

CRJU 4910 A/B, Criminal Justice Internship, the Term Paper

The **Term Paper** is basically a research report on the student's sponsoring agency. The purpose of this project is to provide a context for the student's internship experience. The major headings for the term paper are: a brief **Introduction**, a short **History** of the agency, a current **Overview** of the agency (mission statement, jurisdiction, and organization), an **Analysis** of the agency which may include suggestions for improvement or reform based and a **Conclusion** which is a paragraph or two regarding the student's overall internship experience.

Obviously the page length may vary across the sections. A good balance is for the Introduction to be approximately the same length as the Conclusion. However, other parts of the paper may vary well, e.g., a student's presentation on the history of the GBI will be much longer than if they had interned at a small private law firm. The Overview is a current snapshot of the agency based both on the interns observations and information drawn from the agency website, annual report and/or other relevant documents.

As indicated the Analysis section will include suggestions for improvement or revision and may be based upon the student's personal observations or from conversations/insights from agency personnel. There are very few agencies that would not improve their capabilities with better technology, communication, and/or resources. In addition, the student is expected to apply course concepts to their internship experience. E.g., if the internship is with a law enforcement agency the student should apply principles and concepts gained from CRJU 1100 Introduction to Criminal Justice and 4100 Survey of Law Enforcement, to their experiences. However, other coursework may be equally relevant e.g., CRJU 3300 Criminal Law, CRJU 3310 Criminal Procedure, and CRJU 3700 Ethics in Criminal Justice. You should place these observations within your Analysis section. As a general rule the term paper should be a minimum of eight pages for a 3 hour program and twelve pages for a 6 hour program of study.

Again, the major Headings for the term paper are: **Introduction, History, Overview, Analysis, and Conclusion**. In addition you may have a **Reference** section if you refer to the agency's website, Policy Manuals, the Georgia Code, local or state press, or any other relevant materials.

Term papers are due on the last class day of the regular semester, this is an absolute deadline, this date is listed in each Syllabus, and students can also check the Registrar's Calendar for verification. Papers should be submitted electronically via the Blaze View system, however, if the student encounters any problems, they may submit the Term Paper as a Word Attachment to Dr. Prine via e-mail. Again, the address is rkprine@valdosta.edu