Integrating Victims’ Issues into University and College Curricula

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ABOUT THIS PROJECT

The National-Scope Demonstration Project to Integrate Crime Victims’ Issues into University and College Curricula

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) funded The University of Massachusetts Lowell, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, along with partners from the University of Massachusetts Boston, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, and University of Massachusetts Medical School to develop innovative, multidisciplinary education models that address victimization issues and responses to crime victims. The project is designed to:

• broaden college and university students’ awareness of crime victims’ issues and knowledge of appropriate responses
• increase the number and diversity of students exposed to and educated in crime victims’ issues
• give victim issues a new level of prominence in university and college curricula.

Materials were designed in a format that enables faculty to adopt and integrate them with ease in university and college curricula both in the traditional classroom setting and on-line. These materials can be used in multiple disciplines at the undergraduate and graduate level. They are designed to provide quality education and training on victim issues to future victim service providers and allied professionals.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

College and university faculty teach about victims’ issues and, even when a course does not directly deal with criminal victimization, victimization issues can come up in class and can impact student performance. Faculty in all disciplines must be prepared to respond sensitively to disclosures of victimization and ensure that they teach in a manner that does not cause additional harm. In addition, since criminal victimization is all too prevalent, and victims comprise an important component of the criminal justice system, it is desirable that victim issues be fully incorporated in college and university curricula.

Teaching About Victimization: Faculty Role

Teach subject matter sensitively so as to not cause additional harm
Prepare for and respond to disclosures of victimization experiences

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
www.uml.edu/vic

PRODUCTS AND DELIVERABLES

Ask Me How These Can Work For You
All curriculum kits include course materials such as:
Reading lists; Slides; Class exercises; Sample assignments; Electronic & Media presentations.
Curriculum kits on substantive topics include:
• Who is a Victim?
• The Impact of Victimization
• Nature and Extent of Victimization
• Victims and the Police
• Victims and the Prosecutor
• Addressing the Needs of Crime Victims in Medical Practice

Teaching About Victimization: Guidelines for Faculty
A packet of easy to use materials on how to present material about victimization and how to handle student disclosures of experiences with victimization.

Being a First Responder
Designed to aid in responding sensitively and effectively to incidents of victimization

Basics for Interns
Designed to aid in administering victim focused internships for undergraduate and graduate including: Curriculum materials, and sample internship agreements and supervisor evaluation forms

National Replication Guide
For faculty, university departments and programs interested in the broader objective of incorporating a multidisciplinary educational victim-focused approach into their curricula. This guide contains materials on promoting faculty and student involvement in crime victim issues.

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