



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Lisa Skari, Ed.D
President
503-491-7211
Lisa.Skari@mhcc.edu

March 8, 2021

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for Senate Bill 416, which would allow certain community college criminal justice courses to be counted as part of the social science core transfer requirement.

Community college criminal justice courses transfer to university partners in one of three ways: 1) direct transfer of equivalent course, 2) transfer of credit in the social science core, satisfying AAOT degree requirement, 3) transfer of credit as elective, where the course does not satisfy any course or degree requirements. At Mt. Hood Community College, criminal justice courses are considered elective credits at most universities. As a result, the credits do not count toward satisfying any degree requirements, and students are left with excess credits.

Our college prides itself in providing students the education and skills they need to support their career goals. Included in their education are the classes that assist them in becoming great citizens as well. I feel it is important that part of their education include the opportunity to be well apprised not only of how the criminal justice system supports the rights of all citizens, but also the challenges the system faces.

In today's world we hear almost daily about some of these challenges. In understanding these challenges, it is best that our students also understand just how the criminal justice system operates. From advancing equity in the system, to creating more just policies and practices, community college criminal justice courses contribute to increasing knowledge and providing a foundation of understanding and critical thinking. Through such knowledge they may not only be able to make better decisions for themselves, but also for the community as a whole.

Please consider supporting this bill, not only as a way to ensure community college criminal justice courses are counted toward satisfying degree requirements, but also in encouraging them to learn about our justice system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Skari".

Dr. Lisa Skari
President
Mt. Hood Community College