

Comparative Study of Police Training Practices in the US and Ghana

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As part of the collaboration between KSU and Ghanaian institutions, the Dept. of SCJ is currently working with the Univ. of Cape Coast (UCC), particularly the Faculty (School) of Law, to establish the first criminal justice graduate program. This graduate program reflects the increased drive to professionalize criminal justice agencies, an agenda that has been in place in the US for some time now. This proposed project is aimed at producing more current comparative research on 1 of the 3 primary CJ agencies to support graduate education here in the US and in Ghana. It is noted that one of the foci of KSU's Master of Science in Criminal Justice (MSCJ) program is comparative criminal justice systems. Thus a project that compares police training in the US and Ghana will benefit both the KSU's MSCJ and the proposed graduate program in Ghana. The proposed project examines training protocols of the police in US and Ghana. The study will involve graduate students on both KSU and UCC campuses. This will provide an opportunity for a potential master's thesis or project, provide resources for instructors for both the KSU MSCJ and the UCC program, as well as student-faculty research collaboration.

The aim and focus of this proposed international collaborative research project are consistent with KSU's and DGA's engagement and internationalization agenda. More specifically goals of this proposed research project fully aligns with Goals 2 and 3 of DGA's Strategic Plan which are aimed at promoting international research and collaboration, and the internationalization of the curriculum. With respect to international research and collaboration, this is essentially what this proposed project does, in undertaking a comparative research project that involves both faculty and student collaborators from KSU and UCC. The project builds on existing, and arguably, one of the KSU most successful international partnerships with Ghana and its academic institutions. It also builds on existing KSU engagement with organizations, institutions and agencies in our community. The department of Sociology and Criminal Justice has worked, and continues to work with criminal justice institutions in Georgia, and this proposed project will deepen that relationship. The goal of the proposed research project is to address three main research questions: (1) What are the curriculum, scope of training and pedagogical practices employed by police trainers in Ghana and the U.S.; (2) What are the challenges facing the training academies of both countries and how do they address them?; (3) How well can the trainees apply their training to police work? The study will specifically focus on 1 of the 6 Ghana Police Service (GPS) training centers based in Winneba. This training center is the closest to the Univ. of Cape Coast, our partner institution, and where the collaborating faculty and student will be based. For

the U.S. we will either focus on North Central Georgia Law Enforcement Academy based in Austell, GA or the Cobb County Police Department Training Center based in Marietta. Both institutions are close to KSU, and faculty members in our department have working relationships with both institutions. This comparative research will provide the necessary background information which informs police practice, and which will also signal gaps that may have to be covered and/or reinforced through the graduate programs we offer and the one UCC plans to offer. The study will thus benefit both the KSU's MSCJ and the proposed CJ graduate program in Ghana.