



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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Proposal for a New Degree Program

I. Information and Rationale

A. Primary Contact Information

Institution: Troy University
Contact: Mary Anne Templeton
Title: Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School
Email: mtempleton@troy.edu
Telephone: (334) 268-8811

B. Program Information

Date of Proposal Submission: 12/1/2023
Award Level: Doc Research (IPEDS 17)
Award Nomenclature (e.g., BS, MBA): PhD
Field of Study/Program Title: Criminology
CIP Code (6-digit):45.0401

C. Implementation Information

Proposed Program Implementation Date: 8/1/2025
Anticipated Date of Approval from Institutional Governing Board: 2/22/2024
Anticipated Date of ACHE Meeting to Vote on Proposal: 6/14/2024
SACSCOC Sub Change Requirement (Notification, Approval, or NA): Approval
Other Considerations for Timing and Approval (e.g., upcoming SACSCOC review):

D. Specific Rationale (Strengths) for the Program

List 3 – 5 strengths of the proposed program as specific rationale for recommending approval of this proposal.

1. No such degree currently offered in the state. However, there are several master's level programs in the state which graduate approximately 200 students per year. Having a doctoral program in the state would allow these students to further their education.
2. Growing field with the need for higher level expertise
3. An opportunity to develop and expand research in the field



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List external entities (more may be added) that may have supplied letters of support attesting to the program’s strengths and attach letters with the proposal at the end of this document.

1. Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles
2. Alabama Appleseed Center for Law and Justice

II. Background with Context

A. Concise Program Description

The PhD in Criminology is designed for students who wish to work in government agencies (Dept of Justice, State correctional agencies), nonprofits/community agencies, or those who want to teach in higher education. Graduates from the program will have the necessary skills to conduct research in the area of criminology that may contribute to positive change in the field. The program will be 60 semester hours and will require an original research component.

B. Student Learning Outcomes

- 1) Students will be able to apply critical knowledge about criminology and crime prevention perspectives to real-world events.
- 2) Students will demonstrate core strategies and skills to teach in higher institutions.
- 3) Students will demonstrate the ability to conduct original research and apply statistical knowledge.
- 4) Students will critically analyze the implications of empirical research outcomes in criminology and communicate these findings to shape criminal justice policies and practices.
- 5) Students will develop a comprehensive understanding of the effectiveness of criminal control and apply that understanding to policies and practices.
- 6) Students will effectively communicate complex ideas in writing and verbally

C. Administration of the Program

Name of Dean and College: Dr. Steven Taylor, College of Arts and Sciences

Name of Department/Division: Department of Criminology, Anthropology, and Sociology

Name of Chairperson: Dr. Stephen Carmody

D. Similar Programs at Other Alabama Public Institutions

There are no similar programs in Alabama. The following institutions have a PhD in Criminology or a similar field

Degree Title	Institution with Similar Program
PhD in Criminology and Criminal Justice	Florida State Univ.
PhD in Criminology and Criminal Justice	Univ. of South Carolina
PhD in Justice and Criminology	Georgia State
PhD in Criminal Justice Policy Studies	Univ. of Mississippi



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PhD in Criminology, Law and Society	University of Florida
PhD in Criminology	University of South Florida

E. Relationship to Existing Programs within the Institution

1. Is the proposed program associated with any existing offerings within the institution, including options within current degree programs? **Yes No**

Related Degree Program Level	Related Degree Program Title	Explanation of the Relationship Between the Programs
MS	Criminal Justice	Shared faculty and similar classes at different levels
BA/BS	Criminal Justice	Shared faculty and similar classes at different levels
MS	Social Science (Criminology Concentration)	Shared faculty and similar classes at different levels

2. Will this program replace any existing programs or specializations, options, or concentrations? **Yes No**

If yes, please explain.

3. Will the program compete with any current internal offerings? **Yes No**

If yes, please explain.

F. Collaboration

Have collaborations with other institutions or external entities been explored? **Yes No**

Have any collaborations within your institution been explored? **Yes No**

G. Specialized Accreditation

1. Will this program have any external accreditation requirements in addition to the institution's SACSCOC program requirements? **Yes No**

A prospectus will be submitted to SACSCOC if the program is approved by ACHE

2. Does your institution intend to pursue any other non-required accrediting organizations for the program? **Yes No**

H. Admissions

Will this program have any additional admissions requirements beyond the institution's standard admissions process/policies for this degree level? **Yes No**



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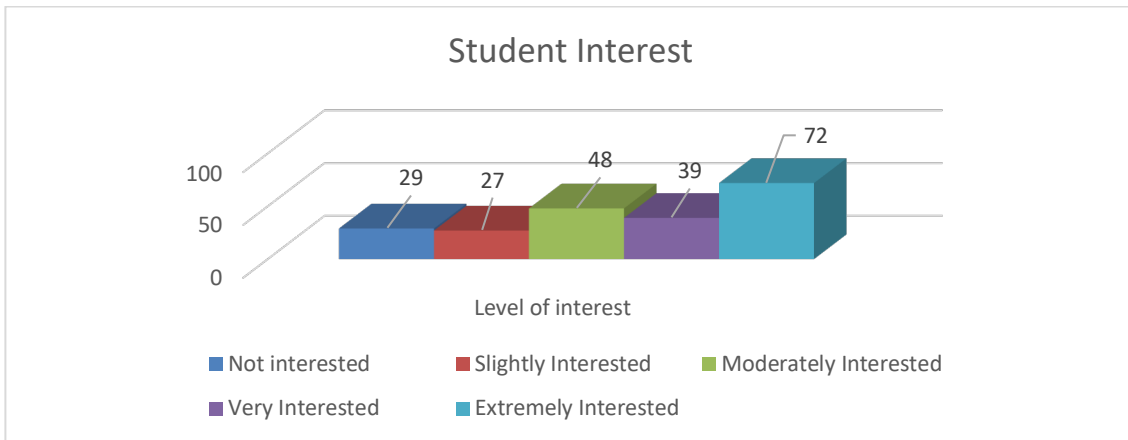
Students applying to the Ph. D program must have an MA degree in Criminal Justice, Criminology, or Sociology from a regionally accredited university with a minimum qualifying 3.6 GPA. Students with a degree other than those listed may be reviewed for admission consideration. Students will submit one writing sample and three letters of recommendation for the department-level admissions committee to review.

I. Mode of Delivery

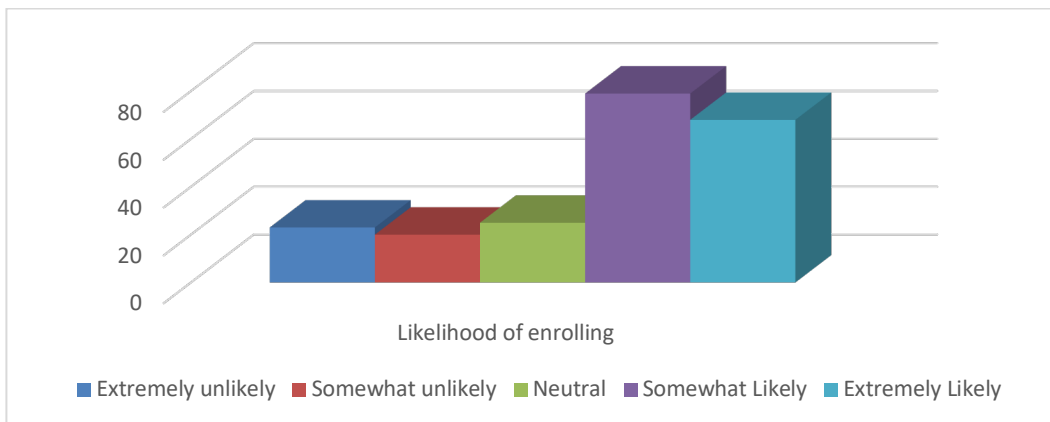
Online and potentially face-to-face on the Troy campus depending on student demand.

J. Projected Program Demand (Student Demand)

A survey was sent to current students and recent graduates in programs that align with the field of criminology. In total, 215 responses were received. Of those, 159 said they were moderately, very, or extremely interested in the program.



Of those surveyed, 147 stated they somewhat or extremely likely to enroll in the program.





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III. Program Resource Requirements

Proposed Program Faculty*Current Faculty			
1	2	3	4
CURRENT FACULTY NAME (FT, PT)	COURSES TAUGHT including Term, Course Number, Course Title, & Credit Hours (D, UN, UT, G, DU)	ACADEMIC DEGREES and COURSEWORK Relevant to Courses Taught, including Institution and Major; List Specific Graduate Coursework, if needed	OTHER QUALIFICATIONS and COMMENTS Related to Courses Taught and Modality(ies) (IP, OL, HY, OCIS)
Halil Akbas (FT)	Statistics I & 2 Seminar in Theories and Practices of Crime Prevention Seminar in Criminal Justice	Ph.D. in Criminal Justice & Criminology, School of Criminal Justice, University of Cincinnati, OH. M.S. in Justice Administration, University of Louisville, KY B.S. in Security Studies, National Police Academy, Turkey.	
Andrew Tatch (FT)	Research Methods 1 & 2 Statistics 1&2 Seminar in Advanced Data Analysis	Ph.D. in Sociology, Mississippi State University (2019) M.A. in Applied Sociology, Valdosta State University (2012) B.A. in Sociology, Valdosta State University (2008)	
Jolene Vincent (FT)	Seminar in Advanced Victimology Seminar in Advance Criminology Crime and Social Deviance Qualitative Methods Practicum	Ph.D. in Sociology (Crime and Deviance Concentration), University of Central Florida M.A. in Applied Sociology (Domestic Violence Track), University of Central Florida B.A. in Sociology (Certificate in Victim Advocacy), University of Central Florida	
Amanda Heitkamp (FT)	Seminar in Advanced Victimology Crime and Social Deviance Research Methods I & 2 Seminar in Criminal Justice	Ph.D. in Sociology, Bowling Green State University (2023) M.A. in Sociology, Bowling Green State University (2021) B.A. in Sociology, Minnesota State University Moorhead (2017)	
Gary P. Daniel (FT)	Cybercrime, Cybersecurity, and Society	D.B.A. in Computer and Information Security, Northcentral University M.S. in Digital Forensics, University of Central Florida B.S. in Criminal Justice, Troy University	



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Proposed Program Faculty*Current Faculty			
1	2	3	4
CURRENT FACULTY NAME (FT, PT)	COURSES TAUGHT including Term, Course Number, Course Title, & Credit Hours (D, UN, UT, G, DU)	ACADEMIC DEGREES and COURSEWORK Relevant to Courses Taught, including Institution and Major; List Specific Graduate Coursework, if needed	OTHER QUALIFICATIONS and COMMENTS Related to Courses Taught and Modality(ies) (IP, OL, HY, OCIS)
Soheil Sabriseilabi	Seminar in Advanced Criminology Globalization and Crime Seminar in Sentencing and Punishment Crime and Social Deviance	Ph.D. in Sociology, Texas Woman's University M.S. in Sociology, Allameh Tabatabaie University B.S. in Social Sciences, Tehran University	
Richard Ledet (FT)	Justice Policy and Crime Research Methods 1&2 Mass Incarceration and Social Inequality in America Professionalization Proseminar Community Context of Crime	Ph.D. in Political Science, Notre Dame M.A. in Political Science, Notre Dame M.A. in Political Science, San Diego State University B.A. in General Studies, Louisiana State University	
Stephen Carmody (FT)	Anthropology of Law and Crime	Ph.D. in Anthropology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville M.A. in Anthropology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville B.S. in Anthropology, College of Charleston Minor in Archaeology	
Additional Faculty (To Be Hired)			
1	2	3	4
FACULTY POSITION (FT, PT)	COURSES TO BE TAUGHT including Term, Course Number, Course Title, & Credit Hours (D, UN, UT, G, DU)	ACADEMIC DEGREES and COURSEWORK Relevant to Courses Taught, including Institution and Major; List Specific Graduate Coursework, if needed	OTHER QUALIFICATIONS and COMMENTS Related to Courses Taught and Modality(ies) (IP, OL, HY, OCIS)

Abbreviations: (FT, PT): Full-Time, Part-Time; (D, UN, UT, G, DU): Developmental, Undergraduate Nontransferable, Undergraduate Transferable, Graduate, Dual: High School Dual Enrollment
Course Modality: (IP, OL, HY, OCIS): In-Person, Online, Hybrid, Off-Campus Instructional Site
Courses Taught/To be Taught – For a substantive change prospectus/application, list the courses *to be taught*, not historical teaching assignments.



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A. All Proposed Program Personnel

Provide all personnel counts for the proposed program.

Employment Status of Program Personnel		Personnel Information		
		Count from Proposed Program Department	Count from Other Departments	Subtotal of Personnel
Current	Full-Time Faculty	7	1	8
	Part-Time Faculty	0		
	Administration	1		1
	Support Staff			
**New To Be Hired	Full-Time Faculty			
	Part-Time Faculty			
	Administration			
	Support Staff			
			Personnel Total	8

Provide justification that the institution has proposed a sufficient number of faculty (full-time and part-time) for the proposed program to ensure curriculum and program quality, integrity, and review.

Based on the proposed course requirements and anticipated enrollments, seven full-time faculty members should be able to cover all student needs. There will be a continuous evaluation of programmatic needs as the program is implemented and grows to determine the need for additional support.

B. Equipment

Will any special equipment be needed specifically for this program? Yes No
 If *yes*, list the special equipment. Special equipment cost should be included in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.

C. Facilities

Will any new facilities be required specifically for the program? Yes No
 Will any renovations to any existing infrastructure be required specifically for the program? Yes No
New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file.

D. Assistantships/Fellowships

Will the institution offer any assistantships specifically for this program? Yes No



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E. Library

Provide a brief summarization (one to two paragraphs) describing the current status of the library collections supporting the proposed program.

Under the guidance of the Dean of Libraries, the Social Sciences Librarian oversees the collection development for the field of Criminal Justice (CJ), encompassing both physical and digital resources.

As of November 2023, the library maintains subscriptions to approximately 115 full-text Criminal Justice journals. The Library Catalog, as of the same date, lists 2,535 print books classified under call numbers related to Criminal Justice. Electronic books relevant to the Criminal Justice subject area amount to around 3,000 and can be found in electronic book databases such as Ebsco's eBook Collection, Gale Ebooks, and ProQuest Ebook Central.

To facilitate access to materials not available in full text within databases, our robust Interlibrary Loan (ILL) program ensures rapid online delivery. Moreover, an electronic reserves system is in place, allowing worldwide access to materials that might not be readily available in electronic format.

For Criminal Justice research, Troy University Libraries subscribes to the following recommended databases are as follows:

Comprehensive journal databases: Academic Search Ultimate, Gale PowerSearch (including Gale OneFile: Criminal Justice), JSTOR Arts and Sciences Collections, ProQuest Central (including Criminal Justice Database), SAGE Criminology Backfile Collection, Social Science Database, and Sociology Source Ultimate.

Law-specific databases: Gale OneFile: LegalTrac, HeinOnline, and Westlaw.

The primary database for dissertations and theses is ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global. Additional databases closely aligned with research in this field include APA PsycInfo, Data Planet, Homeland Security Digital Library, PolicyMap, and Security Management Practices. Apart from subject-specific resources, the database SAGE Research Methods contains books, reference works, journal articles, and videos that provide information about research methods and design.

Will additional library resources be required to support the program? Yes No

F. Accreditation Expenses

Will the proposed program require accreditation expenses? Yes No



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G. Other Costs

Please explain any other costs to be incurred with program implementation, such as marketing or recruitment costs. Be sure to note these in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.

None

H. Revenues for Program Support

Will the proposed program require budget reallocation? Yes No

Will the proposed program require external funding (*e.g.*, Perkins, Foundation, Federal Grants, Sponsored Research, etc.)? Yes No

Please describe how you calculated the tuition revenue that appears in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**. Specifically, did you calculate using cost per credit hour or per term? Did you factor in differences between resident and non-resident tuition rates?

Tuition revenue is based on the current in-state rate, cost per credit hour with the assumption that students are enrolled full time.

Student headcount x 9 sh x tuition per credit hour = total

IV. Employment Outcomes and Program Demand (Industry Need)

A. Standard Occupational Code System

Using the federal Standard Occupational Code (SOC) System, indicate the top three occupational codes related to post-graduation employment from the program. A full list of SOCs can be found at <https://www.onetcodeconnector.org/find/family/title#17>.

SOC 1: 25.1111 Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Teachers, Postsecondary

SOC 2: 33.3021 Criminal Investigators

SOC 3: 19.3099 Social Scientists and Related Workers, All other

Briefly describe how the program fulfills a specific industry or employment need for the State of Alabama. As appropriate, discuss alignment with Alabama's Statewide or Regional Lists of In-Demand Occupations (<https://www.ache.edu/index.php/policy-guidance/>) or with emerging industries as identified by Innovate Alabama or the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama (EDPA).



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The objective of the Ph.D. program is to provide students with a challenging degree that prepares them to conduct research in the many aspects of criminology and criminal justice. Graduates of the program will be qualified to teach at the university level as well as competent to enter into analytic and administrative positions within various research and policy institutions, criminal justice organizations, and the private sector in Alabama.

Currently, there are 121 postings for *faculty* in this field that require a Ph.D.

B. Employment Preparation

Course work in the Ph.D. program will prepare graduates for positions in academia, policy advisor or research officer in both state and federal justice agencies; analytical and administrative positions in international and domestic research and policy institutions; and positions in legal and correctional systems, and non-profit and private consulting.

C. Professional Licensure/Certification

Not applicable

D. Additional Education/Training

Not applicable

V. Curriculum Information for Proposed Degree Program

A. Program Completion Requirements: Enter the credit hour value for all applicable components (enter N/A if not applicable).

Curriculum Overview of Proposed Program	
Credit hours required in general education	0
Credit hours required in program courses	24
Credit hours in program electives/concentrations/tracks	24
Credit hours in free electives	0
Credit hours in required research/thesis	12
Total Credit Hours Required for Completion	60

B. Maximum number of credits that can be transferred in from another institution and applied to the program:

12

C. Intended program duration in semesters for full-time students:

7



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D. Intended program duration in semesters for part-time students:

10

E. Does the program require students to demonstrate industry-validated skills, specifically through an embedded industry-recognized certification, structured work-based learning with an employer partner, or alignment with nationally recognized industry standards? Yes No

F. Does the program include any concentrations? Yes No

G. Please provide all course information as indicated in the following table.

Program Name:		Criminology			
Program Level:		PhD			
Curriculum Components of Proposed Program					
Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	New? (Y)	WBL? (Y)	
Program Courses (24 SH)					
8XXX	Seminar in Advanced Criminology	3	Y		
8XXX	Seminar in Theories and Practices of Crime Prevention	3	Y		
8XXX	Justice Policy and Crime	3	Y		
8XXX	Applied Statistics I	3	Y		
8XXX	Applied Statistics II	3	Y		
8XXX	Research Methods I	3	Y		
8XXX	Research Methods II	3	Y		
8XXX	Teaching Practicum	3	Y	Y	
Program Electives/Concentrations/Tracks (Select 24 SH)					
8XXX	Advanced Data Analysis	3	Y		
8XXX	Globalization and Crime	3	Y		
8XXX	Crime and Social Deviance	3	Y		
8XXX	Community Context of Crime	3	Y		
8XXX	Mass Incarceration and Social Inequality in America	3	Y		
8XXX	Public Policy, Crime, and Criminal Justice	3	Y		
8XXX	Cybercrime, Cybersecurity, and Society	3	Y		
8XXX	Seminar in Sentencing and Punishment	3	Y		
8XXX	Anthropology of Law and Crime	3	Y		
8XXX	Juvenile Justice and Gangs	3	Y		
8XXX	Qualitative Methods Practicum	3	Y		
8XXX	Professionalization Proseminar	3	Y		
8XXX	Seminar in Criminal Justice	3	Y		
8XXX	Seminar in Advanced Victimology	3	Y		
8XXX	Directed Study	3	Y		
8XXX	Independent Study		Y		
Research/Thesis (12 SH)					
8XXX	Dissertation	12			
*Total Credit Hours Required for Completion		60			



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New Academic Degree Program Summary/Business Plan

NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY								
<i>Troy University</i>								
<i>PhD in Criminology</i>								
							<i>Select Level:</i>	<i>Doctorate</i>
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	TOTAL
FACULTY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
STAFF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FACILITIES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LIBRARY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ASSISTANTSHIPS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	TOTAL
REALLOCATIONS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EXTRAMURAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TUITION	17100	34200	34200	42750	51300	59850	68400	307800
TOTAL	17100	34200	34200	42750	51300	59850	68400	307800
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	AVERAGE
FULL-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	8	8	10	12	14	16	11.33333333
PART-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	8	8	10	12	14	16	11.33333333
NEW ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	5	5	6	7	9	9	6.83333333
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	AVERAGE
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS	Year 1 - No data reporting required	1	3	4	4	4	4	3.33



KAY IVEY
GOVERNOR

ALABAMA BUREAU OF PARDONS & PAROLES

301 SOUTH RIPLEY STREET MONTGOMERY, AL 36104
PAROLES.ALABAMA.GOV | 334.242.8700



CAM WARD
DIRECTOR

February 7, 2024

To: Alabama Commission on Higher Education

From: Director Cam Ward

Greetings,

I would like to express my strong support for the inclusion of a Ph.D. program in Criminology at the esteemed Troy University. The implementation of such a program would undoubtedly have a profound impact on the Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles because it would properly equip students with advanced knowledge and expertise in the complex understanding of criminal behavior and criminogenic needs. Graduates from this program would bring a multitude of specialized knowledge to the Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles, contributing to more informed decision-making and rehabilitation strategies. The in-depth comprehension acquired through this program would be valuable to this agency as it would produce experts, who will ultimately make meaningful contributions to the criminal justice field.

I am confident the introduction of a Ph.D. program in Criminology at Troy University will not only elevate graduates academically, but also significantly enhance the quality of rehabilitating offenders. I urge you to consider this proposal with optimism for the positive impact it could yield for criminology students and the judicial system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cam Ward".

Cam Ward
ABPP Director



ALABAMA APPLESEED CENTER for LAW & JUSTICE

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Our Mission

Appleseed confronts unjust systems through research, bridge building, and advocacy to create an Alabama that prioritizes justice and opportunity.

Our Vision

An Alabama that treats everyone with justice and equity.

Our Values

Collaboration, Truth, Liberation,
and Fairness

February 8, 2024

Alabama Commission on Higher Education
100 North Union Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing in strong support of a proposed Ph.D. in criminology at Troy University, a program which I believe could benefit Alabama policy makers, public safety officials, nonprofit leaders such as myself, as well as the academic community in our state. More than any other single theme, crime and punishment drive Alabama politics. But often responses are based on emotion, fear, and political winds rather than data, evidence and reason. Alabama needs this program to provide research and resources to begin to address one of our biggest crises, our dangerously violent and broken prison system and the high rate of community violence that is not being curtailed by the state's current responses.

I have spent my entire 30-year career developing expertise in Alabama's criminal justice system, first as a journalist in Montgomery in the 1990s and early 2000s, then as a lawyer representing incarcerated people in post-conviction claims. Since 2019, I have served as executive director at Alabama Appleseed Center for Law & Justice, a research and policy advocacy nonprofit. Shortly after I took the helm at Appleseed, I shifted our focus entirely to criminal justice reform after recognizing the urgent need for unbiased, on-the-ground surveying, story-telling, data collection and analysis in this area. Since then, Appleseed has published six reports on issues including Alabama's response to the opioid crisis, the impact of drug courts and diversion programs, the repercussions of Alabama's habitual felony offender act, and more. In recent years, we have collaborated with economists at University of Alabama at Birmingham and are contemplating additional partnerships with UAB. These kinds of partnerships are invaluable because they combine Appleseed's expertise in policy and how those policies impact everyday Alabamians with the credibility of an academic institution. We have opportunities to do so much more and would welcome partnerships with Troy's Ph.D. criminologists.



ALABAMA APPLESEED CENTER for LAW & JUSTICE

The state of Alabama is in an unusual position with regards to its priorities and prison system. Alabama is the only state in the nation that has been sued twice by the United States Department of Justice for unconstitutional prisons across its entire prison system. In response, the state is building the most expensive prison ever built in the United States in Elmore County. However, the current case is scheduled for trial before that prison will open. In that case, *United States of America v. State of Alabama and Alabama Department of Corrections*, the federal government is alleging that that the State “fails to provide adequate protection from prisoner-on-prisoner violence and prisoner-on-prisoner sexual abuse, fails to provide safe and sanitary conditions, and subjects prisoners to excessive force at the hands of prison staff.” Last year, 325 people died in Alabama prisons, a second straight year for record deaths. More than 1,000 people have died in state prison custody since 2019 when Alabama government officials were put on notice of conditions so dangerous and deadly that the state was violating the U.S. Constitution’s prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment.

No matter the outcome, the conditions in Alabama’s prisons and the impact those problematic conditions have on public safety, rehabilitation, state budgets, and so much more are ripe for investigation and research that can only be done by an academic institution. To put a finer point on it, there is no prison system in the country more in need of examination than here in Alabama. The ground is shifting quickly with fears of a federal takeover a constant topic of concern in political circles. But this threat also brings opportunities for improvement, modernization, and reform. We can repeat the mistakes of the past that got us here or move forward with innovative, evidence-based policies and practices. Troy’s proposed program could help get us there.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Carla Crowder, JD
Executive Director