Correctional Programmes at Charles Sturt University in 2009

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History
Charles Sturt University (CSU) has been teaching courses relevant to the Corrections industry since 1998. The initial request that CSU become involved in Correctional programmes started with the NSW Corrective Services Academy, as it sought to articulate its vocational programmes to degree programmes in a non-exclusive relationship with Universities. Charles Sturt University considered that the Correctional Industry fitted well within its course profiles that included criminology from the Bathurst campus, human services from the Wagga Wagga campus and Policing from the Goulburn campus. To this was subsequently added the Australian Research Council Commonwealth Special Research Centre in Applied Philosophy and Professional Ethics based in Canberra and that has a Correctional and Policing focus.

CSU was able to secure the services of Professor David Biles – former Deputy Director of the Australian Institute of Criminology, Co-ordinator of the Asia Pacific Conference of Correctional Administrators and the former Head of Research for the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody – to head the Correctional programmes at the University.

Since its establishment as a University in 1989, CSU has become Australia's leading provider of flexible delivery education. It has built on this strength to make its courses available throughout Australia and throughout the world. Most flexible delivery education students undertake their study at CSU on a part-time basis while continuing in full employment.

The University is committed to consultation and collaboration with industry and the professions in the development and monitoring of its courses. The Corrections programmes have established a Board of Studies comprising very senior industry representatives from different States and Territories of Australia. This is designed to ensure that graduates bring a desirable combination of theory and practice into the workplace. CSU recognises that correctional services are a rapidly developing and changing industry that varies around the world. Correctional managers have increasingly complex issues including HIV/AIDS management, overcrowding, older prisoners, indigenous over-representation, privatisation, changing community expectations, increasing accountability, philosophical and ethical dilemmas, increasing focus upon evidence-based practice, electronic, technological, social and environmental changes. Education programmes in volatile or changing environments need to be consistently appraised and developed while avoiding the possibility of following a particular or short-term direction.

Current Programmes
The Correctional programmes at CSU have more latterly been the Graduate Certificate in Correctional Management and the Master of Correctional Management. Comments from students of these programmes have been very positive. In 2008, the University undertook some minor reviews of the programmes in Correctional Management with a major review due in 2009 for 2010. We would be very interested in any feedback on our current programmes and/or on the issues relevant to the present and future of corrections in Australia and the Asia Pacific.

For 2009, Charles Sturt University will be offering a Graduate Certificate in Correctional Management of four subjects and a Masters of Social Science (Criminology) with a corrections strand. All subjects in the courses can be undertaken by flexible study and many are designed for practising correctional officers in custodial, non-custodial and policy/programmes and research areas. Each subject is normally one semester in length and require about 10-12 hours per week for thirteen weeks. The Graduate Certificate has a subject (COM430) that has been specifically designed for correctional staff members that have no prior tertiary study.

Graduate Certificate in Correctional Management
The aims of the course are:
- to provide an introduction to tertiary level study for experienced practitioners in the field of corrections;
- to enhance experienced practitioners understanding of their practice; and
- to provide an entry level qualification for further postgraduate study in correctional management.
To graduate, students must satisfactorily complete four subjects (32 points). While study can be undertaken at one subject per semester, the suggested enrolment is:

Session 1
- COM430 Graduate Study Skills
- JST433 Principles of Correctional Management

Session 2
Two subjects (in consultation with the course co-ordinator) from:
- JST430 Introduction to Corrections in Australasia
- JST515 Correctional Policy in Australasia
- JST444 Deviance and Control
- JST431 Psycho Social Aspects of Correctional Management
- JST477 Community Corrections
- JST509 Prisons: Institutions and Experience
- ACC501 Business Accounting and Finance
- HRM545 Skills of Conflict Resolution
- LAW517 Mediation: Processes and Uses
- PHL409 Theories of Justice

Masters of Social Science (Criminology)
This will only be available to students who have an existing undergraduate degree with the appropriate pre-requisites or persons that hold a current Graduate Certificate in Correctional Management or a Graduate Certificate in Criminology. The course comprises two eight credit point and one sixteen credit point core subjects and 32 points in a specific study area. The course structure and enrolment pattern is:

Session 1
- JST520 Theories of Crime and Deviance [ ] Minor subject

Session 2
- JST517 Violence and Society: Interpersonal to International Perspectives [ ] Minor subject

Session 3
- JST522 Selected Issues in Criminological Practice: Reading Subject (16 points commenced) [ ] Minor subject

Session 4
- JST522 Selected Issues in Criminological Practice: Reading Subject (completed) [ ] Minor subject

Minors
Corrections
- JST431 Psycho-Social Aspects of Correctional Management
- JST433 Principles of Correctional Management
- JST515 Correctional Policy and Practice in Asia and the Pacific
- JST509 Prison, Institution and Experience

Juvenile Justice
- JST532 Juvenile Justice 1- Context
- JST533 Juvenile Justice 2- Practice
- JST534 Restorative Justice- Community Conferencing
- JST535 Crime Prevention and Young People

Refugee Studies
- JST512 Refugees, Governance and Asylum Policy (16 points)
- JST526 Refugee Testimony and Narration
- JST527 Refugee Settlement

Charles Sturt University has had articulation arrangements with the NSW Department of Corrective Services Corrective Services Academy to previous academic programmes. The credit arrangement to the Graduate Certificate of Correctional Management of one elective subject in that course remains available for those staff who have completed the Diploma in Correctional Administration or the Advanced Diploma in Correctional Management. Those staff who are accessing the Masters programme will need to discuss any credit arrangements with the Course Co-ordinator of the Masters of Social Science (Criminology) directly.

Further information is available at:
http://www.csu.edu.au/courses/postgraduate/correctional_management_gc/course_struct.html and at our “showcase website” at
http://www.csu.edu.au/study/arts-courses/correctional-management/

In the first instance, staff may wish to direct their enquiries to either our Contact Centre on 1800 334 733 or the Course Co-ordinator for the Graduate Certificate of Correctional Management
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