

# Criminal Justice Fall 2014 Student SLO Report

## 1. What did you like about this program?

### Text Response

The teachers

instructors were easy access

The teachers.

I liked how the instructors were willing to help and how in depth some of the classes were

This program had few highlights. The brightest being the professors.

It was a great program and gave me a great foundation that will help me become successful in my law enforcement career.

Mike earl was an amazing instructor very happy to have him as my instructor and I learned a lot from him

I liked all the instructors here. They actually cared and wanted to help us succeed.

Mike Earll was an amazing teacher! I loved all his classes. They were very educational.

I enjoyed the variety of teaching and the application of the classes to real world knowledge of being a law enforcement officer.

I liked the participation between the student and the teaching staff. There was a great amount of outside resources that came from the school to help with volunteer programs such as the police reserves and river watch.

It was very helpful with first person experience, and learning about what the job will be like.

I enjoyed having instructors with real-life experience in the field of law enforcement.

A few of the instructors were a highlight of this program. (Mike Earll, Melissa Elliot) The material that was covered was easily learned by most.

The teaches were very knowledgeable

Overall I like the experience of the program. I like the classes and all the teachers throughout the program. They all instructed the class with professionalism.

Learning the things related to our field.

I liked that the instructors had real life experiences in the classes that they were teaching

This entire course has helped me understand and model towards a more proper mindset of a police officer.

The material was covered fully and completely by teachers that know what they were talking about. The teachers made the program feel more relatable to us as students.

I enjoyed that I received the basic knowledge related to law enforcement

This program was fairly good. I did learn a few things, but I feel like the program was repetitive. Meaning, some material that we learnt once in one class and then in the next class we would learn the same things.

Able to knowledge of law enforcement from instructors that had worked the job. The class seem to be gear right for law enforcement.

I liked the professors and my class mates. I liked when we did the hands on material as well.

Learning about each of the classes to better my knowledge to be a police officer and meeting each of my classes in the program.

What I liked about this program is that the instructors were at one point active law enforcement and brought a knowledge base that is real world, and gave us points of view not able to be obtained through theory from professors that had no actual experience in the field.

I really liked that all the instructors had real life experiences and person passions towards their teaching styles and outlooks.

It was about management, supervision and lastly subordinates and how this process works in policing, I liked learning about the various aspects of it.

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Statistic	Value
Total Responses	28

## 2. What would you change about this program?

### Text Response

the way it was taught.

have certifiably

More class options.

I would honestly put it in La Crosse. Without certifiability it seems pointless to make students drive an hour everyday.

More hands on activities and a new location

The academy should be incorporated into the program and not as a separate time slot.

I would change the tri-mester back to semesters. going through the summer is really draining.

I would change the organizational still of the program. It didn't seem well put together in my opinion.

Nothing. Everything was very educational and I'm sure I will use all the information in life.

More hands on, I wish the academy was still incorporated into the program. I felt cheated because it was not.

The curriculum wasn't very well-rounded. It lacked hands on material.

Make it so that you do not have to take classes during the summer, that should be optional.

Include certifiability

I would not have essentially the same class three times, community policing. One of the biggest problems I had with this program was that it was a trimester system. Most students, including myself like to work in the summer and that was taken away in a big way. Another is that we weren't certified. Why are we driving to Sparta multiple times a week, just to use one classroom and not the rest of the facilities? All of these classes could be taught in a classroom in La Crosse, where over 90% of us lived during this program.

move the class to La Crosse or Certifiability

I would change that we would go back to the two semesters and not the trimester.

scheduling of the classes, and the now former program dean.

Bring certifiability back into the program, it is too much of a hassle having the students go to class during the summer when they will have to work to be able to pay for an academy

I would add a politics class and aspect to the course. Changes in government and local attitudes can and will force a change in the way police officers operate on the streets and when doing press conferences.

I would change this program by returning to the normal 2 semester per year, rather than the trimester system. The trimester really made it difficult to save up enough money to either pay for class or drive to class. With the drive being stated, having the program out in the Sparta Campus really increased the cost of fuel to attend classes every week. There was no reason for the classes to be held out there, because we were not receiving any training in this program.

I would have the schedule for the new trimester set and thought out BEFORE the trimester starts

First, I would most definitely change how the program is laid out. Meaning, I would not have two Community Policing class and I would try to organize the classes more effectively.

Make this program not year round. A break would be nice. Also, not to have this program PowerPoint heavy. Need more hands on learning.

Move the program back to La Crosse campus. It is a waste of time and gas money for me to drive out here for a lecture. Make the program certifiable again. We had way too many part time teachers teaching us. Granted they did have good law enforcement knowledge. Some of the class seem to be repeated like correctional admin and correctional law. Community oriented policing and community problem oriented policing.

Not power point heavy. Also not having 8 professors. Not making the program a year round program. I was not really able to voice my opinion.

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The only thing I would change that I wish we could've done was do the hands-on training things rather than just be in the classes because it gets boring after awhile taking just the classes. What I would change is that the program had less hands on than classes before us. Some of the other things that I think would benefit other students that follow us is an associate dean that worked with adult learners schedules a bit more than the one previous. Scheduling for me personally was hard to work around, and the summer trimester was a very big wrench in the program.

There is a lot of repetition in the classes. It would also be better for learning purposes if there were more hands on things so that students have a greater grasp of the topics of study. Taking field trips to see corrections facilities would also be pretty good.

Nothing.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	29

### 3. As a result of this program:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
I have learned effective communication skills.	0	1	2	17	9	29

### 4. Provide any comments you have on effective communication skills you learned.

#### Text Response

Class discussions were very insightful and I learned a lot from them.

It has helped me know what is appropriate, and what is not, but most speaking skills came from speech.

We learned a lot about this

It was great, it taught me to come out of my shell and become an effective speaker.

less fear of communicating in front of people.

Telling people what I'm thinking and the process that that thought came about.

I've learned that supervisors/management should have effective communication skills and also the police officers patrolling the city needs to have good communication skills with the public. If you don't have good communication skills you won't be successful in this career.

Through this programs gen eds, as well as the core classes, I was able to learn better public speaking skills, and with the papers that were due throughout the program was able to learn better written communication skills.

talking about different points of view and openly seeing different perspectives while showing empathy towards them, was the general concepts of many classes

Always be a good listener, which is essential if you don't listen you won't understand.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	10

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### 5. As a result of this program:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
I am able to apply mathematical concepts.	2	3	7	13	4	29

### 6. Provide any comments you have on mathematical concepts you learned.

#### Text Response

The program didn't help me with this.  
 This mostly came from my math class not this program.  
 have not taken math yet  
 I think the college math course was not very useful for this program. There are a lot of formulas that we will not be using.  
 not much more than I already knew.  
 I learned most mathematical concepts with I took my accounting course in western in 2007-2009.  
 I've not learned any math in these courses.  
 This program is not about math.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	8

### 7. As a result of this program:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
I learned how to transfer social and natural science theories into practical applications.	0	1	5	18	5	29

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### 8. Provide any comments you have on transferring social and natural science theories into practical applications.

#### Text Response

we covered a lot if different theories

I thought these classes were great and very useful for our program. It was able to teach us all about human nature.

Conduct yourself in a good manner and obey policy.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	3

### 9. As a result of this program:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
I learned critical thinking skills.	0	1	1	12	15	29

### 10. Provide any comments you have on critical thinking skills you learned.

#### Text Response

More situational teaching and hands on.

Policing classes offer strong insight into critical thinking

I learned so many critical thinking skills. Earlll was a great teacher and made us learn a lot.

This was one of the biggest things that was always covered in every class in this program.

we did a lot of senarios

I have a better skills now than I did before I came into the program.

just being able to think on the fly, and make good decisions.

The need to understand and know that your actions have consequences.

Its hard to learn when you don't have any hands on classes at a technical college.

I've learned a lot of critical thinking in each of my classes which was very nice. The class that really emphasized critical thinking is Police Administration.

Yeah I can think more know that I've learned more.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	11

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### 11. As a result of this program:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
I have learned to use technology effectively.	0	3	3	13	9	28

### 12. Provide any comments you have on what you learned about using technology effectively.

#### Text Response

Maybe more computer classes.

I really enjoyed the Computer Tech class.

I learned about many programs that I may need to use in the future.

we only had one class to cover computer applications to law enforcement

Learned to use Microsoft office more effectively.

In our computer technology course we did learn a few things, but I wish we had more time to learn about the software used in policing. Like eTIME and etc.

Spend alittle time working with tracs, faces, and CAD. Spend more times on tracs since we will be using that more.

In our law enforcement technologies class I learned a lot about what technologies police officers use for giving citations and also crash scenes, along with the faces program.

Technology is changing at a very rapid pace, most, if not all, of the learning tools will be outdated by the time I have gained employment.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	9

### 13. As a result of this program:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
I have learned to value myself and work ethically with others in a diverse population.	0	1	1	13	13	28

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### 14. Provide any comments you have on what you learned about valuing yourself and working ethically with others in a diverse population.

#### Text Response

we covered a lot of diversity understanding how people from other ethnicities live. In a lot of our classes we have had to give group power points with our classmates which helped us all work effectively with each other. Be respectful of other know what tools u have and can use effectively.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	4

### 15. As a result of this program:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
I am able to make decisions that incorporate the importance of sustainability.	0	0	3	16	9	28

### 16. Provide any comments you have on what you learned about incorporating the importance of sustainability in decisions you make.

#### Text Response

we covered a lot of that Make sure u say things that are applicable and match what you've learned.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	2

### 17. As a result of this program, I learned to:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
think critically.	0	0	0	18	10	28

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### 18. Provide any comments you have about learning this program outcome.

#### Text Response

understanding job related duties

By the book, not hands on.

I was very detailed.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	3

### 19. As a result of this program, I learned to:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
manage emergencies.	1	2	4	15	7	29

### 20. Provide any comments you have about learning this program outcome.

#### Text Response

Key element of the criminal justice field

No, we had no hands on training just movies and book work with lectures.

I now know what not to do during emergencies as a supervisor.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	3

### 21. As a result of this program, I learned to:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
communicate effectively.	0	0	2	16	11	29

### 22. Provide any comments you have about learning this program outcome.

#### Text Response

The last class we took with Mike Earll was particularly insightful in communication

work with a little communication but no pro com class or such.

Yes now I know how to communicate with subordinates and the other way around among other things.

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Statistic	Value
Total Responses	3

### 23. As a result of this program, I learned to:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
Demonstrate professionalism.	0	1	0	15	13	29

### 24. Provide any comments you have about learning this program outcome.

#### Text Response

Try to make the course more professional. Uniforms, code of conduct.  
Knowing how to do your job is part of police administration, it's important.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	2

### 25. As a result of this program, I learned to:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
conduct investigations.	1	2	6	13	6	28

### 26. Provide any comments you have about learning this program outcome.

#### Text Response

only one class, barley any hands on.  
This was very useful and help for all in the program.  
Only one hands on training with law enforcement investigative.  
Liked being in Law Enforcement Strategies and got to take a look at a crime scene our teacher put together which was cool.  
this was not a great focus. More of simply understanding the investigation process and general concepts.  
Communications for investigations is important in police administration that has been made known.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	6

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### 27. As a result of this program, I learned to:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
interact with others.	0	0	1	19	9	29

### 28. Provide any comments you have about learning this program outcome.

#### Text Response

Know I can interact with other it will be fun.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	1

### 29. CONCLUSION - Please use this space to share any other feedback, comments, or suggestions about your experience at Western Technical College.

#### Text Response

Textbooks were a waste of cash. Therefore, I never bought them! Also, the attendance policy should be more strict so maybe I would actually show up.

Bring back certifiably and have more hands on training

I think that the worst thing about this program was the book situation. Actually, I think that the book system for the whole college system is broken at western. People go to other schools and can rent as many books as they want for \$20, were getting screwed.

I like the program and I like most of the professors. I thought most of the classes were good as well. Overall I have very few complaints about the program as a whole

The TC, with its budget cuts and movement to trimester, ruined this program. I was not able to experience the same thing the students before me were able to experience. Im not able to be certified in the state when leaving this program. In addition to those I have to drive all the way to Sparta every day while being a full time student who cant work because of the movement to trimester. I would not recommend this program to anyone who is going through the TC if it weren't for the great professors. They're the program's one bright spot.

The Criminal Justice - Law Enforcement program was a great experience.

Experience at western was somewhat of a positive. I think that they should have a better outline the classes. Our class should not have been the testing group of the year and a half program. I don't agree with going to school during the summer because they is when most of use the time save money and be with our families. Us as students like the ability to relax and distress from the school year. We would have come back with positive attitudes most of us just said to hell with it after the third semester.

It was an amazing experience and I am excited to graduate.

I believe that Western has changed this program so much that it is not really efficient. More than half the time we didn't know who was even going to be our instructor for the next semesters class. Likewise, we had some instructors who were brand new at teaching and really didn't know how to teach the class. For myself, I personally don't believe I have grasped a lot of knowledge from the program itself, but hopefully the Law Enforcement Academy will make up for that.

I was disappointed with the fact that we lost our certifiably an entire semester in. We should have be grandfathered in but instead we payed for background checks and entrance quizzes that were only for certifiably.

Overall the teaching staff was good, and professional. I had a great experience with this program and am happy with my decision to go here.

I am not satisfied with the program as a whole. I was forced to pay the same amount for a degree as previous years, while not getting certified. I am forced to pay \$3,000 more in order to complete the program. Another negative was the trimester system. A lot of students rely on summer break to work in order to pay for school. Having classes year round forced me to work later hours, and have less time to complete homework, projects, and study for exams. This in turn, had a negative effect on my grades and overall learning experience. This is a huge flaw for a school that "values an essential learning experience."

I pretty much would just like it to be changed from a trimester for future students. Also, it was understood that we would all be certified and that changed last minute.

The classes and information we covered was good and appropriate for the program. However, I was not impressed with the taking away of certifiability and was very disappointed to learn it was being taken away from the program after we had already signed up for and expected it.

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Otherwise, I see no reason to have a class in Sparta when there is no practical applications from the classes to exercise and is out of the way and a waste of gas and time to go to an unnecessary location for classes.

Overall I think the program is very good. Only a couple of things I would change is to have our credits transfer to other schools so we can further our degree program elsewhere.

I feel that they need to reevaluate requirements and costs for the program and academy.

I was not happy that I had to pay for an "entrance exam" when applying for this program, for a part of the curriculum that was taken out and we were not notified about. The fact that you are making this graduating class pay for an academy after keeping us from working full time in the summer is pathetic. The fact that the college required us to take the BAT test for a curriculum that was not going to offer us certifiability is inexcusable.

Have more current officers that are serving their communities to share and teach students.

If Western Technical College is going to have classes out at the Sparta campus location, it should be used for what it was built for. TO train students in their program. And with the program losing certifiability, there was absolutely no reason for the classes to be held in Sparta. It caused more hardships for students than what was necessary with it being a ~30 mile trip one way. The cost of fuel adds up, and I don't think that Western Technical College ever accounted for that type of expense forced onto the students.

I feel my instructors acted to the best of their abilities in regards to teaching practical and modern ideas while giving their own opinion that gives us a look into their background. However with the mess that happened with my assistant dean and the trimester and de-certification and lack of communication to us as students I would hope that Western Tech and its affiliates to include full time, part time faculty can use this experience to better the program in the future. I do not think that my instructors had much to do with it. I would think that management staff, deans etc should be to blame for that. Thank you for allowing me to learn at your institution. Prost'

The academy should be incorporated within the program again. If this is not an option for the college, then the core classes for Criminal Justice should be on the main campus in Lacrosse. I feel like the next Dean and Associate Dean of Public Safety should be more involved with the students of the program. I never once met or talked with the Dean of Public Safety. I don't even know their name. I feel like that isn't good at all! Program needs to be more organized, like not having two Community Policing classes when one was most definitely enough.

I have had better experience with Western. This year and program there has been many issues that came up. I wish that we wouldn't have done this program in a trimester and have a break in between so we could have a break and also have time to work and make money to pay off school. I also feel it was pointless to have the students drive up to Sparta almost every day for class. The majority of the class live in the greater part of La Crosse. Having the program being in La Crosse would be more beneficial to students and the school. I have been going to TC now for about 4-5 years now and I now during this year I have seen TC value and are more driven by money than they are for their students. I didn't not feel TC was here for me as a student. With this all being said about the things that I would change with this program, the teachers that I had through out the whole program were GREAT teachers and I learned a lot from them.

Make sure you have the courses set for the entire course so we know what classes we will be taking and no get it changed around or take repeat class and waste money. Move it back to La Crosse. Hire more full time instructors and don't use a bunch of part time instructors. Ask the students how they want to schedule set as we don't have very many classes.

I think that there has to be a lot of change done to the school in general. Changing a program so we can be "test subjects" is not right, especially because we are, paying customers. I don't think it was fair to have a program created so new, that the program curriculum wasn't even created in full after our first semester. There were a lot of things that that class felt were unfair.

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Especially having to take a test that was designed for academy students and finding out we wouldn't be certified after taking the test. It was very difficult to voice our opinions in some instances. I also think it was wrong how certain professors were treated by upper management. Having so many adjunct instructors was very difficult because there were so many teaching styles I had to learn throughout. Not having year round schooling would be a good idea because of burn out. Many of the students felt tired, and mad to be in class. Why is the Sparta campus necessary for the program? Everything is PowerPoint driven and nothing is really hands on anymore. So why make students drive to campus when they can be taught in any other class room. I think it is very sicken to see a campus so driven by money and not the students (I.E. PAYING CUSTOMERS). I think that main instructors during this program were extremely helpful in getting us where we are today. It also helped when they listened and gave us feedback on things. Changes happen in every program is what I was told but changes need to come so that people can adjust. Not seeing things out and making some people pay for things and others not the next year when it is the SAME program is simply not right. Its a shame that past students and past professors have said this program used to be one of the best and now it has dwindled so badly. Makes me wish I could have taken the program years ago to see a fun and functioning program.

Liked the program, just wish it was more hands-on learning instead of just power points and book learning.

Overall my experience at Western was a pleasant experience. There were a few things that I would have liked to see handled better. The offices in LaCrosse seem to be understaffed and the workers there seem to be fairly busy for the amount of students that they have to communicate with daily. There were times that I would wait for answers for days from the financial aid office... presumably because they were extremely busy people with many students to work for, and little staff to work for. Academic advisors were very accommodating and pleasant to deal with. Something that I feel would benefit the program and the school as a whole, is seeing the president, the dean, associate dean around the campus'. To feel that the leadership of the college has our best interest in mind would be seeing these individuals around taking in what we do, who we are, and what our concerns are. Doing this over the computer is great, fine and dandy, but seeing people in the flesh is always more meaningful to students of any age.

The instructor for this program have been awesome. Some of the material and chosen definitely need some revamping. However the biggest problems with this program came from Western's main body, rather than the criminal Justice Department. The policies set forth by western makes working parents significantly struggle with worth finances and time management. While these is a common problem for working parents while continuing education, Western's policies make it impossible to have a "smooth" journey while doing so. There are some major implementations that need some revising. Financial aide not being dispersed until six week in the semester is ridicules, forcing student to charge book at the campus store and pay higher rates is a major concern. While the instructors are great, Western as a whole has been very disappointing for me as a student. I would NOT recommend someone I knew to Western's Criminal Justice Program at this time. I have no doubt that with the great staff here this program department will/can be a great institution, however Western's policy makers and board panels have a very large affect on students which can greatly affect the quality of their experience.

In totality it was important for me to get this education I might work in correction and eventually police work, police administration is a vital tool in general and specifically. Thanks

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	28