

EXPLORING THE READINESS AND KNOWLEDGE OF CRIMINOLOGY INTERN DURING THEIR IMMERSION PROGRAM:AN ASSESSMENT

ABSTRACT

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Criminology

KEYWORDS

*immersion program;
criminology intern; readiness;
knowledge; field exposure;
internship training*

ARTICLE ID

AASGBCPJMRA-B94406

This study aims to assess the readiness and knowledge of criminology interns during their immersion program. Internship experiences are a critical component of criminology education, providing students with hands-on exposure to actual criminal justice settings. These programs help bridge the gap between classroom instruction and field application by allowing interns to develop competencies in investigative procedures, law enforcement practices, crime prevention, and ethical decision-making. However, concerns regarding limited exposure and inadequate pre-immersion preparation prompted this investigation. A descriptive-quantitative research design was used to evaluate the readiness of fifty (50) criminology interns from Bestlink College of the Philippines. Respondents were selected through simple random sampling. A structured survey questionnaire was utilized to assess their preparedness in terms of theoretical knowledge, practical application, and professional behavior. Ethical guidelines were strictly followed throughout the distribution, retrieval, and analysis of data. The results indicated that the majority of interns agreed that the immersion program significantly contributed to their skill development and professional conduct. Many respondents reported enhanced ability in applying theoretical knowledge to real-world situations. However, pre-immersion training received the lowest rating, suggesting inadequacy in initial preparation. Furthermore, 90% of respondents identified "lack of exposure to diverse aspects of criminology" as the most prominent challenge, highlighting the disconnect between academic instruction and field experience. To address the gaps identified, the study recommends strengthening pre-immersion training programs, implementing rotational field assignments across various criminology sectors, and incorporating structured orientation sessions before deployment. Additional strategies such as regular feedback mechanisms, mentorship programs, and supplementary training modules are also advised to better equip interns for professional practice. These improvements aim to align educational preparation with field expectations, enhancing the overall competence and readiness of future criminology professionals.

RECOMMENDED CITATION

Ganancial, E. V., Hementera, A., Herrera, J. M., Lelis, V., & Madriaga, F. I. (2025). Exploring The Readiness And Knowledge Of Criminology Intern During Their Immersion Program:an Assessment. *Ascendens Asia Singapore – Bestlink College of the Philippines Journal of Multidisciplinary Research Abstracts*, 7(1), 99.