

NEWS RELEASE

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USM Announces New Criminology Major Set to Launch Fall 2006

(Leavenworth, Kan.)— The growing prison population, increasing number of prisons, and the heightened concern of international terrorism have led to a growing need for better educated professionals in the field of criminology. In response to this need, and in consideration of the nation's growing interest in crime and society's response to crime, the University of Saint Mary is launching a new academic program in criminology this fall.

USM's Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in criminology creates tremendous opportunities for those interested in the field, and area organizations looking for educated professionals. The program will prepare graduates to immediately enter the workforce in a wide array of careers nationwide, including (but limited to) drug enforcement agent, local, county, and state law enforcement, federal law enforcement including Secret Service, CIA, FBI, US Marshall, correctional officer, parole officer, lawyer, judge, probation officer, and forensics.

What makes USM's criminology program unique is its customizability. Students may choose from one of three areas of concentration: behavioral science, criminology administration, or applied criminal science. Criminology majors will have lots of opportunities to gain practical experience. A wide variety of applied internships opportunities are available in the Leavenworth-Lansing area.

Dr. Nancy King, chair of the behavioral sciences department at USM, spearheaded the effort to establish the criminology program. "We consulted with professionals in the criminology field, all of whom stated that this was a field that was growing exponentially in scope and need for graduates to fill positions in criminal justice, criminal administration, forensics, and law enforcement at the local, state, and federal levels," Dr. King said.

USM decided to offer a criminology degree versus a criminal justice degree because criminology encompasses a broader scope. Dr. Sandra Van Hoose, vice president and dean of academic affairs explains, "Criminology speaks to everything from international terrorism around the world to growing prisons in our backyard. Criminal justice is an area of concentration in the field of criminology and more specific to the technical aspects of crime. Those technical aspects are routinely taught within job-specific areas after hiring. Criminology is more closely aligned with our Saint Mary mission to prepare students for valued centered lives and careers that contribute to the well being of society."

A search is now underway for a full-time faculty member with a Ph.D. in criminology to head the program. Call 1-800-752-7043 or visit www.stmary.edu for more information.

The University of Saint Mary is a private, co-educational applied liberal arts university founded by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations at 11413 Pflumm in Overland Park and inside Providence Medical Center at 8929 Parallel Parkway in Kansas City, Kan.

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