

**Request to Elevate the Forensic Behavioral Sciences Option
to a Full Degree Program at California State University, Fresno
January 21, 2018**

1. Program Type

Option Elevation

2. Program Identification

- a. California State University, Fresno
- b. B.S. in Forensic Behavioral Sciences [currently a B.S. in Criminology, with an Option in Forensic Behavioral Sciences (hereafter FBS)]
- c. Intended implementation in Fall, 2018
- d. Total number of units required for graduation: 120
- e. Currently, this program is housed in the Department of Criminology in the College of Social Sciences. The requested program will continue to be housed in the Department of Criminology in the College of Social Sciences.
- f. This proposal has been drafted by Candice Skrapec, Professor, and Coordinator of the FBS Option in the Department of Criminology.
- g. There are no changes in the content of the program (from Option to degree). As such, the proposal will not be subject to WASC Substantive Change Review.
- h. Proposed Classification of Instructional Program code: 42.2812 (for "Forensic Psychology"). This code well reflects the established curriculum. Further, all faculty teaching in the Option are psychologists with forensic psychology backgrounds.
- i. Teach-out policy language: The degree requirements are identical to the Option requirements. Therefore, there is no change for students.
- j. Discontinuation of Option: Once the elevation is approved, the current FBS Option will be discontinued immediately. All students currently in the FBS Option can automatically be reclassified into the new major. As the requirements are identical, this change will be seamless.

3. Program Overview and Rationale

a. Rationale for Option elevation to a full degree program: Executive Order 1071 (Revised January 20, 2017) requires that the FBS Option must represent 49% or fewer units of the major requirements. The set of courses required of all students in the FBS Option is currently more than 50% of the existing Criminology major units. This proposal to elevate the FBS Option to a major will bring the required set of courses into compliance with the revised EO 1071.

The FBS Option was approved as the fourth Option in the Criminology major in 2008 and has steadily grown to a program with more than 500 students, and from two full-time faculty dedicated to the Option, to five full-time faculty. In Spring 2017 a dedicated laboratory was created (the "FBS Lab") to accommodate research by FBS students and faculty.

In response to EO 1071, the FBS Option had two choices. The first was to change its curriculum (by adopting existing courses from the other three Options in the Criminology major); The second was for FBS to become its own major. The first alternative would have diluted the FBS Option to such a degree that the Option might as well be discontinued, as there would be little to distinguish it from the other three Options. The second alternative, elevating FBS to its own major, is thus the only alternative that will both preserve the unique contribution that FBS makes to the Criminology Department and serve student demand for this kind of curriculum. The rationale for elevating FBS to its own major is outlined below.

Under the current degree structure, the FBS Option is part of the Criminology degree. The FBS Option is being elevated to a degree because the set of courses required in the FBS Option exceeds 50 percent of the current Criminology major core courses. Of the 17 courses required in the FBS Option, only 6 are designated as core courses for the Criminology major—4 of these are lower-division courses and 2 are upper-division courses. In other words, only 31.4% of required FBS coursework comes from courses in the Criminology major. Further, of these 6 core Criminology courses, only 2 actually have the word "Criminology" in the title, and the other 4 are Criminal Justice-related courses. As such, the FBS Option curriculum is not reflective of a major in Criminology. Elevating the FBS Option to a degree will bring its designated courses into compliance with the requirement that more than 50 percent of its courses are FBS-related courses. In summary, the FBS Option has been operating as one of four Options in the Department of Criminology, with 69.6% of its required coursework different from that required for the other three Options in Criminology, making its designation as an Option in Criminology out of compliance with EO 1071. Establishing a degree in FBS will bring this coursework into compliance with the directive.

At the time of this proposal, the other three Options for the Criminology degree (i.e., the Law Enforcement, Corrections, and Victimology Options) are in the process of revising their curricula so that each of those Options will share more courses in common. This was not feasible for the FBS Option. To do so would have meant replacing crucial forensic behavioral sciences courses with more generic criminal justice courses. Requiring more courses from the other three areas would have been at the expense of FBS coursework that is critical to the forensic behavioral sciences discipline. The FBS Option curriculum is the product of a decade of refinements and includes collaborative relationships with the Department of Psychology and the Department of Anthropology at California State University, Fresno. (For example, FBS Option students take specific coursework in these departments.) The curriculum consists of courses that are both current and relevant to the forensic behavioral sciences discipline.

Official status as a stand-alone degree will reflect the reality of the program's content and function, and will serve to advance the potential growth of the program as well as contribute to the utility of the degree for its students.

b. Proposed catalog copy:

PROPOSED CATALOG COPY
B.S. FORENSIC BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

The Forensic Behavioral Sciences program is designed to prepare students for a wide variety of professional careers related to the civil and criminal justice systems. It involves the acquisition of academic and research-based knowledge in behavioral sciences and its application to the legal arena. Qualified FBS majors are eligible for the Criminology Department Honor's Program. For students who choose not to pursue graduate level studies or law school, their B.S. degree in FBS will qualify them to apply for virtually all entry level positions in criminal justice agencies; police academies, corrections academies, and victim service agencies. Students also found employment with the District Attorney's Office, the Probation Department, the Secret Service, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. FBS curriculum is also designed to prepare students for graduate studies in psychology, criminology, social work, and anthropology; with the intent of doing applied research that would help develop academic paths as forensic psychologists, forensic social workers, forensic anthropologists, or attorneys.

Bachelor of Science Degree Requirements

Criminology Forensic Behavioral Sciences Major

A grade of C or higher is required for all courses to be counted toward the major (excluding CR/NC classes).

Criminology - Forensic Behavioral Sciences Option Major (51-53 minimum 51 units)

Lower-division core requirements: CRIM 1, 2, 20, 50 (GE B4) (10 units)

Upper-division core: CRIM 100, 170 or PSYCH 144 (~~6-8~~ minimum 6 units)

Upper-division requirements: CRIM 113, ~~153~~; FBS 114, 153, 154, 155, 156; PSYCH 128 or PSYCH 420T127(Cognitive Principles in Forensics and Law EnforcementForensic Cognitive Science), ~~CRIM 156~~ (22 units)

General Electives Cluster: select two courses from CRIM 108, 110, 120, 127, 133, 134, 135, 136T, 140, 141, 160H, 160T, 173, 174, 175, 176, 180, ~~181, 182~~; AFRS 146; ANTH 101, 169T (Forensic Anthropology); PAX 110 (Area E1); PHIL 151 (Area IC) (6 units)

Forensic Behavioral Sciences Electives Cluster: select one course from ~~CRIM~~FBS 157 or 159T (Topics in Forensic Behavioral Sciences) (3 units)

Psychology Electives Cluster: select one course from ~~PSYCH 420T127~~ (Cognitive Principles in Forensics and Law EnforcementForensic Cognitive Science), 128, 149, 154, 156, or 160T (minimum 4 units)

See all footnotes below.

General Education requirements (~~49~~54 units)

Electives and remaining degree requirements (18-27 units)

(See Degree Requirements); may be used toward a double major or minor

Total (120 units)

CRIM 50 counts for 3 units in both the major and as GE B4. PAX 110 counts for 3 units in both the major and as GE E1. PHIL 151 counts for 3 units in both the major and as GE IC.

1. These courses are also required for the other three ~~options~~ Options in the Criminology major.
2. CRIM 1 is a prerequisite for CRIM 180, ~~181, and 182~~. Special note: Due to its importance for all Criminology majors, CRIM 1 should be taken as early as possible.
3. This requirement may also be met by completing PSYCH 42, PH 92, MATH 11, DS 73, or any equivalent statistics course from another university or community college.
4. Students must choose either PSYCH 420T127(Cognitive Principles in Forensics and Law EnforcementForensic Cognitive Science) or PSYCH 128 as one of their upper-division requirements. When they choose one of these courses as an upper-division requirement, they may choose the other as their Psychology Electives Cluster course.

5. Students must take ~~CRIM~~FBS 114 or CRIM 102 as a prerequisite or corequisite for CRIM 180, ~~181, and 182.~~
6. FBS students may receive only 3 units of credit for any combination of CRIM 108; or 180, ~~181, or 182~~ toward major requirements.
7. FBS students may receive only 3 units of credit for CRIM 136T (Mock Trial) toward major requirements.
8. PSYCH 160T, depending upon the topic, has a variable number of units (2 to 5 units). To qualify as an acceptable Psychology Electives Cluster course for FBS, the course must be worth a minimum of 4 units.

c. Elevating the FBS Option to a major involves no changes to the curriculum or the faculty. Administrative commitment to this approved program of studies has been demonstrated by the approval of three new faculty hires (—with no attrition of existing faculty) over the past three years, and the establishment of a dedicated FBS Lab to serve FBS students and faculty research.

4. Curriculum – *(These requirements conform to the revised 2013 WASC Handbook of Accreditation)*

a. Side-by-side Comparison:

| Current BS (FBS Option) in the Department of Criminology (51 units) | Proposed BS in FBS in the Department of Criminology (51 units) |
|---|--|
| Required (38 units) | Required (38 units) |
| CRIM 1* Strategies for Success in Criminology (3 units) | CRIM 1 Strategies for Success in Criminology (3 units) |
| CRIM 2 Administration of Justice (3 units) | CRIM 2 Administration of Justice (3 units) |
| CRIM 20 Criminal Law (3 units) | CRIM 20 Criminal Law (3 units) |
| CRIM 50 Statistics and Computer Applications in Criminal Justice (3 units) | CRIM 50 Statistics and Computer Applications in Criminal Justice (3 units) |
| CRIM 100 Criminology (3 units) | CRIM 100 Criminology (3 units) |
| CRIM 113 Forensic Science (3 units) | CRIM 113 Forensic Science (3 units) |
| CRIM 114 Ethics in FBS (3 units) | FBS 114 Ethics in FBS (3 units) |
| CRIM 153 Psychology of Criminality (3 units) | FBS 153 Psychology of Criminality (3 units) |
| CRIM 154 Fundamentals of FBS (3 units) | FBS 154 Fundamentals of FBS (3 units) |
| CRIM 155 Biology of Criminality (3 units) | FBS 155 Biology of Criminality (3 units) |
| CRIM 156 FBS and the Law (3 units) | FBS 156 FBS and the Law (3 units) |
| CRIM 170 Research Methods (3 units) or PSYCH 144 | CRIM 170 Research Methods (3 units) or PSYCH 144 |
| PSYCH 120T Forensic Cognitive Science (4 units) | PSYCH 120T127 Forensic Cognitive Science (4 units) |
| Electives (13 units) | Electives (13 units) |

* Highlighted courses denote common courses currently shared by all four Criminology Options.

b. Assessment Plan attached as an appendix

5. Evidence of Potential Student Demand

Sustained and possible future interest in FBS is evidenced by enrollment numbers in the program. Since Fall, 2012, these numbers are as follows:

| Fall12 | Spr13 | Fall13 | Spr14 | Fall14 | Spr15 | Fall15 | Spr16 | Fall16 | Spr17 | Fall17 | Spr18 |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 133 (10)* | 318 (13)* | 362 (16)* | 360 (15)* | 357 (10)* | 333 (11)* | 402 (8)* | 379 (4)* | 426 (2)* | 392 (6)* | 470 (8)* | 467 (8)* |

* denotes double majors in the existing Criminology major who selected FBS as their Option.

The above numbers reflect a robust and steadily growing program. It is worth noting that these enrollments have been the product of local "advertising" efforts only.