

School of Public Service and Justice – Frequently Asked Questions

Where did this idea come from?

The School of Public Service and Justice is a faculty-driven initiative in the Department of Public Administration. During the external site visit for the Criminal Justice Administration Program Review, it was suggested that the establishment of a School could help to advance the Department's mission, and in particular to elevate the undergraduate program in Criminal Justice Administration.

Are the faculty behind this?

Yes. There has been consensus among Department of Public Administration faculty that we should pursue the School. Faculty see the significant opportunities that the School would provide to our students, faculty, and staff, especially in terms of creating a clearer sense of collective identity and awareness of our great programs. We formed a Departmental task force to explore the potential School, deliberated over the details of the proposal, and consulted with key stakeholders. In particular, we are all committed to undertaking the additional work it will take to establish and develop this School over time.

How will this benefit our students?

The new School of Public Service and Justice would provide a clearer collective identity and home for our students and alumni. We value our place in the College of Business Administration and Public Policy, yet are excited to be able to forge a clearer identity that emphasizes the public service and justice elements of our programs. Moreover, we see significant opportunities to leverage the new School brand for external event sponsorship, scholarship funding, and internship and career opportunities for our students.

What additional resources will you need to start this new School?

In the short run, we are not anticipating a new for additional resources. We appreciate there are limited resources available, especially during a recessionary period. We have drawn out an organizational chart that we aim to work towards in future years.

That said, future additional faculty lines are needed to ensure that our undergraduate programs in Criminal Justice Administration and Public Administration—which both have lower than average full-time faculty ratios—come to parity with other programs in the university.

If the additional resources aren't significant, and the organizational structure doesn't change much, why bother?

Words and branding matter. The School of Public Service and Justice provides a clearer identity and an explicit sense of mission that can guide our students to meet the moment and serve our communities through public service and justice.

Can we start a new School too?

Yes. Our Department's proposal has highlighted a gap in CSUDH policy on creating a new school. The CSUDH Educational Policy Committee is currently establishing a framework for any Department to develop a new school.

Will this affect accreditation of the MPA program?

This will enhance the ability of the CSUDH MPA to achieve re-accreditation of the program through NASPAA, the global standard in public service education, in 2023. Highlighting the public service element of our program will improve our standing with NASPAA, and our linking of public service with justice elements in the MPA and other programs will set us apart. Moreover, the establishment of the new School would demonstrate a level of support for our program from the broader CSUDH community.