

## **Program Outcome Assessment M.S., Corrections**

**Goals and Objectives:** The major goal of the M.S. in Corrections is to prepare students for professional positions in corrections at the local, state, and/or national level or to provide them a solid base in social research methods and in-depth knowledge in corrections theory and practice in preparation for continuing their higher education in a PhD program.

### **Student Outcomes:**

1. Basis knowledge in social research methods.
2. An in-depth knowledge in criminology and penology.
3. Comprehensive knowledge in one of the following areas in corrections; administration, treatment, or research.
4. Well-developed verbal and written skills.

### **Methods of Assessment:**

1. Each student will take comprehensive examinations in the following areas; research methods, criminology and penology theory and selected areas of comprehension (administration, treatment, or research). These are taken after completion of all course work but before writing a thesis.
2. Successful completion of the internship in a correctional program. This will be completed after completing the first year of program course work.
3. Each student will complete a thesis, formally present their findings in an open forum and defend the thesis before their thesis committee. This defense will take place during their last semester of enrollment in the program.
4. Job placement in a professional corrections agency or acceptance in a PhD program after completion of the M.S. will be further proof of the success of the program.
5. Completion of the M.S. degree in two to three years will further help in determining the success of the program. The majority of students will be expected to complete the M.S. degree in a period of two years.

**Population:** These assessment methods will be applied to all individuals enrolled in the M.S. in Corrections degree.

**Methods for Information Feedback:** All information will be collected in the department and shared annually with the departmental faculty.

**Time Line:** This process is presently in place.