CCJ 4487 - Ethics in the Criminal Justice System

Course Description:

An in depth study of moral, ethical, legal, and professional issues and dilemmas facing individuals and organizations within the Criminal Justice system.
Prerequisite: PHI 2604

Course Competencies:

Competency 1: The student will demonstrate knowledge of the various parts of ethical systems by:

a. defining the terms religious ethics and morality
b. exploring the components of natural law
c. distinguishing between the ethics of virtue and care
d. defining the term utilitarianism

Competency 2: The student will apply laws to the study of morality by:

a. recognizing the similarities among regulations, standards, and ethics
b. citing and describing examples of compliance and noncompliance
c. comparing and contrasting the terms ethics, morals, and values
d. describing the issues of moral culpability relative to juvenile laws and procedures

Competency 3:   The student will explore well-known principles of ethical theory by:
a. defining theological ethics
b. defining normative ethics
c. defining non-cognitive ethics
d. defining deontological ethics

Competency 4:   The student will analyze Kohlberg's moral stages of development by:

a. citing and discussing examples of level 1 (pre-conventional stage)
b. citing and discussing examples of level 2 (conventional stage)
c. citing and discussing examples of level 3 (post conventional stage)
d. analyzing the interrelationship among the three stages and the impact on moral development

Competency 5: The student will explore the effects of stress on ethical decision making by:

   a. defining eustress and distress
   b. citing examples of stress-related warning signs in officers
   c. identifying positive ways to combat stress
   d. identifying strategies for enhancing ethical decisions relative to organizational and personal stress

Competency 6: The student will explore the concept of ethical hiring as a value-based process by:

   a. defining and discussing the term value-based hiring
   b. analyzing the value predisposition perspective
   c. defining and discussing value transmission

Competency 7: The student will analyze various levels of police culture by:

   a. recognizing accepted law enforcement practices
   b. citing examples of accepted values and principles
   c. defining and discussing "warping" and "boomerang"
   d. defining and discussing "wolf packing"

Competency 8:   The student will analyze types of noble cause corruption by:

   a. defining and discussing the theme of excessive force
   b. defining and discussing avenging syndrome
   c. defining and discussing noble-cause violence
   d. defining and discussing "contempt of cop"

Competency 9:   The student will analyze patterns of corruption by:

   a. identifying reasons why officers take bribes
   b. discussing reasons why officers use drugs
   c. describing situations relative to the misuse of seized property
   d. describing instances of illegal searches and seizures

Competency 10: The student will analyze recommendations for preventing police corruption by:

    a. determining strategies for successful community policing programs
    b. identifying components of performance evaluations
    c. listing strategies for improving the hiring process
    d. discussing strategies for improving ethics training programs