

THE SAULT COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY  
SAULT STE. MARIE, ON



COURSE OUTLINE

Course Title: Reporting in Criminal Justice Professions

Code No.: PFP 2040-3 Semester: Winter

Program: Law and Security Administration  
Police Foundations

Author: Language & Communication Department

Date: January 2003 Previous Outline Dated: August 2002

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dean Date

Total Credits: 3

Prerequisite(s): PFP104-3  
or CMM110-

3

Length of Course: 3 hours/week Total Credit Hours: 48

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**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course helps students develop clarity, accuracy and conciseness in both written and oral communications. Special emphasis is placed upon adapting tone and level of language to the intended audience. Projects help students improve their skills in locating, gathering and organizing information from professional journals and community services. The principles of writing are taught through the writing process.

**II. LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF THE PERFORMANCE:****A. Learning Outcomes:**

1. Critique and edit written work recognizing quality of communication.
2. Employ the six Cs (clarity, conciseness, cohesiveness, correctness, completeness, courtesy) in all written products.
3. Plan, develop and write documents (memos, letters, reports).
4. Adapt the format, tone and diction of a communication to the needs of a specific audience in a given situation.
5. Prepare an effective job application package including the cover letter and resume.
6. Research, prepare, and deliver a workshop/oral presentation based on a specific topic.
7. Produce accurate college-level documents.

**B. Learning Outcomes and Elements of the Performance:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Critique and edit work recognizing quality of communication

**Potential elements of the performance:**

- Evaluate the effectiveness of the communication produced
- Edit and revise the content
- Recognize and correct English usage
- Respond to oral or written feedback

2. Employ the six Cs (conciseness, clarity, cohesiveness, correctness, completeness, courtesy) in all written submissions

**Potential elements of the performance:**

- Describe the relevance of the six Cs
- Employ the six Cs in all written submissions

## II. LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF THE PERFORMANCE (Continued):

3. Plan, develop and write documents (email, memos, letters, reports)

### Potential elements of the performance:

- Employ the writing process to produce written documents
- Plan and organize communications according to the purpose and audience
- Choose and produce the format (email, memo, letter, report) that is appropriate to the purpose
- Incorporate content that is meaningful and necessary

4. Adapt the format, tone and diction of a communication to the needs of a specific audience

### Potential elements of the performance:

- Explain the principles of organization
- Recognize and apply appropriate tone in written and oral communication based on the audience
- Use the various formats of communication based on the need and purpose
- Use appropriate language in written and oral communication based on the audience

5. Prepare a job application package including the cover letter and resume

### Potential elements of the performance:

- Employ the guidelines of cover-letter writing and resume writing
  - Prepare and write a cover letter and resume
- Note: Students are encouraged to use the First Place resume package.

6. Research, prepare, and deliver a workshop on a specific topic.

### Potential elements of the performance:

- Locate and collect information from a variety of sources
- Evaluate material for inclusion in written and oral reports
- Summarize and paraphrase information
- Document all sources using an accepted format (APA; MLA)
- Present information according to style and conventions required
- Prepare a project plan for the research project
- Write a public announcement introducing the workshop
- Conduct an interview in the profession to obtain research
- Rehearse the presentation
- Produce a visual aid to enhance the presentation
- Deliver a well-organized presentation individually or collaboratively
- Review oral presentation techniques
- Field questions effectively

## **II. LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF THE PERFORMANCE (Continued):**

7. Produce accurate, professional documents.

### **Potential elements of the performance:**

- Produce material, through technological means, that conforms to the conventions of the chosen format
- Ensure that the material is free of mechanical errors, using appropriate software tools
- Enhance the production of materials through computer applications
- Evaluate communications and adjust for any errors in content, structure, style and mechanics

## **III. TOPICS:**

**\*Note:** These topics sometimes overlap several areas of skill development and are not necessarily intended to be explored in isolated learning units or in the order below.

1. Mechanics - grammar
2. Memo and Email Writing
3. Letter Writing
4. Cover Letter and Resume
5. Report Writing
6. Research Project
7. Oral Presentation

## **IV. REQUIRED RESOURCES / TEXTS / MATERIALS:**

1. Communications in Law Enforcement, Prentice Hall Publishing Company
2. One 3.5" disk
3. The Language and Communication Guidelines (provided)
4. Language and Communication Documentation Booklet (provided)

**V. EVALUATION PROCESS / GRADING SYSTEM****MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS AND TESTING:**

(Refer also to the Language and Communication Guidelines)

1. Twenty percent of the written assignments will be completed in class under test conditions.

a) Mechanics

Students will be evaluated on a minimum of one assignment and/or test. The assignment and/or test is not subject to revision and resubmission (5%).

b) Email, Memo and Letter Writing

Students will be evaluated on a minimum of one email or memo and letter (15%).

c) Reports

Students will be evaluated on a minimum of four assignments including interviews, notetaking, and narrative reports (40%).

2. Cover Letter and Resume

Students will be evaluated on a written submission of a cover letter and resume (10%).

3. Research Project

a) Written Report

Students will be evaluated on a written submission of a research topic related to their area of study. The written report will be completed as a group and will also include the completion of a project plan, a public announcement, and an interview (20%).

The written report will include a minimum of:

\* 8-12 pages (Introduction to Conclusion/Recommendations)

\* three (3) sources

\* one (1) visual aid

b) Oral Presentation

Students will be evaluated on the oral presentation of the written report. The research project is completed in groups and is orally presented as a group; however, each person within the group must have a speaking role (10%).

**N.B.** Due to the nature of the testing, students are required to contact the professor **before** the test if they are to be absent. Students who do not contact the professor in advance, **will not** be given the opportunity to write.

In all cases, the professor will determine the order in which assignments are to be covered. Students will be notified of changes in the assignment loading and marking schemes as required.

**V. EVALUATION PROCESS / GRADING SYSTEM (Continued):****TIME FRAME**

Reporting in Criminal Justice Professions PFP2040-3 involves three periods per week for the entire semester. One hour per week will take place in a computer lab. Students are expected to attend class and to participate in class activities.

**METHOD OF ASSESSMENT (GRADING METHOD)**

The following letter grades will be assigned in accordance with the Language and Communication Department Guidelines:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Grade Point Equivalent</u>
A+	Consistently outstanding	(90% - 100%) 4.00
A	Outstanding achievement	(80% - 89%) 3.75
B	Consistently above average achievement	(70% - 79%) 3.00
C	Satisfactory or acceptable achievement in all areas subject to assessment	(60% - 69%) 2.00
R	Repeat - The student has not achieved the objectives of the course, and the course must be repeated	(less than 60%) 0.00
CR	Credit exemption	
X	A temporary grade, limited to situations with extenuating circumstances, giving a student additional time to complete course requirements	

**NOTE:** Students may be assigned an "R" grade early in the course for unsatisfactory performance.

**GRADING**

Written work assigned and graded will constitute **70%** of the grade. A final research project/presentation will constitute **30%**. After students have had an opportunity to revise their writing, professors will deduct marks for any remaining grammar and fundamental errors.

Marking schemes for assignments will differ from professor to professor and from assignment to assignment. This flexibility recognizes that professors need to vary their approaches as they assist students with differing levels of competence to meet the outcomes of the course.

**VI. SPECIAL NOTES:**Mid-Term Grades

At **mid-term** one of the following grades will be assigned:

- S Satisfactory performance to the time of mid-term grade assignment (does not indicate successful completion of the course)
- U Unsatisfactory performance to the time of mid-term grade assignment (does not indicate unsuccessful completion of the course)
- R The course must be repeated; minimal performance has resulted in the course outcomes not being met

Special Needs

Students with special needs (e.g. physical limitations, visual impairments, hearing impairments, learning disabilities), are encouraged to discuss required accommodations with the professor and/or contact the Special Needs Office.

Complementary Activities

To meet course objectives, students should expect to match each scheduled class hour with independent study.

The Learning Centre/The “Write” Place

Students are encouraged to use The Learning Centre (E1101) for drop-in tutorials, peer tutoring, and professor-assisted tutoring.

Plagiarism

To plagiarise is to “take and use as one’s own (thoughts [ideas], writings, inventions, etc. of another); especially to take and use a passage, plot, etc. from the work of another writer” (Gage Canadian Dictionary, 1983, p. 861). This includes using materials downloaded directly from the Internet without proper citation.

Students should refer to the definition of “academic dishonesty” in the “Statement of Students’ Rights and Responsibilities” (on-line Intranet for Sault College). Also, in order to collaborate on an assignment, students need prior permission from the professor.

Students who engage in “academic dishonesty” will receive an automatic failure for that submission and/or other such penalty, up to and including expulsion from the course.

In order to protect students from inadvertent plagiarism, to protect the material referenced, and to credit the author of the material, it is the policy of the department to employ a documentation format for referencing source material.

**VI. SPECIAL NOTES (continued):**Advanced Standing

Students who have completed an equivalent post-secondary course must bring relevant documents to the Coordinator, Language and Communication Department:

- a copy of course outline
- a copy of the transcript verifying successful completion of the equivalent course

Note: A copy of the transcript must be on file in the Registrar's office.

Retention of Course Outlines

Students are responsible for retaining all course outlines for possible future use in gaining advanced standing at other post-secondary institutions.

Substitute course information is available at the Registrar's office.

**VII. PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT**

Students who have related employment-centered experience should see the Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Coordinator.

Students who have mastered these outcomes should see the Prior Learning Assessment Coordinator to discuss the availability of a Challenge Test for this course.



