Southern New Hampshire University

CJ 520 Final Project Guidelines and Rubric

Overview

For your final project, you will develop a basic departmental policy recommendation to address a public need. You will analyze historical data and relevant state or federal policies, apply relevant criminological theories, and evaluate the potential impact of the departmental policy on the general public.

Public policy can be defined as the decisions, actions, laws, and positions of both the state and federal government. A public policy issue is at the center of public policy, and the state and federal government react to the issue and make decisions such as creating laws and regulations to help address the public policy issue. Public policies also provide guidance and direction to public safety organizations and are the principles that guide the actions of the personnel. The term public policy is not normally used to denote what is actually done. Departmental policies are the procedures or protocols that are created to address this public policy issue, and these departmental policies are what will be scrutinized in a highly publicized incident. Therefore, it is vital that departmental policies are developed and updated to be consistent with public policy, to address issues within public policy, and to best serve the interests of the department and the community. To do so effectively, criminological theories are applied to address specific motives and underlying factors influencing the issue at hand. These theories assist in developing departmental policies that can stand the test of time, not conflict with public policy, and remain flexible enough to adapt to societal changes.

The project is divided into **three milestones**, which will be submitted at various points throughout the course to scaffold learning and ensure quality final submissions. These milestones will be submitted in **Modules Three, Five, and Seven.** The final product will be submitted in **Module Nine.**

This assessment addresses the following course outcomes:

- Analyze criminological theories for their influence on the development of departmental and public policies
- Assess the extent to which public policies address the needs of the public and criminal justice system by applying criminological theories
- Evaluate the potential impact of policy recommendations on communities and the criminal justice system for informing appropriate policy development and implementation
- Analyze trends impacting the evolution of public policies for drawing informed conclusions on future policy development
- Propose policy recommendations for improving the delivery of criminal justice services

Prompt

For this project, you will play the part of an individual recently promoted in a criminal justice organization. Your new supervisor recognizes that you are an up-and-coming asset for the department and acknowledges that your advanced degree gives you an edge over some of the other employees in a project that needs to be completed as soon as possible. Your supervisor tells you that after some highly publicized news events, many departmental policies have been found to be outdated and insufficient in unspecified areas in relation to issues within public policy. The departmental policies need to be revised to include justification for the policies, as well as relevant theory to support the operations. Your supervisor has provided a list of public policy issues, and you will select one public policy issue as well as a related departmental policy that attempts to address the issue. You will be tasked with analyzing the public policy issue and developing

recommendations to improve the corresponding departmental policy to better address the specific issue. To develop an informed departmental policy recommendation, you will also analyze relevant criminological theories and relevant public policies.

Specifically, the following **critical elements** must be addressed:

I. **Introduction:** Describe your selected public policy issue, corresponding departmental policy, and explain the connection between the public policy issue and specific departmental policy.

II. **Historical Analysis**: To inform your recommendations for the departmental public policy, you will analyze the history of the selected public policy issue, identifying key influential trends, and predict the potential future direction of the state or federal policies in supporting this issue. Specifically:
   a) Identify key **trends,** both modern and historical, that have shaped the evolution of the state or federal public policies surrounding your selected public policy issue, justifying your identifications. How have the policies around this issue evolved, and what trends have influenced this evolution?
   b) Identify **court cases** that have shaped the evolution of the public policies related to your chosen public policy issue, justifying your identifications.
   c) How have the previously identified historical events impacted the **public's perception** of the relevant state or federal public policies? Provide specific examples. How has public perception evolved in relation to these specified events?
   d) Predict the potential **future direction** of the state or federal public policies based on the previously identified historical and modern trends. How might the state or federal public policy continue to evolve?

III. **Criminological Theory:** Now that you have analyzed the related state or federal public policies, you will analyze relevant criminological theory.
   a) **Select** a criminological **theory** that best explains the development of the public policies related to the issue, justifying your selection. Consider how the theory explains the previously identified influence of the trends or court cases on the development of the policies.
   b) Draw connections between the selected criminological **theory and** the **departmental policy**. Where are there specific connections between the theory and the departmental policy?
   c) Draw **connections** between the selected criminological theory and the related **state or federal public policies**. Where are there specific connections between the theory and the selected state or federal policies?

IV. **Needs**: Now that you have analyzed the relevant state or federal policies and selected a related criminological theory, you will focus your analysis on your selected departmental policy. In relation to the departmental policy, you will identify the needs of the public and the relevant branch of the criminal justice system, and assess the extent to which the policy currently addresses these needs. Specifically:
   a) **Identify** specific **needs** of the public and the relevant branch of the criminal justice system at the center of the departmental policy, justifying your identifications.
   b) To what extent does the departmental policy **address** these specific **needs**?

V. **Policy Recommendations**: In this section, you will provide specific recommendations to the existing departmental public policy to improve the delivery of criminal justice services, justifying your recommendations, and examining the impact of the recommendations on the public and specific branch of the criminal justice system. Be sure to:

a) Outline the specific aspects of the departmental **policy** you are **targeting** for your recommendations, justifying your selections. What specific aspects of the departmental policy need improving and why?

b) What specific **recommendations** do you have to improve the existing departmental policy?

c) Justify how the recommendations will **improve** the **delivery** of criminal justice services. Provide specific examples.

d) How does criminological theory support your recommendations? How do the recommendations support the public's needs? Consider how theory justifies the **appropriateness** of the recommendations for the departmental policy.

e) What are the **potential impacts** of the departmental policy recommendations on the public and the relevant branch of the criminal justice system? Provide specific examples. If the potential impacts are negative, how might you alter your recommendations?

f) How does your assessment of the potential impacts **inform** your departmental policy **implementation**? For example, how can you capitalize on positive reactions in the implementation of the departmental policy? How might you create buy-in where there is possible conflict?

Milestones

Milestone One: *Departmental Policy and Issue Selection and Introduction*
In **Module Three**, you will submit a 1–2-page document introducing the public policy issue that your departmental policy will seek to address. First, review the document A List of Public Policy Issues and select an issue. Next, review the document Examples of Departmental Policies and select a departmental policy that you plan to make improvement recommendations for to address this issue. Discuss related public policies (decisions, actions, laws, and/or positions) of both the state and federal government on the issue that you seek to address with your departmental policy. Describe your selected policy issue, the related state or federal positions or actions on the issue, and explain the connection between the departmental policy and state or federal guidance on the issue. **This milestone is graded with the Milestone One Rubric.**

Milestone Two: *Historical Analysis and Analysis of Relevant Criminological Theories*
In **Module Five**, you will submit the 2–3-page draft of your historical analysis as well as your analysis of criminological theories relevant to your public policy issue selection. You will analyze the history of the public policies (related decisions, actions, laws, and/or positions of both the state and federal government) related to your selected public policy issue. This draft should be as detailed as possible in order to allow the instructor to provide significant feedback. **This milestone is graded with the Milestone Two Rubric.**

Milestone Three: *Public Needs and Policy Recommendations*
In **Module Seven**, you will submit the 2–3-page public needs and policy recommendations sections of your final project. This milestone is really about *drilling down* more deeply into the "drivers" behind your recommendations to the selected departmental policy. As you write these sections, you will identify what public needs are targeted by this policy and determine how well the policy addresses these needs. You will also need to examine how this policy can be changed or improved upon to continue to address the identified need and how these changes can be accomplished while at the same time improving upon the delivery of necessary criminal justice services. Ensure that you support your recommendations with relevant criminological theory. The draft should also incorporate the research you have performed up to this point as set forward in Milestones One and Two. **This milestone is graded with the Milestone Three Rubric.**

<u>Final Submission</u>: *Policy Recommendation Report*

In **Module Nine**, you will submit your **policy recommendation report**. It should be a complete, polished artifact containing **all** of the critical elements of the final product. It should reflect the incorporation of feedback gained throughout the course. **This final submission will be graded using the Final Project Rubric.**

Deliverables

Milestone	Deliverable	Module Due	Grading
One	Departmental Policy and Issue Selection and Introduction	Three	Graded separately; Milestone One Rubric
Two	Historical Analysis and Analysis of Relevant Criminological Theories	Five	Graded separately; Milestone Two Rubric
Three	Public Needs and Policy Recommendations	Seven	Graded separately; Milestone Three Rubric
	Final Submission: Policy Recommendation Report	Nine	Graded separately; Final Project Rubric

Final Project Rubric

Guidelines for Submission: Your policy recommendation report must be 6–8 pages in length and adhere to standard formatting (double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, one-inch margins) and citations must be in APA style.

Most of the critical elements align with a particular course outcome (shown in brackets).

Critical Elements	Exemplary (100%)	Proficient (90%)	Needs Improvement (70%)	Not Evident (0%)	Value
Introduction	Meets "Proficient" criteria and demonstrates keen insight into the connection between public policy issues and departmental policies	Describes the selected public policy issue, corresponding departmental policy, and explains the connection between the public policy issue and departmental policy	Describes the selected public policy issue, corresponding departmental policy, but does not sufficiently explain the connection between the public policy issue and departmental policy	Does not describe the selected public policy issue and corresponding departmental policy, and does not explain the connection between the public policy issue and departmental policy	5

Criterion	Exemplary	Proficient	Needs Improvement	Not Evident	Value
Historical Analysis: Trends [CJ-520-04]	Meets "Proficient" criteria and demonstrates keen insight into how trends have shaped the evolution of state or federal public policies surrounding the selected public policy issue	Identifies key trends, both historical and modern, that have shaped the evolution of the state or federal public policies surrounding the selected public policy issue, justifying identifications	Identifies key trends that have shaped the evolution of the state or federal public policies surrounding the selected public policy issue, justifying identifications, but with gaps in detail or accuracy or does not identify historical and modern trends	Does not identify key trends that have shaped the evolution of the state or federal public policies surrounding the selected public policy issue, justifying identifications	6
Historical Analysis: Court Cases [CJ-520-04]	Meets "Proficient" criteria and demonstrates keen insight into how court cases have shaped the evolution of the public policies related to the chosen public policy issue	Identifies court cases that have shaped the evolution of the public policies related to the chosen public policy issue, justifying identifications	Identifies court cases that have shaped the evolution of the public policies related to the chosen public policy issue, justifying identifications, but with gaps in detail, accuracy, or logic	Does not identify court cases that have shaped the evolution of the public policies related to the chosen public policy issue, justifying identifications	6
Historical Analysis: Public Perception [CJ-520-03]	Meets "Proficient" criteria and demonstrates keen insight into the impact of historical events on public perception of the relevant state or federal public policies	Analyzes how the identified historical events impacted the public's perception of the relevant state or federal public policies, providing specific examples	Analyzes how the identified historical events impacted the public's perception of the relevant state or federal public policies, but with gaps in support, detail, or accuracy	Does not analyze how the identified historical events impacted the public's perception of the relevant state or federal public policies	6
Historical Analysis: Future Direction [CJ-520-04]	Meets "Proficient" criteria and demonstrates keen insight into drawing informed conclusions on future policy development	Predicts the potential future direction of the state or federal public policies based on previously identified historical and modern trends	Predicts the potential future direction of the state or federal public policies based on the previously identified historical and modern trends, but with gaps in detail or logic	Does not predict the potential future direction of the state or federal public policies based on the previously identified historical and modern trends	6
Criminological Theory: Select Theory [CJ-520-01]	Meets "Proficient" criteria and demonstrates keen insight into the appropriate selection of criminological theory that explains the development of public policies	Selects criminological theory that best explains the development of the public policies related to the issue, justifying selection	Selects criminological theory that best explains the development of the public policies related to the issue, justifying selection, but with gaps in detail, accuracy, or logic	Does not select criminological theory that best explains the development of the public policies related to the issue, justifying selection	6
Criminological Theory: Theory and Departmental Policy [CJ-520-01]	Meets "Proficient" criteria and demonstrates keen insight into the connections between criminological theory and public policies	Draws connections between the selected criminological theory and the departmental policy	Draws connections between the selected criminological theory and the departmental policy, but with gaps in detail or accuracy	Does not draw connections between the selected criminological theory and the departmental policy	6

	Meets "Proficient" criteria and demonstrates keen insight	Proficient	Needs Improvement	Not Evident	
Criminological Theory: Draw Connections to State or Federal Public Policies [CJ-520-01]	Meets "Proficient" criteria and demonstrates keen insight into the connections between criminological theory and public policies	Draws connections between the selected criminological theory and the related state or federal public policies	Draws connections between the selected criminological theory and the related state or federal public policies, but with gaps in detail or accuracy	Does not draw connections between the selected criminological theory and the related state or federal public policies	6
Needs: Identify Needs [CJ-520-02]	Meets "Proficient" criteria and demonstrates keen insight into the application of criminological theory to identify needs of the public and criminal justice system	Identifies specific needs of the public and the relevant branch of the criminal justice system at the center of the departmental policy, justifying identifications with selected criminological theory	Identifies needs of the public and the relevant branch of the criminal justice system at the center of the departmental policy, justifying identifications with selected criminological theory, but with gaps in logic, specificity of needs, or justification	Does not identify needs of the public and the relevant branch of the criminal justice system at the center of the departmental policy, justifying identifications with selected criminological theory	6
Needs: Address Needs [CJ-520-02]	Meets "Proficient" criteria and demonstrates keen insight into the assessment of policies to address needs and application of criminological theory	Assesses the extent to which the departmental policy addresses the needs, justifying assessment with criminological theory	Assesses the extent to which the departmental policy addresses the needs, justifying assessment with criminological theory, but with gaps in detail, logic, or application of theory	Does not assess the extent to which the departmental policy addresses the needs, justifying assessment with criminological theory	6
Policy Recommendations: Policy Targeted [CJ-520-05]	Meets "Proficient" criteria and demonstrates keen insight into identifying specific aspects of public policies that need improvement	Outlines the specific aspects of the departmental policy that will be targeted, justifying selections	Outlines the aspects of the departmental policy that will be targeted, justifying selections, but with gaps in detail, logic, or specificity	Does not outline the aspects of the departmental policy that will be targeted, justifying selections	6
Policy Recommendations: Recommendations [CJ-520-05]	Meets "Proficient" criteria and recommendations to improve existing policy are particularly insightful	Proposes specific recommendations to improve the existing departmental policy	Proposes recommendations to improve the existing departmental policy, but with gaps in detail, logic, or specificity	Does not propose recommendations to improve the existing departmental policy	6
Policy Recommendations: Improve Delivery [CJ-520-05]	Meets "Proficient" criteria and demonstrates keen insight into how the recommendations will improve the delivery of criminal justice services	Justifies how the recommendations will improve the delivery of criminal justice services, providing specific examples	Justifies how the recommendations will improve the delivery of criminal justice services, providing specific examples, but with gaps in detail, logic, or support	Does not justify how the recommendations will improve the delivery of criminal justice services, providing specific examples	6

Policy Recommendations: Appropriateness [CJ-520-02]	Meets "Proficient" criteria and demonstrates keen insight into the extent to which theory supports the recommendations for meeting the needs of the public	Justifies the appropriateness of recommendations in meeting the public's needs, using criminological theory	Justifies the appropriateness of recommendations in meeting the public's needs, using criminological theory, but with gaps in detail, logic, or application of theory	Does not justify the appropriateness of the recommendation in meeting the public's needs, using criminological theory	6
Policy Recommendations: Potential Impacts [CJ-520-03]	Meets "Proficient" criteria and demonstrates keen insight into evaluating the potential impact of policy recommendations on the public and the criminal justice system	Evaluates the potential impacts of the departmental policy recommendations on the public and relevant branch of the criminal justice system, providing specific examples, and explains how recommendations may be altered based on evaluation	Evaluates the potential impacts of the departmental policy recommendations on the public and relevant branch of the criminal justice system, and explains how recommendations may be altered based on evaluation, but with gaps in detail, logic, or support	Does not evaluate the potential impacts of the departmental policy recommendations on the public and relevant branch of the criminal justice system, providing specific examples	6
Policy Recommendations: Inform Implementation [CJ-520-03]	Meets "Proficient" criteria and demonstrates keen insight into implementation strategies based on assessment of potential impacts of the policy	Draws informed conclusions on implementation strategies based on assessment of potential impacts of the departmental policy	Draws conclusions on implementation strategies, but conclusions have gaps in detail or logic	Does not draw conclusions on implementation strategies, based on assessment of potential impacts to the policy	6
Articulation of Response	Submission is free of errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, and organization and is presented in a professional and easy-to-read format	Submission has no major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization	Submission has major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that negatively impact readability and articulation of main ideas	Submission has critical errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that prevent understanding of ideas	5
				Total	100%