CRJ 220 – Ethics and Leadership in Criminal Justice

Course Description

This course exposes students to the various philosophical approaches for developing appropriate ethical decision-making tools for the criminal justice professional. Ethical decision-making tools are illustrated in actual application in police, courts, corrections, criminal justice policy, and criminal justice research scenarios. Emphasis is placed on professional integrity and leadership skills that support laws, policies and procedures in criminal justice.

Instructional Materials


Course Learning Outcomes

1. Explain the role of ethics and integrity in the criminal justice profession, and the higher standard expected of criminal justice professionals.
2. Explain the difference between ethics, morality, and the law.
3. Analyze the issues pertinent to codes of conduct and / or the ethics of duty.
4. Explain key elements of choice, values, and ethics.
5. Recommend ways to use ethics to improve decision making in the criminal justice system.
6. Analyze various philosophical approaches for ethical decision making, and the effectiveness and limits of each approach for making ethical choices.
7. Analyze basic questions about morality, norms, and values.
8. Examine the concepts and effectiveness of reward and punishment.
9. Explain why and how the concept of justice is important to the field of criminal justice.
10. Explain Kohlberg’s moral development stages and how they can be applied to issues in criminal justice.
11. Analyze the ethical issues involved with balancing means and ends in the criminal justice field.
12. Examine the key elements of virtue and character.
13. Analyze leadership skills significant to the criminal justice professional.
14. Examine reasons for and effective ways to apply critical ethical thinking to criminal justice issues.
15. Discuss the role of ethical decision making for the future of the criminal justice profession.
16. Use technology and information resources to research issues in ethics and leadership in criminal justice.
17. Write clearly and concisely about ethics and leadership in criminal justice using proper writing mechanics.