**TO:** A&S Dean, GC Graduate Counsel, CAPC, GC University Senate, Academic Affairs/Provost, GC President, and USG BOR.

**RE:** Proposal for existing program (MSCJ) to change from in-person to online delivery only.

**DATE:** January 20, 2016

**FROM:** Sara Buck Doude, Ph.D., Coordinator of Criminal Justice Programs

Stephanie McClure, Ph.D., Interim Chairperson of the Government & Sociology Department

**(1) Program background:** The MSCJ program was developed and first offered during the 2005-2006 academic year. The program has gone through many changes in curriculum by aligning it with the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences standards for Criminal Justice Master’s programs. By aligning the program with national standards, the program has increased rigor and become more reputable.

**(2) Reason(s) for transition:**

The MSCJ program has been growing since its inception (2005) but has recently seen a decline in students. In Fall 2010 and 2011, the program had 17 students. In Fall 2012, the total number of students increased to 21. Since Fall 2012, the program has declined in number of students to 15 in Fall 2014.

In order to effectively offer this program, the faculty have proposed the conversion to online to better serve potential students in their careers seeking promotion or potential students starting their careers.

**(3) Unique program features:**

Georgia College finds itself in a unique position to offer a dynamic and easily-sustainable graduate degree in criminal justice as there are so many federal, state and local agencies within Middle Georgia. The MSCJ at Georgia College serves to educate professionals in five major areas of the CJ system: prisons & jails, police agencies, courts, juvenile justice, and probation and parole. We are therefore able to serve 11 counties, four judicial circuits, dozens of federal and state-wide police, dozens of state administrative and corrections agencies, and more than 30 local police departments with 75 miles of our campus.

Currently there is a trend in the field towards professionalism and re-training, hence many institutions are encouraging practitioners who have been working in the field for years to go back to school and get their masters degrees. Data confirms (Table 303 of United States Census) that there has been a steady increase in graduate criminal justice degrees since 1980 (and the trend continues). There is an increase for demand of criminal justice graduates *both with bachelors and master’s degrees* according to the Bureau of Labor. BLS occupational projection data in fields where criminal justice graduates become (or are) employed include: social services (projected job growth rate 25%), court clerks and court support staff (14%-45% job growth rate), police detectives and investigators (21% projected job growth rate) and probation/ correctional officer (18% job growth rate). Students earning their Masters of Science in Criminal Justice learn the advanced skills and expertise for the aforementioned jobs. The program also serves to educate would be professional in the criminal justice related fields and related areas as well as those wanting to continue their graduate education careers.

**(4) Listing of courses/ current status as online:**

The MSCJ faculty completed the online approval process during the fall 2015 semester with a proposed completion date of Oct. 15, 2015 and a firm deadline of Dec. 1, 2015. Many faculty met this deadline. Most faculty converted two courses they teach to an online format. The initials of the faculty member are designated with the online course creation. As of Jan. 20, 2016, the following courses have been approved for online delivery. As MSCJ enrollment increases, other electives will be converted to online format.

 **The MSCJ Curriculum**

**Required Courses (24 Semester Hours)**

Approved for online CRJU 6100 The Criminal Justice System (SBD)

Approved for online CRJU 6200 Police in Society (CC)

Approved for online CRJU 6300 Seminar in Corrections (CU)

Approved for online CRJU 6400 Criminological Theory (CU)

Approved for online CRJU 6500 Legal Issues in Criminal Justice (JH)

Approved for online CRJU 6515 Criminal Justice Ethics (AL)

Approved for online CRJU 6605 Criminal Justice Research Design (CC)

Approved for online CRJU 6610 Criminal Justice Statistics (JSS)

Approved for online CRJU 6700 Comprehensive Exam (SBD)

**Electives (12 Semester Hours) Select from following:**

Approved for online CRJU 6120 Current Issues in Criminal Justice (AL)

Approved for online CRJU 6140 Organization Theory and Management of Criminal Justice Systems (JH)

 CRJU 6160 History of Criminal Justice and Crime Control Policy

 CRJU 6180 Comparative Criminal Justice Systems

 CRJU 6340 Correctional Counseling and Treatment

Approved for online CRJU 6405 Victimology (Preq. CRJU 6400) (SBD)

 CRJU 6410 Critical Criminology (Radical Theorists) (3 hours) (Preq.
 CRJU 6400)

Approved for online CRJU 6420 Criminal Behaviors (Preq. CRJU 6400) (JSS)

 CRJU 6460 International Terrorism (CRJU 6180 recommended)

 CRJU 6940 Independent Study (Var. 1-3)

 CRJU 6950 Special Topics (3 hours)

With graduate coordinators approval, students may substitute current CRJU 5000
level courses for any of the above electives, OR substitute up to 6 hours of the
following towards the electives: PUAD/POLS 5401, POLS 5531, PUAD 6538, 6558,6578, 6625

**(5) Changes in admission requirements:**

The CRJU faculty has approved new admission requirements with the following justifications:

1. Research completed by Dr. Kim of the MPA program shows that GRE/GMAT scores do not predict a student's success in a master's program.

2. By eliminating the GRE/GMAT scores, students are not burdened by the cost of those test.

3. Students would not have to get letters of recommendation, which is time consuming for all parties.

4. The proposed admission requirements are much clearer than our current requirements.

**Proposed Admissions Policy (to go into effect Fall 2016):**

**Admission Requirements**

**All Applicants**

* Must have completed requirements for a Bachelor’s degree from a college accredited by the proper regional accrediting association.
* Submit a current resume detailing relevant work experience.

**Regular Admission**

* A minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale in undergraduate work.
* Applicants with an undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 are not required to submit exam scores.
* Applicants with an undergraduate GPA 2.75 - 2.99 must submit official scores on either the Graduate Record Exam (GRE), Miller Analogies Test (MAT) or Graduate Management Aptitude Test (GMAT) scores. Scores must be within the last five years.

The applicant must have:

* + GRE: A combined score of 290 (verbal and quantitative) or
	+ GMAT: 450 or
	+ MAT: 395
* Applicants may make a formal request to waive these requirement only when the applicant has completed another accredited graduate degree program and an appropriate transcript is submitted in support of the request.

**Provisional Admission**

* Provisional admission may be granted to applicants with at least a 2.75 GPA who have scored:
	+ GRE: 280-289 or
	+ GMAT: 400-449 or
	+ MAT: 380-394
* Provisional admission will be considered for applicants who do not meet the academic requirements if strong evidence of ability to perform well in graduate work is provided through reference to work experience or other means.
* Provisional status may be granted for a maximum of one academic year. All students admitted under provisional status must maintain a 3.00 or higher GPA during the probationary period. At the completion of the provisional period of time, a decision will be made as to accepting the student as a regular admission. To gain regular admission, a provisionally admitted student must take in that status the equivalent of a semester’s full load (**9 to 12 hours**) of MSCJ courses and maintain a 3.00 GPA in all graduate coursework).