

College of Criminal Justice

FY 2026 Strategic Plan Alignment and Budget Presentation

Dean Phillip Lyons

College of Criminal Justice

Academic/Division Departments

- Criminal Justice and Criminology
- Forensic Science
- Security Studies
- Victim Studies

Centers

- Bill Blackwood LEMIT
- Center for Intelligence and Crime Analysis
- CMIT
- Crime Victims Institute
- CRIMES/PRC
- Institute for Forensic Research, Training, and Innovation
- Institute for Homeland Security
- Office of Comparative and International Education and Leadership
- STAFS (Body Farm)
- *Et cetera*

FY 2025 Accomplishments

Priority 1: Prioritize Student Success and Student Access

College of Criminal Justice – Accomplishments (FY25)

- **Promote Increased Enrollment:**

- Hosted Webinars for Peace Officers, Community Colleges, High Schools, Miami Dade College, and collaborated with admissions to target potential incoming Freshmen highlighting programs, internships, and opportunities in the College of Criminal Justice (200 registered; 70 attended).
- Collaborated with admissions and the registrar to begin enrolling LEMIT Leadership Command College Students into the undergraduate academic certificate in leadership in management, resulting in an increased headcount of 91 for the fall and 179 for the Spring. 53 Academic Certificates in Leadership and Management will be complete by the end of the semester.

- **Internship and Career Placement:**

Forged partnerships with 64 local, state, and federal criminal justice agencies, securing internships for 108 students over the last two semesters— increased from 35 to 108 students receiving internship opportunities, including assisting students at our Brownsville classroom.

- **Expansion of community college and high school partnerships:**

- **Community College Completed Transfer Maps:** Angelina College, Alamo Community College, Austin Community College, Central Texas College, Houston Community College, Miami Dade College, Temple College, Texas Southmost College, Lamar Institute of Technology, Lonestar Community College, South Texas College, and Weatherford College **Pending Transfer Maps:** Alvin Community College, Dallas College, Tyler Junior College, Lee College, Trinity Valley Community College, San Jacinto College, and Wharton County Junior College
- **High School Partnerships:** Continued partnership with BISD (48 First Time Freshmen Accepted). Working with Mansfield ISD to establish a dual credit path aligning four CRIJ courses with the Texas Career and Technical Education Law and Public Service Career Cluster.

FY 2025 Accomplishments

Priority 2: Embody a Culture of Excellence

College of Criminal Justice – Accomplishments (FY25)

- The College created and funded two projects under the Jurg Gerber International Research and Mentorship grant. These projects are intended to advance international activities for criminal justice and provide mentorship opportunities between faculty and students.
- Our CJ ACE Coordinator hosted a "Lunch and Learn" for faculty on how to ACE their courses, resulting in 4 additional faculty ACE'ing their courses, providing community engagement opportunities for students. In honor of Second Chance Month, students in CRIJ2364: Fundamentals of Criminal Law & CRIJ7336: Seminar in American Corrections participated in an ACE event with speakers, a movie premier, and a panel.
- Hosted Pancakes with Professors to welcome new freshman with an attendance of over 200 students.
- Provided CJ Real Talks with Army CID, FBI, ATF, Forensic Interviews, US Customs and Border Patrol, and a CJ Perspectives series featuring journalists and crisis management leaders.
- Online graduate program admissions requirements streamlined, and programs now offered in 7.5-week format, effective Spring 2025.
- The Master of Science in Business Security and Resilience, a unique online interdisciplinary program designed with industry input and collaboration with COBA and COSET, allowing students multiple concentration area options.

FY 2025 Accomplishments

Priority 3: Elevate the Reputation and Visibility of SHSU

College of Criminal Justice – Accomplishments (FY25)

- The FS Department was awarded \$1,261,437 from the National Institute of Justice and is working with collaborators worldwide at the University of Central Lancashire, University of California Davis, and University of Auckland to further Forensic Science Research.
- In August 2024, 19 students began the initial DPS application process; three SHSU COCJ students were accepted to the Jan DPS A2025 academy, marking the first students to enter the academy pursuing concurrent internship credit competing against 2500 applicants. Students will be graduation eligible at the completion of 15 weeks.
- IFRTI Provided specialized training to middle and high school science teachers in Texas to facilitate incorporation of forensic science and STEM-related content into the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards.
- CMIT partnered with the American Jail Association to provide training to 108 jail professionals from across the nation who participated in the National Jail Leadership Command Academy.
- The Institute for Homeland Security hosted the Healthcare Cybersecurity Threat Assessment and Exercise featuring 77 health care industry professionals better preparing for organizational preparedness and response to cyber threats with the assistance of the Texas Hospital Association, the American Hospital Association, the Secret Service and the FBI
- The Center for Intelligence and Crime Analysis (CICA) issued 92 Crime Analysis Certificates (a four-course series) and 184 individual trainings in varying Special Topic Courses

FY 2025 Accomplishments

Priority 4: Expand and Elevate our Service to the State and Beyond

College of Criminal Justice – Accomplishments (FY25)

- Negotiating with South Texas College to offer five CJ courses on their McAllen Campus (Enrollment 28,000 students)
- The Conference on Crimes Against Women (CCAW) invited CVI to collaborate on their first academic poster presentation session at their upcoming conference, May 19–22. This partnership presents a valuable opportunity to highlight CVI's research in victim advocacy on a national stage with an anticipated attendance of over 3,000 professionals and a wide-reaching communication network, CCAW offers significant exposure across the country.
- CMIT held a Newly Elected Sheriffs' Session of the Jail Administration Management and Operations Program for 34 new sheriffs. Sheriffs voiced interest in academic opportunities and peace officer pathways to certification for SHSU students.
- CMIT held two Wardens Peer Interaction Programs in collaboration with the North American Association of Wardens and Superintendents where 63 national wardens came to Sam Houston State University to share correctional best practices.
- LEMIT has partnered with TCOLE to complete a Job Task Analysis for newly licensed peace officers, the first in Texas since 1997. TCOLE will use the results during their process of updating the state's Basic Peace Officer Course curriculum.
- LEMIT received continuation funding of nearly \$800,000 to expand and continue operating of the De-Escalation Center. The Center delivers evidence-based training that increases officer and citizen safety during police encounters.
- IFRTI trained over 6,400 forensic and law enforcement personnel as part of the legislatively funded Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) capacity enhancement initiative.

FY 2026 Keep Doing

Statement:

The College of Criminal Justice plans to keep expanding experiential learning opportunities because best practices have shown that experiential learning opportunities (e.g. internship, study abroad, ACE courses, undergraduate research) enhance retention, graduation rates, and marketability. This action aligns with Strategy 1: Prioritize Student Success and Student Access and Goal 1.2 - Academic Agility and will have increase in academic and community engaged education in achieving Pillar 2 - Retention.

Supporting Data:

Enrollment in the CRIJ 4373/4073 Internship course has increased by roughly 70% from AY 2023/2024 (77 students) to 2024/2025 (131 students).

ACE course offerings increased by 10% (30 sections in AY 2023/2024 to 33 sections in AY 2024/2025). Enrollment in ACE courses increased by 2.6% (742 students in AY 2023/2024 to 762 in AY 2024/2025).

Resources / Collaborations Required:

Continue to expand the funding of resources grow ACE through instructor incentives and resources.

Continue to expand the career and internship fair in collaboration with the Career Success Center.

Explore opportunities to further support undergraduate student research at regional and national conferences.

FY 2026 Keep Doing

Statement:

The College of Criminal Justice plans to keep building high school partnerships because reinforcing our status as a CJ leader in the state by offering teacher training programs and summer camps will lead to increased recruiting. This action aligns with Strategy 3: Elevate the reputation and visibility of SHSU and Goal 3.4 - Identify/improve, promulgate, and leverage the SHSU brand and will have increased referrals to our programs and increased student headcount in achieving Pillar 1 - Enrollment.

Supporting Data:

29 teachers attended the High School Criminal Justice Instructor Training Program last fall
Summer Camp increased from three sessions last year to four offered this summer; collaborating with admissions to advertise the opportunity

Resources / Collaborations Required:

Continued Admissions support for recruitment to career counselors and marketing resources.

FY 2026 Stop Doing

Statement:

The College of Criminal Justice plans to stop relying solely on the SAM Center and COSET for advising because our goal of expanding our reach and targeting specific populations will require advisers to have specialized knowledge for student support. This action aligns with Strategy 1: Prioritize Student Success and Student Access and Goal 1.2 - Academic Agility and will have increased student headcount and SCH in achieving Pillar 1 - Enrollment.

Supporting Data:

The college intends to increase applicants in the BAAS with a concentration in Criminal Justice and BAAS applicants with minors in Homeland Security and Victim Studies. The special populations of interest have more complex academic backgrounds requiring unique advising solutions beyond current CJ SAM expectations. The process to move the BAAS with a concentration in Criminal Justice to the college is underway.

Resources / Collaborations Required:

Funding for a Pathways Student Advisor/Coordinator for direct customer service advising for working professionals.

FY 2026 Stop Doing

Statement:

The College of Criminal Justice plans to stop generalized recruitment and marketing because specific and targeted recruitment efforts will reach segments of the population that align with the College's strategic plan. This action aligns with Strategy 1: Prioritize Student Success and Student Access and Goal 1.1 - Recruit, retain, graduate, and empower students to drive sustainable growth. and will have increased student headcount and SCH in achieving Pillar 1 - Enrollment.

Supporting Data:

The college's student reach exceeds the traditional SHSU recruiting box with CJ's top 25 counties differing from the university's top 25. Students in the COCJ live further from Huntsville than typical SHSU students.

Resources / Collaborations Required:

Recruitment and Marketing that compliments the SHSU traditional pool along with identified CJ hotspot marketing nationally and in targeted areas within the state.

FY 2026 Start Doing

Statement:

The College of Criminal Justice plans to start updating the PDL program and redesigning our online graduate programs to provide a premium learning experience because it supports growth in online education and provides a quality student experience. This action aligns with Strategy 1: Prioritize Student Success and Student Access and Goal 1.2 - Academic Agility and will have increased online student headcount and SCH in achieving Pillar 1 - Enrollment.

Supporting Data:

From Fall 22 to Fall 24, the number of 5wk PDL sections offered has tripled. Enrollment & SCH have both increased over 280% (375 students in Fall 22 to 1454 students in Fall 24, 1125 SCH in Fall 22 to 4362 SCH in Fall 24).

Resources / Collaborations Required:

Fund Director of online and extension programs; Fund e-learning developers and/or contract support for CJ online programs.

FY 2026 Start Doing

Statement:

The College of Criminal Justice plans to start developing dual credit opportunities for criminal justice high schools that do not already have agreements in place with other institutions because there is an opportunity to align criminal justice career and technical (CTE) programs with our academic programs. This action aligns with Strategy 1: Prioritize Student Success and Student Access and Goal 1.1 - Recruit, retain, graduate, and empower students to drive sustainable growth. and will have increased student headcount and SCH in achieving Pillar 1 - Enrollment.

Supporting Data:

In the past, the College of Criminal Justice was limited to one dual credit course and has never provided dual credit to high schools. We now have four courses aligned with the Texas Career and Technical Education Law and Public Service Career Cluster. Additionally, we are aligning our academic certificate in criminal justice, allowing high school students to achieve an academic certificate. Targeted Implementation Fall 26.

Resources / Collaborations Required:

Continued collaboration with SEI and the Director of Partnerships and Early College Credit.

College of Criminal Justice Summary

Keep Doing

Keep #1: We will continue expanding experiential learning opportunities because best practices have shown that experiential learning opportunities enhance retention, graduation rates, and marketability.

Keep #2: We will continue building high school partnerships reinforcing our status as a CJ leader in the state by offering teacher training programs and summer camps will lead to increased recruiting.

Stop Doing

Stop #1: We will stop relying solely on the SAM Center and COSET for advising because our goal of expanding our reach and targeting specific populations will require advisers to have specialized knowledge for student support.

Stop #2: We will stop generalized recruitment and marketing because specific and targeted recruitment efforts will reach segments of the population that align with the College's strategic plan.

Start Doing

Start #1: We will start updating the PDL program and redesigning our online graduate programs to provide a premium learning experience because it supports growth in online education and provides a quality student experience.

Start #2: We will start developing dual credit opportunities for criminal justice high schools that do not already have agreements in place with other institutions because there is an opportunity to align criminal justice career and technical (CTE) programs with our academic programs.

Questions?



Sam Houston
State University

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