



Course Description

CJC1000 | Introduction to Corrections | 3.00 credits

A comprehensive view of the historical and philosophical treatment programs and developments in the field of juvenile and adult corrections. Emphases on understanding the offender in the correctional system; an examination of the correctional client, the non-institutional correctional systems, agencies and recidivism.

Course Competencies:

Competency 1: The student will analyze the emergence of the correctional system and its interaction with the other components of the criminal justice system by:

1. Identifying the causes of the corrections explosion
2. Differentiating between the different crime measurement tools in the United States
3. Comparing the levels of crime and their corresponding punishments
4. Examining the different criminal punishments used throughout history

Competency 2: The student will differentiate between the various sentencing options as defined by law by:

1. Identifying the central purpose of criminal punishments
2. Comparing the different goals of criminal sentencing
3. Examining the sentencing options in general use today
4. Differentiating between the models of criminal sentencing and identifying models in use today

Competency 3: The student will understand the nature and purpose of jails and prisons in the United States by:

1. Distinguishing between the offenders housed in jail versus prison
2. Recognizing the various purposes of jails in the United States, including understanding generational progress
3. Explaining the difference between the Pennsylvania and Auburn prison systems and recognizing their contribution to the various eras of prison development
4. Analyzing classification systems and how the characteristics of today's prisoners impact them

Competency 4: The student will explore life inside prison for inmates and staff, legal challenges, and special needs of inmates by:

1. Differentiating staff roles within the organizational hierarchy of correctional institutions
2. Identifying the types of power correctional personnel utilize and the common officer personality types
3. Explaining the formation of the inmate subculture and its effect on prison life
4. Examining the history of prisoner's legal rights and how inmates can challenge their conditions of confinement
5. Recognizing the various special needs inmates in correctional settings

Competency 5: The student will analyze some of the most controversial debates in contemporary corrections by:

1. Listing the main reasons that prisons are overcrowded
2. Developing strategies to control prison overcrowding, control the influence of security threat groups, and reduce the risk of prison riots
3. Discussing the politics influencing capital punishment

4. Providing defensible arguments either in favor of or against the death penalty
5. Summarizing the major U.S. Supreme Court decisions that influenced capital punishment legislation

Learning Outcomes:

- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning
- Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information
- Create strategies that can be used to fulfill personal, civic, and social responsibilities