

Feasibility Study on the Offering of Master of Science in Criminal Justice with Specialization in Criminology at the University of Northern Philippines

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to determine how feasible the offering of Master of Science in Criminal Justice with Specialization in Criminology in the University of Northern Philippines. The study used descriptive-survey method of research. Questionnaire-checklist was used to determine whether the respondents are interested to enrol in Master of Science in Criminal Justice with Specialization in Criminology if it is to be offered in the University of Northern Philippines. Documentary analysis was also used to determine if the University meets the standards set by Commission on Higher Education. Statistical tools used were frequency and percentage to determine the number of interested enrollees and financial forecast to determine the cost and economic aspect of the study. The salient findings are: There are 371 or 93.21% interested applicants in the province; there are enough faculty members to handle the different subjects; there are adequate library materials and physical facilities that promote scholarship research; and the University has a well-defined policy on admission and retention. It is concluded that the proposed offering is quite feasible. Hence, the researchers recommend the offering of Master of Science in Criminal Justice with Specialization in Criminology in the University.

Key words: Criminal Justice, Graduate School, Financial Forecast, Market Aspect.

INTRODUCTION

Twenty first century communities require professionals with interdisciplinary skills and preparation to handle many complex challenges like analysing crime data, administering courts, law enforcement and peace and order. The Master's Degree Program in Criminal Justice with Specialization in Criminology has been conceptualized to meet the challenge of developing the skills of professionals particularly Criminology graduates. The program shall enhance the quality of Criminology Professionals to make them more responsive to the needs of the Philippine Criminal Justice System in the 21st century (CHED Memorandum Order No. 47 s 2006).

The master's degree in Criminal Justice helps Criminology professionals develop their critical thinking skills and provide them with an interdisciplinary perspective on Criminology and the Criminal Justice System. A special benefit of the program is that it enables its graduates not only to administer the current system, but also to become an innovator in evaluating and changing it so that it is more responsive to the needs of the community (University of Colorado, 2015).

Similarly, the offering of graduate degree programs in criminal justice is one of the effective responses to the growing needs of criminal justice practitioners in dealing with growing concerns of public order and safety (University of North Florida, 2014)

While Miami University (2014) claimed that the Master of Science in Criminal Justice is a unique program of study for the professionals who aimed to develop their administrative or supervisory work within criminal justice agencies, the University of the Cordilleras (2013) maintained that the offering of Master of Science in criminal justice will help develop and strengthen knowledge, attitudes, skills and values of Criminology professionals.

Moreover, the of graduate program for criminology professional prepares the student to become highly capable additions to the justice system, and also to prepare those students who are planning to pursue doctoral degrees in criminal justice (Grand Valley State University, 2014). Further, the Master of Science in Criminal Justice program underscores theoretical and research skills, with an emphasis on examining policies related to crime issues and criminal justice practices. The program is designed to provide the rational skills and insights necessary for planning and analysing justice process (University of Missouri, 2013).

The offering of the program is also in line with the vision of the college to attain the status of being a Center of Excellence (COE) or Center of Development (COD). The minimum requirement for a program to be awarded as a COE or COD is at least its faculty members are holders of Master of Science in Criminal Justice (CHED Memorandum Order No. 48 s 2006).

Being the country's largest employer, the government needs to have an incessant supply of manpower who are capable, competent and morally irreproachable. Likewise, agencies in the Criminal Justice System like law enforcement, prosecution, courts, correctional institutions and community are in need of committed and dedicated Criminal justice practitioners.

The University of Northern Philippines has been helping in supplying the government and the civil society organizations with able law enforcement officer personnel through the Bachelor of Science in Criminology program since 1976. To make its role of enhancing the competence and character, this institution wishes to offer Master of Science in Criminal Justice with the specialization in Criminology (MSCJ Crim): the vertical articulated master's degree program for BS Criminology graduates.

METHODOLOGY

The study used the descriptive-survey method of research. The population of the study comprised members of different law enforcement agencies, faculty members of different Higher Educational Institutions offering BS Criminology and the BS Criminology graduates in Ilocos Sur.

Questionnaire-checklist was floated to determine whether they are interested to enrol Master of Science in Criminal Justice with Specialization in Criminology at the University of Northern Philippines. Documentary analysis was also used to determine if the University meets the standards set by Commission on Higher Education. Statistical tools used were percentage to determine the number of interested enrolees and financial forecast to determine the cost and economic aspect of the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Market Aspect

Demand Analysis

The demand is determined by the prospective enrollees composed by those who signified their interest in the survey.

Most (68 or 95.77%) of the members of Ilocos Sur Philippine National Police surveyed are interested to enrol. Likewise, majority (20 or 76.92%) of the Ilocos Sur Bureau of Fire Protection personnel signified their intention to enrol in the said program. All (12 or 100%) surveyed personnel of Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, Department of Justice – Probation and Parole Administration and Local Government Units are also interested.

In the group of students and faculty members, all (7 or 100%) are interested to enrol in the program. Majority of the surveyed graduates also signified their intention to enrol if the program is open. The graduates are the UNP batch 2014: 155 or 93.37%, UNP batch 2015: 89 or 92.70%, and North Luzon Polytechnic State College batch 2014: 20 or 100%.

Table 1
Distribution of Respondents as to whether they are interested to enrol in Master of Science in Criminal Justice with specialization in Criminology in UNP

Group	Yes	No	Total	Percentage
Ilocos Sur PNP	68	3	71	95.77
Ilocos Sur BFP	20	6	26	76.92
Other Law Enforcement Agencies (BJMP, DOJ-PPA and LGU)	12	0	12	100.00
Faculty Members of different HEIs in the region	7	0	7	100.00
UNP Criminology Batch 2014	155	11	166	93.37
UNP Criminology Batch 2015	89	7	96	92.70
NLPSC Criminology Batch 2014	20	0	20	100.00
Total	371	27	398	93.21

In summary, there are 398 Criminology graduates in Ilocos Sur of which 371 or 93.21% are interested applicants of the program. The reasons for enrolling in the program include their possibility of:

Promotion in the key positions, rank and status in the law enforcement agencies; Employment and promotion in Higher Education institution offering BS Criminology program; and Employment and promotion in other government and private agencies.

Supply Analysis

The determinants of supply are the schools offering Master of Science in Criminal Justice with the Specialization in Criminology.

The number of schools offering master’s degree in Criminal Justice throughout the country has become bigger through the years, especially with the pronouncement of the Civil Service Commission that masteral degree would be vertically articulated/aligned in their baccalaureate degree. At present, there are seven schools offering masteral program of Criminal Justice in Region I and CAR.

Ilocos Norte – North Western University is only the school offering Masteral Program in Criminology.

La Union - Central Ilocandia College of Science Technology (CICOSAT) is offering the said program.

Pangasinan, - two schools offers Masteral degree in Criminal Justice, to wit, the University of Luzon and Pan Pacific University of North Philippines.

In the Cordillera Region, three schools offer Master of Science in Criminal Justice with Specialization in Criminology, namely: University of Baguio, University of the Cordilleras and Ifugao State University.

Table 2
Higher Educational Institutions Offering Master of Science in Criminal Justice
with the Specialization in Criminology in Region 1 and Cordillera
Administrative Region

Province/City and Higher Education Institution	Category	Miscellaneous fee	Fee Per Unit	Total fee for 9 units	Location	Distance from Vigan City in terms of travel time
ILOCOS NORTE						
North Western University	Private School	2,875.87	460.45	7,019.92	Laoag City	2½-3 hours
LA UNION						
Central Ilocandia Collage of Science and Technology	Private School	1,175.00 650.00 Lab fee	500.00	6,325.00	San Fernando City	4 – 5 hours
PANGASINAN						
University of Luzon	Private School	3,426.63	1,029.02	12,687.81	Dagupan City	5-6 hours
PanPacific University of North Philippines	Private School	3,624.50	381.50	7,058.00	Urdaneta City	5-6 hours
BAGUIO CITY						
University of Baguio	Private School	6,755.87	848.10	14,388.77	Baguio City	5-6 Hours
University of the Cordilleras	Private School	5,292.00	840.00	12,852.00	Baguio City	5-6 Hours
IFUGAO						
Ifugao State University	State University	2,700.00	300.00	5,400.00	Lamut Ifugao	– 16 hours

It can be gleaned in Table 2 that apart of the seven Higher Education Institutions only one is a state university in the two regions and no private HEI offering MS Criminal Justice in the province of Ilocos Sur

Technical Aspect

This section analyses whether or not the curriculum is aligned with the standards of Commission on Higher Education. Second, it determines whether there is adequacy of faculty members who can teach in the proposed program in terms of numbers and qualifications. Third, it determines whether there are library resources and facilities. Fourth, it looks into the appropriateness of the policies to govern the offering. And fifth, it looks into the other requirements set by CHED.

Faculty

Article III, Section 7 of CMO No. 47, s of 2006 prescribes that the minimum faculty requirements shall be at least one fulltime Doctor’s degree in Criminology and at least three fulltime Master’s degree holders in Criminology.

Table 3
List of Faculty Members and their Academic Profile

Faculty	Bachelor’s Degree	Master’s Degree	Doctorate Degree
Bestre, Sina C.	BS Crim	MS Crim	Ph.D Criminology
Balbuena, Witerico T.	BS Crim	MA Crim	Ph.D Criminology
Pariñas, Mervic M.	BS Crim	MS Crim	Ph.D Criminal Justice on dissertation
Bersamina, Dolores R.	BS Crim	MS Crim	Ph.D Criminal Justice
Aleson, Myline C.	BS Crim	MS Crim	n/a

Table 3 shows the strong faculty line-up of UNP. Currently, the university has three Doctorate degree holders in Criminology, one on dissertation and 1 master’s degree holder.

Library

The books, journals and other instructional materials being used in BS Criminology Program will be shared with the MS Criminal Justice Program. It may be stated that library resources are relevant and adequate in terms of quality and quantity. They are useful in serving the needs of scholarly research and progressively developing and growing in accordance with the institutional development plan.

Policies Governing the offering: Admission, Back to Zero policy, Residency and Graduation Requirements.

On Admission

The applicant must have finished a baccalaureate degree in Criminology from a recognized institution of learning. If an applicant wants to enrol MS in

Criminal Justice but not a graduate of BS Criminology, he/she must enrol 21 units of professional subjects of BS Criminology. For transferees, the crediting of subjects will be based on the description of the subjects.

On back to Zero policy

A student who failed to enrol for at least five years is required to repeat all the subjects.

In case that the student has already taken the comprehensive examination, there is no need for the student to repeat all the subjects, instead, he/she will just be required to have the refresher course.

On Residency

The minimum residency requirement is one year. This excludes thesis writing.

On graduation requirements

The student must pass the comprehensive examinations and successfully defend his/her thesis.

Curriculum

The *CHED Memorandum Order No. 47 s 2006* prescribes the subjects to be offered in the Master of Science in Criminal Justice with the Specialization in Criminology. The Program offering will adopt the following Curriculum.

Table 4
Curriculum of the study

Foundation Courses (9 units required)		
Code	Descriptive Title	Units
MSCJFC1	Methods of Criminological Research	3
MSCJFC2	Statistics in Criminal Justice and Criminology	3
MSCJFC3	Foundations of Criminology	3
Specialization Course (21 Units required)		
MSCJSC1	Transnational Crimes and Terrorism	3
MSCJSC2	Economic Crimes	3
MSCJSC3	Crisis Intervention and Management	3
MSCJSC4	Juvenile Justice and Delinquency	3
MSCJSC5	Victimology	3
MSCJSC6	Modern Penology	3
MSCJSC7	Science of Criminalistics	3
Cognate Course (6 units required)		
MSCJCC1	Problems in Criminal Law, Procedure and Evidence	3
MSCJCC2	Special Penal Laws in the Philippines	3
MSCJCC3	The Psychology Crime	3
MSCJCC4	Deviant Behavior	3
MSCJCC5	Domestic Violence	3
MSCJCC6	Administration of Justice	3
MSCJCC7	Communications Skills for Criminal Justice Administrators	3
Thesis Workshop and Report (6 units required)		
MSCJT1	Thesis Research Workshop	3
MSCJT2	Thesis Writing and Report	3

Summary of Required Units to Complete the Degree

Foundation Courses	9 units	
Specialization Courses	21 units	Total: 42 units
Cognate Courses	6 units	
Thesis Requirements	6 units	

Accreditation

CHED memorandum order 47, s 2006 requires the undergraduate program of Criminology shall be accredited level II status. The BS Criminology program of the University is already reaccredited level II by Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities of the Philippines with the duration of validity from September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2018.

Physical Plant and Facilities

There are adequate facilities and own building for the proposed program offering. The university has a campus conducive for learning environment.

In summary, the curriculum is aligned with the standards of CHED Memorandum Order No. 47 s 2006. Second, there are enough faculty members to handle the different subjects. All subjects will be handled by full-time faculty members in the unit. Third, there are adequate library materials and physical facilities that will promote scholarly researches. Fourth, the program has a well-defined policy on admission, retention policy and there are adequate building and facilities. In fine, the offering is feasible from the technical aspect point of view.

Financial Aspect

This section presents the result of the financial analysis of the proposed offering. The analysis aims to determine the financial viability of the project under a given assumptions.

Expenses

The university will not hire additional faculty members since there are enough faculty members to meet the requirements of CHED. Likewise, there is no need for another building or class rooms to house the program. The existing building of the college will be used. There is no need to purchase additional LCDs and laptops. However, there is a need to purchase additional books.

Revenues

The revenues that will accrue to the University will be from tuition fees to be paid by the students.

Table 5
Assumptions for the Financial Analysis with respect to expenses

Items	Amount per annum	Remarks
Expenses		
Salaries		2 sections X 9 units = 18 hours/week x 18 weeks = 324 hours x 139/hour
	90,072.00	In 1 year
	90,072.00	In 2 years
	180,144.00	In 3 years (2 sections)
	180,144.00	In 4 years (2 sections)
Supplies	5,000.00 / annum	In year 1; increase of 3,000 per year
Library and Facilities	9,000.00 / annum	In year 1; increase of 4,500 per year
Utilities	5,000.00 / annum	In year 1; increase of 500 per month

Table 6
Assumptions for the financial analysis with respect to revenues

School Year	Projected No. of enrollees	Fees	Projected Revenues
2016-2017	30	₱ 4,810.00	₱ 144,300.00
2017-2018	40	₱ 4,810.00	₱ 192,400.00
2018-2019	55	₱ 4,810.00	₱ 264,550.00
2019-2020	65	₱ 4,810.00	₱ 312,650.00
Total			₱ 913,900.00

Assumptions:

Fees per semester = 2,405.00 (*Source*: UNP Accounting Office)

Tuition fee (9 units @ 120 per unit)	1,080.00
Miscellaneous Fee	635.00
Journal/Vision Fee	150.00
Mutual Aid Fund	40.00
Student Development Fee	300.00
Quality Assurance Fee	<u>200.00</u>
2,405.00	
Number of semester	<u>X 2</u>
Total fees	4,810.00

No increase for the first four years

Projected enrollees per Academic year (very conservative estimate)

SY 2016-2017 – 30 students at two sections

SY 2017-2018 – 40 students

SY 2018-2019 – 55 students

SY 2019-2020 – 65 students

Economic Aspect

The economic feasibility of the proposed curricular offering is evaluated by calculating whether the value of the resources to be created by investment is greater than the resources to be consumed.

Table 7 shows the income statement. At the end of year 4, the retained earnings for the University will amount to ₱166,810.00 with the benefit ratio of 1.28. In short, the proposed offering is very feasible from the financial aspect point of view.

Like in the financial analysis, the only economic viability indicator is the economic benefit cost ratio. The EBCR is 1.28

Table 7
Income statement

Particulars	YEAR			
	1	2	3	4
Revenues				
Fees	144,300.00	192,400.00	264,550.00	312,650.00
Expenses				
Salaries	90,072.00	90,072.00	180,144.00	180,144.00
Supplies	5,000.00	8,000.00	11,000.00	14,000.00
Library and Equipment	9,000.00	13,500.00	18,000.00	22,500.00
Maintenance	2,250.00	3,375.00	4,500.00	5,625.00
Utilities	5,000.00	11,000.00	17,000.00	23,000.00
Total	111,322.00	125,949.00	230,644.00	245,269.00
Net Savings	32,978.00	66,451.00	33,906.00	67,381.00
Retained Savings	-	32,978.00	99,429.00	133,335.00
Net Income (current)	32,978.00	66,451.00	33,906.00	167,381.00
Retained Savings	0	99,429.00	133,335.00	200,716.00

Economic Costs

In the analysis, the resources to be used are:

- Books and Instructional Materials
- Equipment and Facilities

Economic Benefits

On the other hand, the benefits to be delivered are the following:

- Salaries of the professors
- Employment and promotion in government and private agencies
- Tax to Government

While salaries of the instructors are used as cost in the financial analysis, they are used in the economic analysis. It is assumed that 60 percent of the salaries rebound to the economy in the form of different taxes. On the 4th year, it is assumed that 90% of the graduates will be promoted after waiting time of 2 months. Tax to the government is another economic benefit of the offering. It is assumed that 10% of the salaries of the instructors as well as those of the graduates will be withheld in favor of the government as income taxes.

Table 8
Economic cost

Item	Amount	Remarks
Costs		
Library and Equipment	9,000.00	
Supplies	5,000.00	
Maintenance	2,250.00	
Utilities	5,000.00	In year 1
Benefits		
Salaries		
a. Instructors		60% as shadow wage
b. Graduates	4,050,000.00	Year 4 graduates promoted after 2 months. Salaries increased of 5,000.00 per month
Tax		
a. Instructors	3,240.00	Year 1; 10% of the salary
b. Graduates	405,000.00	Year 4; 10% of salary

Result of Economic Analysis

Table 9
Result of economic analysis

Particulars	YEAR			
	1	2	3	4
Costs	21,250.00	35,875.00	50,500.00	65,125.00
Benefits				
Salaries (instructors)	90,072.00	90,072.00	180,144.00	180,144.00
Salaries (graduates)			4,050,000.00	5,400,000.00
Tax (instructors)	9,007.00	9,007.00	18,014.00	18,014.00
Tax (graduates)			405,000.00	540,000.00
Total	99,079.00	99,079.00	4,653,158.00	6,138,158.00
Net Benefits	77,829.00	63,204.00	4,602,658.00	6,073,033
Retained benefits	0	77,829.00	141,033.00	4,743,691.00
Current benefits	77,829.00	63,204.00	4,602,658.00	6,073,033
Total retained benefits	77,829.00	141,033.00	4,743,691.00	10,816,724.00

EBCR= 15,779,277.00/172,750.00 = 91.34%

Table 9 presents the result of economic analysis. On the 4th year, the proposed offering will realize retained benefits of P10,816,724.00. The economic benefit cost ratio is computed at a very high 91.34

Unquantifiable benefits

It must be noted that there are also benefits that can hardly be quantified or assigned monetary values such as:

- Decreases in the mismatch between manpower demand and supply;
- Revitalizing curricular offering in the light of vertical articulation;
- and
- Higher level of service among the Criminal Justice practitioners

The proposed offering of Master of Science in Criminal Justice with the Specialization in Criminology will be made more relevant in the implementation of vertical articulation.

Management Aspect

Management

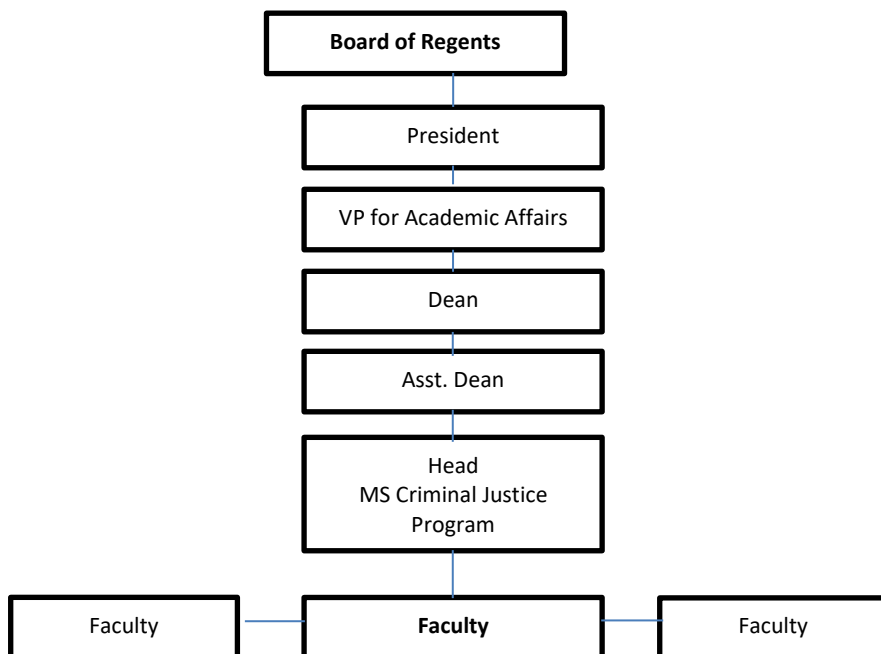
The Master of Science in Criminal Justice program will be headed by the program head who will report immediately to the dean of College of Criminal Justice Education. The dean in turn will report to the vice president for Academic Affairs who in turn will report to the University President. This structure will be keeping the thrust of vertical articulation. Hence, it is feasible.

The dean and program head shall possess at least a Doctorate degree in Criminology/Criminal Justice with published researches. He shall at least occupying a permanent status.

The general functions and responsibilities of the program head are:

- To exercise academic leadership among the faculty members;
- To adopt curricular programs on the current trends and developments in education and to practice of profession;
- To promote scholarly research and extension activities;
- To maintain linkages with relevant law enforcement agencies and academic institutions.

Proposed Organizational Structure



CONCLUSION

The offering is very much feasible from the five aspects of feasibility study, to wit: market, technical, financial, economic and management.

RECOMMENDATION

The researchers strongly recommend the approval of the UNP Board of Regents to offer the Master of Science in Criminal Justice with specialization in Criminology for the School Year 2016-2017.

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