Miami Dade College

Course Description

CCJ3700 |Methods of Research in Criminal Justice | 3.00 credits

Evaluates the application of research methodologies as applied to the study of Public Safety Management.

Course Competencies:

Competency 1: The student will understand criminal justice research statistics by:
1. Defining the nature of criminal justice research
2. Comparing testing hypotheses
3. Reviewing the stages of criminal justice research and data sources
4. Assessing the function of statistics and surveys

Competency 2: The student will analyze the organization of public safety data by:
1. Comparing distribution and frequency distributions of nominal data
2. Reviewing proportions and percentages, ratios and rates
3. Interpreting graphic presentations
4. Defining with decimal data, percentile ranks, and cross-tabulations

Competency 3: The student will be able to measure the central tendency by:
1. Defining central tendency
2. Exploring modes of measure
3. Describing data
4. Computing the mode, median, and mean

Competency 4: The student will learn the measures of variability as they relate to crime statistics by:
1. Comparing and contrasting Uniform Crime Report (UCR) data
2. Reviewing National Crime Victimization Surveys (NCVS)
3. Analyzing the interpretation of crime data

Competency 5: The student will analyze probability and the standard curve by:
1. Computing probability and probability distributions for crime victimization
2. Examining the characteristics of perpetrators and victims
3. Examining the crime trends and causal effects

Competency 6: The student will analyze crime data relative to populations targeted for violent crime by:
1. Defining and discussing sample populations
2. Identifying targeted populations for criminality
3. Reviewing professional journals for crime analysis and interpretation
4. Gathering arrest data from samples of populations

Competency 7: The student will analyze crime-related research by:
1. Identifying the research hypothesis
2. Analyzing the sampling distribution
3. Analyzing levels of significance
4. Defining and discussing duration

Updated: Fall 2025

Competency 8: The student will analyze crime data by:
1. Examining the calculation between crime victimization and demographics
2. Examining the methodologies of reporting U.S. crime statistics
3. Examining the cause and effect of terrorist-related crime
4. Utilizing a regression model reference to the "aging out" theory

Learning outcomes:
- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning
- Demonstrate knowledge of ethical thinking and its application to issues in society