



Program (ALP) - Homeland Security MS

College or Division: Education and Professional Studies

Department: Homeland Security and Criminal Justice

Assessment Coordinator: Dr. Oguzhan Basibuyuk

Strategic Plan Goal(s) Supported: Strategic Goal 1 - Promote growth in academics - research - and artistic excellence

Program Marketable Skills have been identified: Yes

Program Marketable Skills: 1. Verbal and Written Communication Skills

2. Accessing Resources with Homeland Security related data. Work with Numbers and Demonstrate Quantitative Skills
3. Critical Thinking and Observation
4. Teamwork and Working Collaboratively
5. Multicultural Understanding.
6. Legal Codes & Procedures and Safety
7. Conducting Scientific Research

Marketable Skills Dissemination Strategy: 1.1. Encouraging students to prepare and present oral presentations to the general and professional audiences, including their classmates, experts, scientists, laypersons, and government officials, on several topics related to their majors.

- 1.2. Encouraging students to prepare and compose written reports, essays, and scientific publications on various topics related to their majors.
- 1.3. Demonstrating mastery in Microsoft Office Suite to create visual aids, graphs, tables, and charts and file sharing platforms such as Dropbox, and Google Drive.
- 1.4. Emphasizing the importance of active listening, giving full attention to the details, note taking, asking appropriate questions, and interviewing in Homeland Security related professions.
 - 2.1. Encouraging students to explore and identify most current crime data from various local, regional, national, and international data resources.
 - 2.2. Demonstrations mastery in crime data analysis and interpretation.
 - 2.3. Demonstration mastery in crime data presentation software and applications such as Microsoft Excel and Crime Mapping
- 3.1. By using case studies and scenarios, encouraging students to utilize all available information to dismantle complex problems which they may face during their future professional career.
 - 3.2. Encouraging students not only to identify and analyze the problems but also identify and implement the possible alternative solutions by using critical thinking.
 - 4.1. Emphasizing the importance of team work and coordination in Homeland Security related professions
 - 4.2. Establishing trust within group/team members, and ensuring contribution from all members by utilizing group/team projects.
 - 4.3. Encouraging students to reconcile and benefit from the differences within the group members.
 - 5.1. Emphasizing the importance of working with people in different groups characterized by race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic class, religion, and other differences.
 - 5.2. Encouraging the students to be aware of cultural diversity and existence of various groups in the society which they are living.
 - 5.3. Highlighting the importance of awareness of other's beliefs and behaviors and building skills to communicate and function effectively in multicultural settings.
 - 6.1. Introducing the current laws and policies related to the students' majors.
 - 6.2. Encouraging students to explore and identify the resources to obtain the most current updates of legal codes and procedures.
 - 6.3. Introducing hands-on applications and emphasizing the importance of adherence to safety standards in Homeland Security related professions.
- 7.1 Encouraging students to design a scientific research including processes such as defining problem, designing questionnaires, determining data collection methods, data

analysis, interpretation, and reporting the results.

7.2 Demonstrating mastery in advanced analytical writing skills

7.3 Encouraging students to prepare and compose written reports, essays, and scientific publications on various topics related to their majors.

Statement of Purpose: The Master of Science degree in Homeland Security is a specialized degree focusing on aspects of Homeland security ranging from government restructuring through disaster preparedness, terrorism, and crisis management. The degree is designed to provide students with career-enhancing education in areas ranging from law enforcement through city management and disaster response. The degree also provides opportunities for students who desire to move into teaching or entry into a doctorate program. Upon successful completion of this program, the students will be able to understand the underlying theories that explain the origins of homeland security systems, understand how American public administrative agencies, including law enforcement and national security agencies, deal with the problem of securing the nation from the possibility of violence emanating from domestic and international extremists. They will also be able to understand and articulate the multidisciplinary perspectives of homeland security. Moreover, they will demonstrate familiarity with the different systems, which make up the homeland security enterprise.

A graduate degree in homeland security can help prepare students for their careers by improving their verbal and written communication skills. Moreover, the program will improve students' research skills by encouraging them to work with numbers and demonstrating quantitative research methods and critical thinking and observation. SRSU Homeland Security MS program is one of the most affordable programs in the nation and includes many unique opportunities, including being 100% online, the chance to take classes during the year including summer semesters, a small number of classes which allow the students for more interaction with the instructors. The SRSU Homeland Security MS program provides its students with extensive online resources and research capabilities through the Texas State University System digital infrastructure and our reputable and experienced faculties are committed to teaching and mentoring our students.

Here is one of our student testimonials below, which gives details about their experience with the SRSU Homeland Security MS program: "The graduate program in criminal justice at Sul Ross State University has been an excellent learning experience for me. The great professors I had the privilege of working closely with made it challenging, rewarding, and enjoyable, making you think outside the box. Being a family man and a working man had its challenges in dividing yourself in three, but in the end, you feel rewarded that you accomplished so much in a little over two years."

Annual Updates

2021 - 2022

Evidence of Improvement from Previous Assessment Cycle: Evidence of Improvement from Previous Assessment Cycle: During this evaluation cycle a total of 6 students completed the department's comprehensive exams. As evidenced by the scores of students for the Department's Homeland Security MS comprehensive exam in the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 semesters. All students scored higher than 75% and successfully passed all three sections of the exam. In the Homeland Security Subject area, students scored a minimum of 75%, a maximum of 87% with an average of 80.5%. In the Policy Analysis Subject area, students scored a minimum of 78%, a maximum of 91% with an average of 85%. In the Research Methods area, students scored a minimum of 81%, a maximum of 86% with an average of 84%.

Overall, the averages on the assessment tool met and exceeded the target goals. Students showed competence through the program.

Comparing the previous evaluation cycle, there has been a slight decrease in the averages in all three areas (Homeland Security (-4%), Policy Analysis (-2%), and Research Methods (-2.5%)). For this reason, the faculty will be advised to utilize different strategies (such as recommending a reading list) to prepare the students for the exam and improve students' scores in these areas. On the other side, during this evaluation cycle, all students passed their comprehensive exams on their first attempts.

Since the comprehensive exam is the key component of the program, we will continue to use it as an assessment capstone. The average scores of all sections are above 80%, which shows that the students are very well prepared for the comprehensive exams, and we will continue using the same education strategies and evaluation methods for the coming year.

Along with utilizing different strategies (such as recommending a reading list) to prepare the students for the exam and improve students' scores in exam subject areas, to keep the current success and for enhancing the content of the course for the future semesters, the faculty will be advised to utilize the same strategies to prepare the

students for the exam.

<i>Student Learning Outcomes</i>	<i>Assessment Methods</i>	<i>Results</i>	<i>Application of Results</i>
<p>SLO1 - The student will be able to identify, assess, and evaluate legal challenges to the laws and policies of the homeland security domain.</p> <p>Outcome Status: Active Planned Assessment Cycle: 2015 - 2016 Start Date: 08/25/2015</p>	<p>Written Assignment - a. Faculty will use a scoring rubric to assess students by using a writing assignment in CJ 5323 that requires students to evaluate legal challenges to laws and/or policies. Target: Students enrolled in CJ 5323 (Homeland Security) will score at least an average of 80% this writing assignme</p>	<p>Reporting Period: 2021 - 2022 Conclusion: Target Met To assess this SLO, the CJ5323 Homeland Security course was used. 8 of the students (N=10) successfully completed the course in Spring 2022. Students should prepare 14 weekly papers and take 15 quizzes regarding the readings of the week. Two students dropped out and did not continue the course. For the continued students (n=8), results for the weekly quizzes vary with a range of 9.25-10 (out of 10) with a mean of 9.64, and results for the weekly papers vary with a range of 7.14-10 (out of 10) with a mean of 9.19. Students also needed to prepare a final paper about any topic they choose regarding the topics covered during the semester. For the continued students (n=8), the average score on the final papers is 98%. The average on the assessment tool met (exceeded) the target goal. Students showed competence through the course. (05/23/2022)</p>	<p>Application of Results: The target for this course has been met. The department will continue to use the CJ5323 Homeland Security course as a capstone course for assessing the SLO1. For student evaluation, weekly papers, discussion board forums, and final papers will be used. As new threats are emerging in the domain of homeland security (such as cyber threats, immigration, border security issues, financial security, etc.), policies in this domain are also being changed. To improve and enhance students' learning and knowledge related to these changes case studies will be used to analyze the threats and counter-strategies. Moreover, to increase the awareness of students in these areas updated weekly reading lists will be given and students will be required to prepare reaction papers based on these reading assignments. Finally, extracurricular activities such as inviting guest speakers, online workshops, or conferences, and possible field studies and internship options will be reviewed and information related to these kinds of events will be shared with students. (05/23/2022)</p>

<i>Student Learning Outcomes</i>	<i>Assessment Methods</i>	<i>Results</i>	<i>Application of Results</i>
	<p>Exam - b. Faculty will evaluate student performance on the Comprehensive exam: Homeland Security Subject Area</p> <p>Target: Students who take the Homeland Security Subject Area Comprehensive Exam will score 80% or higher on the questions over Homeland Security.</p>	<p>Conclusion: Target Met</p> <p>A total of 6 students completed Department's Homeland Security MS comprehensive exam in the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 semesters. All students scored higher than 75% and successfully passed all three sections of the comprehensive exam. In the Homeland Security Subject area, students scored a minimum of 75%, a maximum of 87% with an average of 80.5%. In the Policy Analysis Subject area, students scored a minimum of 78%, a maximum of 91% with an average of 85%. In the Research Methods area, students scored a minimum of 81%, a maximum of 86% with an average of 84%. (05/23/2022)</p>	<p>Application of Results: The average scores of all sections are above 80%, which shows that the students are very well prepared for the comprehensive exams, and we will continue using the same education strategies and evaluation methods for the coming year. (05/23/2022)</p>
<p>SLO2 - The student will be able to assess, evaluate, and develop appropriate policies that affect the overall operation and effectiveness of the homeland security domain.</p> <p>Outcome Status: Active</p> <p>Planned Assessment Cycle: 2015 - 2016</p> <p>Start Date: 08/25/2015</p>	<p>Written Assignment - a. Faculty in CJ 5340 Policy Making will use a scoring rubric to assess students' written evaluation of a policy in homeland security.</p> <p>Target: Students in CJ 5340 Policy Making will score an average of 80% or higher on the written evaluation.</p>	<p>Reporting Period: 2021 - 2022</p> <p>Conclusion: Target Met</p> <p>5 students successfully completed (n=7) CJ5340 in the Spring 2021 semester. Two students dropped the class and didn't submit the required assignments. The students needed to answer weekly essay questions (14 quizzes) and prepare 14 reaction papers regarding the readings of the week. For the written assignments, the grades vary between 7.86 and 10 (out of 10) with an average score of 9.29, and for the weekly quizzes, the grades vary between 4.69 and 9.28 (out of 10) with an average of 7.32. The students also need to prepare a final policy analysis paper at the end of the semester. The average score for the final paper is 94%. Although the sample size of the students is relatively low, the average on the assessment tool met (exceeded) the target goal. (05/23/2022)</p>	<p>Application of Results: CJ 5340 Policy Making course is one of the key courses of the MS Homeland Security program. Based on the scores of the students who completed the course during this assessment period, it is obvious that the strategy incorporated and recommended in the past cycle of assessment is beneficial for our students. For this reason, the faculty will continue to demonstrate policy analysis examples from different segments of the Homeland Security and Criminal Justice system. Moreover, based on the emerging threats and issues, the faculty will continue to utilize weekly reading and writing assignments by using updated resources for keeping the students' knowledge updated and for improving students' writing skills (05/23/2022)</p>
	<p>Departmental Comprehensive Exam - b. Faculty will evaluate</p>	<p>Reporting Period: 2021 - 2022</p> <p>Conclusion: Target Met</p>	<p>Application of Results: The average scores of all sections are</p>

<i>Student Learning Outcomes</i>	<i>Assessment Methods</i>	<i>Results</i>	<i>Application of Results</i>
	<p>student performance on the Comprehensive Exam: Policy Making Subject Area.</p> <p>Target: Students who take the Policy Making Subject Area Comprehensive Exam will score at least 80% on their exam questions over Policy Making.</p>	<p>A total of 6 students completed Department's Homeland Security MS comprehensive exam in the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 semesters. All students scored higher than 75% and successfully passed all three sections of the comprehensive exam. In the Homeland Security Subject area, students scored a minimum of 75%, a maximum of 87% with an average of 80.5%. In the Policy Analysis Subject area, students scored a minimum of 78%, a maximum of 91% with an average of 85%. In the Research Methods area, students scored a minimum of 81%, maximum of 86% with an average of 84%. (05/23/2022)</p>	<p>above 80%, which shows that the students are very well prepared for the comprehensive exams, and we will continue using the same education strategies and evaluation methods for the coming year. (05/23/2022)</p>
<p>SLO3 - The student will be able to develop a working knowledge of the process and application of the methods of scientific research, including the ability to critique a piece of research based on its methodology and develop the ability to apply research to Criminal Justice and Homeland Security policy.</p> <p>Outcome Status: Active Planned Assessment Cycle: 2015 - 2016 Start Date: 08/25/2015</p>	<p>Project - a. Faculty will use a scoring rubric in CJ 5334 Research Methods to score students' assigned Research Projects.</p> <p>Target: Students enrolled in CJ 5334 Research Methods will score an average of 80% or higher on the Research Project.</p>	<p>Reporting Period: 2021 - 2022 Conclusion: Target Met</p> <p>Since it was accepted as a capstone assignment, the CJ 5334 Methods of Social Research course in Spring 2022 was used to assess SLO3. Of the 6 students completing this course, they scored a collective 96.7% in terms of the use and implementation of the scientific method towards describing how to conduct a study. Students took 12 quizzes, 1 midterm exam, 1 final exam, and submitted a research proposal in this course. Overall results for this course (n=6) varied with a range of 80%-100% with a mean of 96.7%. The average on the assessment tools met (exceeded) the target goal. Students showed competence through the course. (05/23/2022)</p>	<p>Application of Results:</p> <p>Considering the Research Methods Subject area average scores (84%) of the students, who entered the Department's comprehensive exam and the current scores of the students who successfully finished the CJ5334 Methods of Social Research course in the Spring 2021 semester, it is obvious that the strategy incorporated and recommended in the past cycle of assessment is beneficial for our students. Based on the same strategy the faculty will continue to demonstrate scientific research examples from different areas of Criminal Justice and Homeland Security systems. Moreover, the faculty will continue to utilize weekly reading and writing assignments for improving students' writing skills and develop students' skills in data analysis. (05/23/2022)</p>
	Departmental Comprehensive	Reporting Period: 2021 - 2022	Application of Results:

<i>Student Learning Outcomes</i>	<i>Assessment Methods</i>	<i>Results</i>	<i>Application of Results</i>
	<p>Exam - b. Faculty will use a scoring rubric in CJ 5334 Research Methods to score students' performance on the Comprehensive Exam: Research Methods subject Area.</p> <p>Target: Students enrolled in CJ 5334 Research Methods will score an average of 80% or higher on the questions over Research Methods on the comprehensive exam.</p>	<p>Conclusion: Target Met</p> <p>A total of 6 students completed Department's Homeland Security MS comprehensive exam in the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 semesters. All students scored higher than 75% and successfully passed all three sections of the comprehensive exam. In the Homeland Security Subject area, students scored a minimum of 75%, a maximum of 87% with an average of 80.5%. In the Policy Analysis Subject area, students scored a minimum of 78%, a maximum of 91% with an average of 85%. In the Research Methods area, students scored a minimum of 81%, a maximum of 86% with an average of 84%. The average scores of all sections are above 80%, which shows that the students are very well prepared for the comprehensive exams, and we will continue using the same education strategies and evaluation methods for the coming year. (05/23/2022)</p>	<p>Considering the Research Methods Subject area average scores (84%) of the students, who entered the Department's comprehensive exam and the current scores of the students who successfully finished the CJ5334 Methods of Social Research course in the Spring 2021 semester, it is obvious that the strategy incorporated and recommended in the past cycle of assessment is beneficial for our students. Based on the same strategy the faculty will continue to demonstrate scientific research examples from different areas of Criminal Justice and Homeland Security systems. Moreover, the faculty will continue to utilize weekly reading and writing assignments for improving students' writing skills and develop students' skills in data analysis (05/23/2022)</p>