students, and has consulted with the Dean's Office. Such a course does not seem viable at this time for a variety of reasons, including complications with degree progression and ed planning and scheduling. Primarily, though, this idea was a response to student population dynamics that have since undergone significant changes due to shifts in International student enrolment. Members of the Department have actively contributed to the work of the Arts Faculty Committee Standing Committee on Faculty and International Student Success, and this Committee is seen as a key resource. The Department does not wish to unnecessarily duplicate the work of this Committee.
34. "The ERT recommends KPU recognize faculty for their scholarship. The ERT highlights the value in having instructors engaged in research that keeps them current in the discipline."	6	The recognition, promotion, and funding of faculty scholarship by KPU is not within the Department's direct control. Criminology faculty members are actively engaged in governance roles related to research and scholarship. Recognition and support opportunities connected to research are typically controlled by committees or administrative offices.

Recommendations	Indicate Self-Study Report (SSR) or External Review Report (ERR) and page number	Rationale for Not Addressing
36. The review team also recommends that KPU consider including faculty as part of recruitment processes to better support the recruitment of domestic students.	6	SSCPR Memo dated October 4, 2024: The recommendation is outside the scope of program review.
38. "Based on conversations with Criminology faculty, the ERT recommends that KPU explore a system that matches professorial ranks at other post- secondary institutions. The differences between KPU faculty and other post-secondary institutions are unnecessarily confusing and may devalue the commitment and qualifications of KPU faculty. Addressing this discrepancy may also prove useful in recruitment materials. "	8	KPU's Rank and Title policy is not within the Department's direct control. Criminology faculty members have participated in all of the recent policy consultations and governance processes related to rank and title, but the Department does not have the authority or mandate to unilaterally change these things.
39. "Many faculty in the KPU Criminology Department conduct research but they reported challenges with the bureaucratic structures that impede research. Faculty specifically highlighted challenges with hiring of research assistants."	8	The Department has been advised that the recruitment of research assistants is governed by HR policies. While the Department can - and has - made its views on current Research Assistant policies and procedures known, it does not have the authority to change them. The Department supports student and faculty research collaborations by allocating a portion of our annual budget to the hiring of student research assistants.

QUALITY ASSURANCE FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN

*The Quality Assurance **Goals** for improving or maintaining program quality over the next five years are:*

MONTH/YEAR WHEN THE FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN BEGINS: June 2025

GOAL 1: Increase student retention and degree progression by updating and streamlining the Program Learning Outcomes and course requirements for Criminology BA and Honours.

Recommendation(s) this Goal Addresses	Indicate Report & Page Number
3. Update Criminology programs to add recently-developed courses and courses originally associated with the BA CCJ to the 'groups' of courses that students must complete in order to progress through credentials.	SSR #3, p. 66
Recommendations based on a Review of Program Learning Outcomes: 4.1. Review Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) and determine whether the current emphasis on criminological content is appropriate or limiting. 4.2. Review the Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) and consider introducing a PLO for information and research literacy. This might help to further differentiate CLOs between existing PLOs (particularly PLO#1 and PLO#8).	SSR #4.1 and 4.2, p. 66
Recommendations based on a Review of Program Requirements: 5.1. Review the lists of courses that are currently listed in program groups (ex. 'choose x courses from the following group') and determine whether any of the current elective-only courses should become part of a grouping. 5.2. Establish departmental committees to study particular program areas, and to make recommendations for curriculum / program changes: 5.2.1. A group should focus on Indigenization / decolonization. This group should, inter alia, consider whether INDG courses should be added as elective or required courses for Criminology programs, and advise the Department Co-Chairs and Search Committee regarding departmental teaching expertise gaps related to Indigenous content courses. 5.2.2. A group should focus on other Arts programs with thematic connections to Criminology (including Policy Studies). This group should, inter alia, consider whether courses from these programs should be added as elective or required courses for Criminology programs.	SSR #5.1 and 5.22, p. 66

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Recommendation(s) this Goal Addresses	Indicate Report & Page Number
10. Complete a Program Revision for the BA Criminology (Honours) program to bring the program within the 120 credits required by the BA.	SSR #10, p. 68
32. "The review team recommends the Criminology Department continue with their ongoing review and updates to program learning outcomes, course outlines, and course learning outcomes to ensure alignment. In particular, the ERT recommends review of special assessment descriptions "tagged" on to program learning outcomes. For example, one PLO is "Critically evaluate theories and perspectives about crime, legal systems, and social justice in a long-form written report." This expectation may limit and constrain instructors from developing diverse assessment methods that recognize and reward creative thinking and processes."	ERR #32, p.4

Actions(s) Required to Achieve this Goal	Led by	Start on (M/YY)	Complete By (M/YY)	Notes

Pursue a series of structural changes to the BA Criminology and BA Criminology (Honours) program requirements through the Faculty Council and Senate governance processes that will emphasize laddering, flexibility, and retention.
 	
• Revise the BA Criminology and BA Criminology (Honours) program to
 	
  • Where appropriate, add 'unattached' elective courses to the 'X of the following courses' groupings recognized as program requirements.
  • update Program Learning Outcomes to, *inter alia*, eliminate references to specific assessment modalities, incorporate an information / research literacy outcome.
  • ensure that program prerequisites / corequisites, and requirements are consistent with Program Learning Outcomes and facilitate degree progression.
 	
• Revise the BA (Honours) program to bring the total credits for completion in line with the 120 credits required by the BA.
 	
• Renumber Honours courses to reflect current numbering protocols.
	Carroll Boydell	September 2024	February 2027	Work on this goal is already underway. Honours credit hour changes and course re-numbering have been approved through the governance process.
				
				Note that completion date reflects implementation for the September 2027 intake cycle.

Actions(s) Required to Achieve this Goal	Led by	Start on (M/YY)	Complete By (M/YY)	Notes
Arrange for Faculty members involved in program and curricular revisions related to the BA and BA Honours Programs to attend workshops and complete training activities (including opportunities provided by the Provost's Office, Office of Planning and Accountability, and Teaching & Learning Commons) related to KPU's current CIM and PLO / CLO development and revision processes.	Carroll Boydell & Mark Vardy	September 2025	April 2026	

Resource Requirements (if applicable)
Resources required to achieve this Goal: N/A
When resources will be required: N/A
Faculty and/or Institutional support required: Criminology faculty will need to dedicate time and resources to implementing these actions.

GOAL 2: Update and streamline the Program Learning Outcomes and course requirements for the Criminology Diploma, AA, Minor, and Certificate.

Recommendation(s) this Goal Addresses	Indicate Report & Page Number
2. Maintain a 'living' curriculum map that informs updates to curriculum and programs and is in turn updated as course outlines are revised.	SSR #2, p. 66
Recommendations based on a Review of Program Learning Outcomes: 4.3. Review the Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) and consider steps to embed PLO#10 (Use interpersonal and professional skills in discussions about complex crime, legal system, or social justice topics) in the Minor, Diploma, and Certificate.	SSR #4.3, p. 66
32. "The review team recommends the Criminology Department continue with their ongoing review and updates to program learning outcomes, course outlines, and course learning outcomes to ensure alignment. In particular, the ERT recommends review of special assessment descriptions "tagged" on to program learning outcomes. For example, one PLO is "Critically evaluate theories and perspectives about crime, legal systems, and social justice in a long-form written report." This expectation may limit and constrain instructors from developing diverse assessment methods that recognize and reward creative thinking and processes."	ERR #32, p.4

Action(s) Required to Achieve this Goal	Led by	Start on (M/YY)	Complete By (M/YY)	Notes
Build a 'Living Curriculum Map' that supports program development and alignment between PLOs and CLOs and ensure that this map is updated to reflect any program changes or course outline changes that move through the governance process. Note that this Action Item will also advance Goal #1.	Mike Larsen	July 2025	December 2028	Initial work to be completed in 2025, at which time the curriculum map will be updated as part of the standard course outline revision process.

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Action(s) Required to Achieve this Goal	Led by	Start on (M/YY)	Complete By (M/YY)	Notes

Pursue a series of structural changes to the Diploma, AA, Minor, and Certificate program requirements through the Faculty Council and Senate governance processes that will emphasize laddering, flexibility, and retention.
 	
• Revise the Diploma, AA, Minor, and Certificate programs to
 	
    • ensure that program prerequisites / corequisites, and requirements are consistent with Program Learning Outcomes and facilitate degree progression and laddering between credentials.
 	
    • update Program Learning Outcomes to, *inter alia*, eliminate references to specific assessment modalities and ensure alignment between PLOs and CLOs.
	Mike Larsen & Carroll Boydell	September 2026	February 2027	Note that completion date reflects implementation for the September 2027 intake cycle.

Arrange for Faculty members involved in program and curricular revisions related to the Diploma, Certificate, Minor, and AA Programs to attend workshops and complete training activities (including opportunities provided by the Provost's Office, Office of Planning and Accountability, and Teaching & Learning Commons) related to KPU's current CIM and PLO / CLO development and revision processes.	Carroll Boydell & Mark Vardy	September 2025	April 2026	

Resource Requirements (if applicable)
Resources required to achieve this Goal: N/A
When resources will be required: N/A
Faculty and/or Institutional support required: Criminology faculty will need to dedicate time and resources to implementing these actions.

GOAL 3: Review and revise course outlines to ensure that key skills necessary for discipline sector entry and advanced studies are developed through laddering.

Recommendation(s) this Goal Addresses	Indicate Report & Page Number
1. Make a consideration of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) and academic integrity a component of the course outline development and revision process.	SSR #18, p. 66
Recommendations based on Reviewing and Updating Course Outlines and Course Learning Outcomes: 6.1. Update Course Outlines to (1) emphasize connections between Course Learning Outcomes and Program Learning Outcomes and (2) move key assessment and content features into Course Learning Outcomes where appropriate. 6.2. Update Course Outlines to further emphasize Program Learning Outcome #2 (BA: Plan and deliver an organized oral or digital media presentation on a topic related to criminology). 6.3. Update Course Outlines to further emphasize Program Learning Outcome #10 (BA: Use interpersonal and professional skills in discussions about complex crime, legal system, or social justice topics). 6.4. Update Course Outlines to further emphasize Program Learning Outcome #9 (BA: Reflect on personal contributions to a planned collaborative project through reflexive writing). 6.5. Update Course Outlines to further emphasize Program Learning Outcome #3 (BA: Develop an original proposal to address a current or emerging social, political, or technological problem). 6.6. Review the outlines and CLOs for upper-level courses, with a view to embedding PLO#7 (BA: Critically reflect on qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis methods through planned research projects and coursework)	SSR #6, p. 66
7. Design and develop a 2000-level 'Current Issues in Crime and Justice' course to serve as a 'special topics' course that also focuses on the development of communications skills.	SSR #7, p. 67
8. Establish departmental working groups or 'communities of practice' dedicated to the core 1000-level course areas (CRIM 1100, - Criminology CRIM 1101 - Criminal Justice, CRIM 1107 - Law) and develop consistent capstone assignments that will be associated with these courses. Ensure that assessment methods and capstone assignments directly connect to Program Learning Outcomes and Essential Skills, and consider the 'laddering' of skills through the 'Introduced', 'Developing', and 'Advanced' levels.	SSR #8, p. 67

Recommendation(s) this Goal Addresses	Indicate Report & Page Number
12. Update course outlines and / or develop new courses to (1) ensure coverage of key themes, including (inter alia) anti-racism, Truth and Reconciliation, and comparative and international criminology, and (2) incorporate sought-after content areas, including mental health and trauma, forensics, technology, and specialized areas of law.	SSR #12, p. 68
17. Establish departmental working groups or 'communities of practice' dedicated to the core 1000-level course areas (CRIM 1100, - Criminology CRIM 1101 - Criminal Justice, CRIM 1107 - Law). Task groups with reviewing course outlines and course presentations in these areas, at different levels, to (1) eliminate unnecessary duplication of content, (2) ensure effective laddering and skills progression, (3) ensure that there is parity in the coverage of PLOs and CLOs across modalities, and (4) explore opportunities to embed more experiential and applied components in CLOs.	SSR #17, p. 68
22. Reframe 'group work' as team work and consistently incorporate team-based activities in core Criminology courses.	SSR #22, p. 69

Action(s) Required to Achieve this Goal	Led by	Start on (M/YY)	Complete By (M/YY)	Notes
Ask the Program Advisory Committee for input on key entry-level skills and knowledge required for fields in the discipline sector. The consultation should address both subject matter areas and competencies, including *inter alia* interpersonal and professional skills, collaborative skills, digital literacy skills (including generative artificial intelligence), and familiarity with trauma, mental health, and Indigenous knowledge. Share this input with the Department as a whole and with committees working on program and curriculum development.	Carroll Boydell	July 2025	December 2025	An initial presentation on this was made to the Program Advisory Committee at its May 2025 meeting.

Action(s) Required to Achieve this Goal	Led by	Start on (M/YY)	Complete By (M/YY)	Notes
Create three working groups dedicated to core program areas. Ensure that each working group has a Chair or Co-Chairs, and add the Chair and members to the Department Service Plan: A. Criminology (with CRIM 1100 Instructors and faculty teaching theory-oriented courses invited to join) B. Criminal Justice (with CRIM 1101 Instructors and faculty teaching justice system-oriented courses invited to join) C. Law (with CRIM 1107 Instructors and faculty teaching law-oriented courses invited to join). Working Groups should report to the Department during regular Department Meetings. They should establish mandates that include the following: • Participate in course outline revisions that are informed by the goals of the QAP (ex. by having a member serve as Course Developer and by consulting on outline revisions). • Advising the Department on curricular revisions that would support skills progression (laddering) and reduce content duplication, and providing related mutual support for course presentations. • Advising the Department on opportunities for experiential learning and applied research. • Developing shared designs and resources for major capstone assignments (particularly in Introductory courses). Working groups should identify priorities for curricular change within six months of formation. Note that this Action Item will also advance goal #7.	Mike Larsen	June 2025	July 2026	Each working group will be led by a Chair or Co-Chairs, with one faculty member performing a broader coordination role. Working group work will be ongoing, with annual reports, but the indicated completion date is consistent with the timeline for program and course revisions planned under Goals 1, 2, and 3.

Action(s) Required to Achieve this Goal	Led by	Start on (M/YY)	Complete By (M/YY)	Notes
As course outlines come up for review and revision, changes will be made through the standard curricular governance processes. The Department and Course Developers will keep the following objectives in mind when revising outlines: • Outline revisions should be an opportunity to advance Indigenization and Decolonization objectives. Note that this Action Item also advances Goal #5. • Where appropriate, course outline revisions should incorporate sought-after topics identified in the SSR, including *inter alia* mental health, trauma, technology, and specialized areas of law. • Outline revisions should be informed by the SSR's findings regarding areas where coverage of Program Learning Outcomes could be deepened and extended, including: presentation skills, in-depth discussions that require applied interpersonal skills, reflections on collaborative learning activities, the development of original proposals related to current issues, and critical reflections on research design and methodology. • Collaborative and team-based learning assessments should be highlighted.	Andrea Curman	September 2025	April 2027	Goals 1 & 2 focus on program revisions. This timeline is intended to synchronize course revisions with the program revision cycle. Work on outline revisions related to Indigenization and Decolonization objectives will involve coordination with the Department's Indigenization and Decolonization Committee

Resource Requirements (if applicable)
Resources required to achieve this Goal: N/A
When resources will be required: N/A
Faculty and/or Institutional support required: Criminology faculty will need to dedicate time and resources to implementing these actions.

GOAL 4: Extend and enrich connections between the Department, students, alumni, and the discipline sector.

Recommendation(s) this Goal Addresses	Indicate Report & Page Number
11. Develop recurring events (ex. career forums) that will allow students to connect with a diverse group of discipline sector representatives and showcase the range of career pathways associated with Criminology. Create opportunities for discipline sector representatives to serve as guest speakers in classes, and for Criminology faculty to visit discipline sector workplaces.	SSR #11, p. 68
23. Increase the use of guest speakers and other practices that connect course content to the discipline sector and showcase the practical applications of learning.	SSR #23, p. 69
25. Reinvigorate the Criminology Student Association to provide students with a shared sense of community.	SSR #25, p. 69
26. Working in partnership with the Alumni Association, improve communication and relationships with alumni, and offer alumni opportunities to connect with current students and with the discipline sector. Offer more alumni-focused events.	SSR #26, p. 60
27. Update the Criminology Department student space to improve its usefulness to students.	SSR #27, p. 69

Action(s) Required to Achieve this Goal	Led by	Start on (M/YY)	Complete By (M/YY)	Notes
Ask the Program Advisory Committee for input on opportunities for increased involvement for discipline sector representatives, including guest speakers, field visits, and participation in events. Bring this input back to the Department. Seek advice from the Department on ways to expand the membership of the PAC to support enriched student-discipline sector connections.	Carroll Boydell	June 2025	December 2025	An initial presentation on this was made to the Program Advisory Committee at its May 2025 meeting.

Action(s) Required to Achieve this Goal	Led by	Start on (M/YY)	Complete By (M/YY)	Notes
At an upcoming meeting, review the processes for bringing in guest speakers. As part of this meeting, update faculty on available gift and honorarium supports.	Mark Vardy	June 2025	September 2025	
Apply for funds to support a refresh of the Criminology student 'pod' and meeting room in Surrey Maple. Promote these as student spaces in course presentations and announcements.	Carroll Boydell & Mark Vardy	June 2025	December 2025	This is largely complete, with IT resources remaining (installing computer connected to the screens in the common area and conference room).
Add 'Criminology Student Association Support' to the Criminology Department service plan, and assign two or more faculty members to this role. Faculty in this role will lead Department efforts to support and promote the CSA, including through student recruitment and (where applicable) assistance organizing events.	Carroll Boydell & Mark Vardy	November 2025	April 2026	This timeline reflects initial efforts. Ongoing reporting will take place as part of the Department's annual service plan review.
Refresh the exterior cabinets in Surrey Maple to showcase Criminology programs and recent and exciting faculty research and scholarship. Make the updating of these spaces a part of the Departments annual Service Plan.	Mark Vardy	September 2025	June 2026	
Participate in and / or organize (given available resources) KPU career events that connect students with discipline sector representatives. When planning such events, seek to promote career opportunities for students graduating from Diploma, AA, Minor, and Certificate programs.	Carroll Boydell & Stephanie Ashton	June 2025	December 2028	
Send a department update letter to the Alumni Association once per semester that includes opportunities for alumni participation in Criminology activities, guest speaker events, and requests for information to distribute in the regular Criminology Newsletter. Share these updates with members of the Program Advisory Committee as part of the routine meeting package.	Carroll Boydell & Mark Vardy	September 2025	December 2025	This timeline reflects initial efforts. Subsequent Alumni letters will be sent on a semester basis.

Resource Requirements (if applicable)
Resources required to achieve this Goal: N/A
When resources will be required: N/A
Faculty and/or Institutional support required: Criminology faculty will need to dedicate time and resources to implementing these actions. Note that the resources to refresh the Criminology student pod and meeting room have already been allocated.

GOAL 5: Continue and extend Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Indigenization, and Decolonization work

Recommendation(s) this Goal Addresses	Indicate Report & Page Number
Recommendations based on a Review of Program Requirements: 5.2. Establish departmental committees to study particular program areas, and to make recommendations for curriculum / program changes: 5.2.1. A group should focus on Indigenization / decolonization. This group should, inter alia, consider whether INDG courses should be added as elective or required courses for Criminology programs, and advise the Department Co-Chairs and Search Committee regarding departmental teaching expertise gaps related to Indigenous content courses.	SSR #5.22, p. 66
12. Update course outlines and / or develop new courses to (1) ensure coverage of key themes, including (inter alia) anti-racism, Truth and Reconciliation, and comparative and international criminology, and (2) incorporate sought-after content areas, including mental health and trauma, forensics, technology, and specialized areas of law.	SSR #12, p. 68
30. Explore opportunities to establish one or more classrooms commonly used by Criminology as a 'circle-first' space so that desks and chairs are oriented in a circle format by default.	SSR #30, p. 70
40. Finally, student surveys (see Self-Study Appendices) show that 76% of students reported that the approach to instruction supported their emotional safety. While this number is substantial, it would be valuable to explore why 24% did not support this finding. The rationale for this finding is unclear and could be further explored to ensure students are aware of available services and that existing services provide the support needed.	ERR #40, p. 8

Action(s) Required to Achieve this Goal	Led by	Start on (M/YY)	Complete By (M/YY)	Notes
Establish and support a departmental Indigenization and Decolonization Committee. Ensure that the Committee has a Chair or Co-Chair, and that the Committee is added to the Department Service Plan. The mandate of this committee should include, *inter alia*: • Providing advice in support of program revisions and course outline revisions, including advice about possibilities for the incorporation of INDG courses as elective or required program elements.	Isabel Scheuneman Scott & Alana Abramson	June 2025	January 2027	Note that this timeline is consistent with the timeline for program changes associated with Goals 1 & 2.
• Advising the Program Chairs and Search Committee, as appropriate, regarding teaching and expertise gaps related to Indigenous content areas. • Organizing opportunities for professional development related to decolonizing and Indigenizing curriculum, Indigenous ways of knowing, and pedagogy.				
Lobby the Dean's Office and appropriate Faculty of Arts governance bodies regarding the development of 'circle-first' classroom formats. Report back to the Department regarding the feasibility of this idea.	Carroll Boydell & Mark Vardy	June 2025	October 2025	A request was made at the March 2025 Arts Chairs meeting that a dedicated circle format classroom be considered as part of the upcoming regular renovations of space at the university. Multiple Arts departments were in favour of this. Faculty of Arts DBM Christina Fung has communicated with the University Space Committee and also connected with Scheduling; these areas are looking into the feasibility of a circle classroom. An update should be forthcoming for Fall 2025.

Action(s) Required to Achieve this Goal	Led by	Start on (M/YY)	Complete By (M/YY)	Notes
As course outlines come up for review and revision, changes will be made through the standard curricular governance processes. The Department and Course Developers will keep the following objectives in mind when revising outlines: • Outline revisions should be an opportunity to advance Indigenization and Decolonization objectives. Note that this Action Item also advances Goal #3. • Where appropriate, course outline revisions should incorporate sought-after topics identified in the SSR, including *inter alia* mental health, trauma, technology, and specialized areas of law. Note that this Action Item also advances Goal #3.	Carroll Boydell & Isabel Scheuneman Scott	September 2025	January 2027	
Add a Department meeting agenda item, in the first month of each semester, for a review of KPU resources related to student mental health and wellbeing. As part of this, develop a shared list of resources and links that can be added to course presentations and websites.	Carroll Boydell & Mark Vardy	June 2025	December 2025	
Task Department Introductory-course working groups with discussing opportunities for improving student emotional safety in major course areas, and establish a Department-level process to study student emotional safety and recommend appropriate faculty PD activities.	Carroll Boydell & Mark Vardy	September 2025	April 2025	

Resource Requirements (if applicable)
Resources required to achieve this Goal: Capital budget/Facilities funds, funding supports for Indigenizing and decolonizing
When resources will be required: Over the next three years.
Faculty and/or Institutional support required: Criminology faculty will need to dedicate time and resources to implementing these actions.

GOAL 6: Enhance Applied, Experiential, and Research-based opportunities for students

Recommendation(s) this Goal Addresses	Indicate Report & Page Number
13. Showcase existing experiential learning opportunities (Practicum, Honours, Service Learning, Co-Op) in lower-level courses, and provide incentives for students to declare into credentials that offer these opportunities.	SSR #13, p. 35
14. Develop experiential learning opportunities for students enrolled in the Associate of Arts credential (and other < BA credentials). Opportunities could include service learning or a 'lite' practicum.	SSR #14, pp. 36, 51
15. Update the Ed Plan to ensure that required and high-demand courses are offered across the semesters.	SSR #15, pp. 21, 36
16. Maintain small class sizes and take advantage of the Instructor : student ratio by incorporating pedagogical features such as discussions with guest speakers, iterative assignments, debates, and team-based learning in class designs.	SSR #16, p. 35,
21. Update the Ed Plan to ensure that required and high-demand courses are offered in a range of modalities.	SSR #21, p. 69
29. Explore opportunities within the current budget and procurement processes to acquire one or more laptops equipped with specialized software (GIS, qualitative and quantitative data analysis software) for use by students in the Criminology Department.	SSR #29, p. 62
35. "The ERT recommends earlier promotion of the honours program (first year and repeated in second and third year). Current students and alumni reported that they wished they had learned about the honours program earlier so that they could have made strategic decisions to work towards an honour's degree. They noted that by the time they learned about the program, when their instructors encouraged them to pursue honours, it was too late. Students specifically suggested more posters around campus to promote the honours program as well as info sessions with a panel of alumni who have completed the Honours program would increase awareness. [ML: Note that this recommendation appeared under program relevance / student demand]"	ERR #35, p. 6
37. "The ERT recommends the Criminology Department continue to focus on improving upon opportunities for practicum students. This recommendation came out of conversations with current students and KPU criminology alumni. Students discussed wanting more practicum opportunities. KPU and the department should continue to explore professional placements that provide student with maximum opportunities to learn skills relevant to field, open doors for employment, and strengthen KPU connections with the larger community."	ERR #37, p. 8

Action(s) Required to Achieve this Goal	Led by	Start on (M/YY)	Complete By (M/YY)	Notes
Investigate opportunities to develop micro-credentials and Continuing and Professional Studies offerings that recognize and promote research and experiential learning and / or other key thematic clusters. For example, consider a micro-credential in criminological research based on a cluster of existing courses, and a micro-credential based on practicum, service learning, and interpersonal skills.	Mike Larsen	December 2025	July 2026	
Work with appropriate KPU offices, including Marketing, Advising, the Future Students Office, and the Teaching & Learning Commons to develop effective promotional and information materials related to experiential learning opportunities (including Practicum and Honours), as well as Criminology's small class sizes. Incorporate content that addresses possible Criminology career paths and the benefits of program declaration (ex. access to program-restricted courses and possible earlier registration dates). Ensure that these materials are showcased at KPU, made available to Arts Communications teams, circulated during declaration events, and shared with students.	Carroll Boydell, Mark Vardy, Petra Jonas, & Jeffrey Meyers	June 2025	September 2026	
Identify one or more courses required for the Diploma, AA, Minor, and Certificate programs that could support expanded experiential learning or service learning components, and undertake course revisions to support these changes.	Carroll Boydell	June 2025	September 2026	
Submit a capital budget request to the Dean's Office regarding the purchase of laptops and / or specialized research software licenses for use by Criminology students. Report back to the Department regarding the feasibility of this idea.	Carroll Boydell & Mark Vardy	June 2025	July 2026	
Update the Criminology Ed Plan to ensure that required and sought-after courses are offered across the scheduling matrix and in a mix of modalities, as appropriate.	Carroll Boydell & Mark Vardy	June 2025	July 2025	

Resource Requirements (if applicable)
Resources required to achieve this Goal: N/A
When resources will be required: N/A
Faculty and/or Institutional support required: If a new experiential learning course is created, collaboration may be required with other departments to create experiential learning courses for 1-2 year programs, as individual programs are sometimes small and may not be able to sustain offering such a course frequently enough that students would not be delayed in the completion of their degree.

GOAL 7: Foster and sustain connections and opportunities for collaboration between Criminology faculty

Recommendation(s) this Goal Addresses	Indicate Report & Page Number
18. Continue to lead in the adoption of Open Educational Resources. Develop new OER texts for core courses / areas.	SSR #18, p. 19
20. Foster and maintain faculty passion for teaching through planned collaborative activities (conferences, speaker series, team teaching, workshops). Establish a departmental working group or 'community of practice' to coordinate collaborative work on assignment design, weighting, and assessment standards (or task other working groups with this work). Note: This recommendation is related to this Goal, but addressed in the Action Plan for Goal # 3.	SSR #20, p. 69

Action(s) Required to Achieve this Goal	Led by	Start on (M/YY)	Complete By (M/YY)	Notes
Support the work of the Collegial Commitment Coordinator, Wellness Committee, and Retreat Committee. These Committees are part of the Department Service Plan. • The Collegial Commitment Coordinator should work with the Co-Chairs and Department to identify departmental service opportunities for Department colleagues. • The Wellness Committee should coordinate occasional social gatherings for faculty, including welcoming and farewell events for incoming and departing colleagues. • The Retreat Committee should organize an annual Department Retreat that focuses on collaboration, team-building, and deepening connections between faculty.	Shereen Hassan	June 2025	December 2028	

Action(s) Required to Achieve this Goal	Led by	Start on (M/YY)	Complete By (M/YY)	Notes
Support efforts by colleagues to develop OER resources and ensure that all faculty members are aware of these resources. Where appropriate, encourage the adoption of OER texts across multiple course sections. At a future Department meeting, discuss opportunities for new OER resource development.	Shereen Hassan	June 2025	December 2028	
Incorporate brief presentations and teach-in activities that highlight faculty research, teaching, and service in Department meeting agendas.	Carroll Boydell & Mark Vardy	June 2025	December 2028	
Revitalize the Criminology 'Voices' speaker series that brought together external speakers and faculty respondents to discuss current and emerging issues. Develop a plan to organize, promote, and host regular events in this series. Encourage attendance by faculty, students, and KPU community partners.	Mike Larsen	September 2025	September 2026	
In consultation with the Teaching & Learning Commons, plan and host a facilitated workshop on Generative Artificial Intelligence, academic integrity, and assessment design, with an emphasis on online teaching. The workshop should be 'hands-on' and practical, allowing faculty to work on assessments for their courses.	Mike Larsen	June 2025	December 2025	

Resource Requirements (if applicable)
Resources required to achieve this Goal: N/A
When resources will be required: N/A
Faculty and/or Institutional support required: Criminology faculty will need to dedicate time and resources to implementing these actions. Note that the resources to refresh the Criminology student pod and meeting room have already been allocated.

Criminology Quality Assurance Plan

GOAL 8: Enhance student and community access to information about programs, resources, activities, and opportunities.

Recommendation(s) this Goal Addresses	Indicate Report & Page Number
9. Update program materials, course presentations, and web assets to better emphasize why we are teaching what we are teaching, and how our learning outcomes connect to pathways for employment.	SSR #9, p. 68
19. Support outreach to prospective students by ensuring that the Criminology Department website is updated, reviewed, and refreshed at least annually. Make more active use of Department social media platforms to showcase faculty and student work	SSR #19, p. 69
28. Improve faculty familiarity with Career Services and Advising Services. Work on Criminology-focused Career and Advising materials, and inform students of Career Services and Advising opportunities. Improve faculty familiarity with KPU services intended to promote and support student mental health and wellbeing, and ensure that student mental health is supported in Department and course policies.	SSR #28, p. 69
31. Improve communication with students about the nature and usefulness of Library resources, with an emphasis on resources that are relevant to Criminology and to specific courses.	SSR #31, p. 70

Action(s) Required to Achieve this Goal	Led by	Start on (M/YY)	Complete By (M/YY)	Notes
Work with appropriate KPU offices, including Career Services, Advising, and Marketing, to update the Criminology Department website.: • Provide clear descriptions of program offerings, career pathways, and advising resources for current and prospective students.	Carroll Boydell & Mark Vardy	June 2025	December 2028	

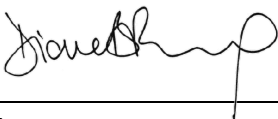| Action(s) Required to Achieve this Goal	Led by	Start on (M/YY)	Complete By (M/YY)	Notes
• Highlight program strengths and assets. • Showcase experiential learning opportunities, including Honours and Practicum. • Showcase faculty and student successes. As part of this effort, update print marketing material for distribution at career fairs, open houses, and other in-person events.				
Update and maintain the Department's social media accounts, and make regular posts about program opportunities, events, student and faculty successes, and key dates and deadlines.	Alicia Spidel	June 2025	December 2028	
Invite the Criminology Liaison Librarian to deliver a presentation on Library resources at an upcoming Department meeting. Provide the Liaison Librarian with regular space, as needed, on Department Meeting agendas to update the Department on Library resources related to Criminology.	Carroll Boydell & Mark Vardy	June 2025	December 2025	
Draw on Department faculty expertise to organize one or more professional development activities, to be held during Department meetings, focusing on student emotional safety and trauma-informed pedagogy.	Alana Abramson	January 2026	July 2026	

Resource Requirements (if applicable)
Resources required to achieve this Goal: N/A
When resources will be required: N/A
Faculty and/or Institutional support required: Significant updates to the Criminology Department website and electronic / print informational materials will require support from Marketing.

PLAN SUPPORTED BY: *The Provost and Dean recommend the Criminology program's Quality Assurance Plan for consideration by the SSCPR.*

September 18, 2025

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Diane Purvey

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Provost's Name

_____
Provost's Signature

_____
Date

_____
Shelley Boyd

_____
Dean's Name

_____
Dean's Signature

September 16, 2025

_____
Date

_____
Fergal Callaghan

_____
Name of SSCPR Chair/Vice Chair

_____
SSCPR Chair/Vice Chair Signature

August 27th, 2025

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Date approved by SSCPR:

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