Procedures for Approval of Certificate Programs

See Campus Certificate Policy (200-023) and CU System APS 1040 prior to completing the certificate application.

1. Departments, centers, institutes, colleges or schools may start the certificate process by completing the certificate form and getting the appropriate approvals. Part I and all relevant signatures need to be completed for all certificates. Part II needs to be completed for financial aid eligible certificate programs only.

2. Each certificate should be approved by the appropriate academic units following the department, college, school, or institute processes for certificate approval. It is important that faculty members are involved in the approval process. Certificates proposed by academic centers must be approved by the college or institute that houses the center. If multiple colleges are involved, each relevant college must approve the certificate.

3. Send the proposal to the appropriate campus committee
    a. Undergraduate Certificates are sent to the Vice Provost of for Undergraduate Education and Academic Planning.
    b. Graduate Certificates are sent to the Dean of the Graduate School.

4. Proposals are reviewed by the appropriate campus committees/units.
    a. Undergraduate academic certificates are reviewed by the Council on Undergraduate Education, which makes a recommendation to approve or not approve the certificate. The committee may send the proposal back to the originating unit for further information.
    b. Graduate academic certificates are reviewed by the Graduate Executive Committee, which makes a recommendation to approve or not approve the certificate. The committee may send the proposal back to the originating unit for further information.
    c. Professional development (noncredit) certificates must be sent to campus-wide extended studies (CWES) for notification and to work out any administrative duties that CWES may have.
    d. The Campus Certificate Implementation Committee consists of representatives from Institutional Research, Financial Aid, Campus-wide Extended Studies, and Admissions and Records. This committee reviews documentation for appropriateness for financial aid eligibility and any broad campus concerns (e.g. transcript notation, CDHE and System approval, set up in CU-SIS). Concerns and suggested changes will be given to the chair of the appropriate undergraduate or graduate committee. The chair of the committee will contact the program official who instigated the certificate process to communicate the concerns.

5. Following approval by the appropriate review committees, the proposal is sent to the Provost for approval. Chancellor will need to approve if the certificate is going to CU System for review by Regents for placement on CDHE SURDS list.

6. Following approval by the Provost, the proposal is distributed to appropriate offices in order to implement the certificate. The initiating department is informed of the decision/outcome and timeline for implementation (e.g., admitting students).

Certificate Approval Form

In order for a certificate program to be reviewed, please fill out the form below and submit to the appropriate college and committees. Please plan on at least six months after submission before offering a certificate. Complete information in Part I for all requests. All appropriate signatures should be obtained.

PART I

1. Name of Certificate: Trauma-Informed Forensic Care
2. Department(s): Social Work & Criminal Justice
3. College(s): Public Service
4. Faculty Director/Advisor: Dr. Stephanie Gangemi
5. Type of Certificate:

   ☑ Financial Aid Eligible, Stand-alone certificate (formerly Gainful Employment)

   ☐ Course of Study (only for UCCS students in degree program)

   ☐ Professional Development (offered through extended studies)

   Note: If Financial Aid eligible certificate, will need approval by Regents.

6. Expected start date (semester and year): Fall 2027
7. Number of required credit hours: 12
8. Anticipated length of the program in semesters including summer (e.g., 2 years = 6 semesters): 2 years
9. Preferred CIP[i] code (XX.XXXX):_____
10. Is there a **licensure** associated with this certificate? YES NO
    a. If yes, name of licensure: N/A
    b. If yes, website where NC-SARA[ii] licensure disclosures exist:_____
11. What percent of courses in the certificate will be delivered via distance or **online** education?
    - ○ 100%
    - ○ 50-99%
    - ○ 1-49%
    - ○ 0%

12. Institutions accredited by the Higher Learning Commission are required to seek prior approval for credit-bearing certificate programs in which 50% or more of the courses were developed for the program and not derived from courses in existing academic programs. What percentage of the total courses required for this certificate were developed for this certificate and not derived from courses in existing programs?

    - (●) < 50%
    - ( ) 50-100%

13. Describe the certificate program. Include in your description the following information:

    a. Certificate Description: Describe the field of study and basic design of the proposed certificate including how fits into the role and mission of the institution.

    b. Workforce Demand: Supply evidence of the opportunities available to certificate completers.

    c. Academic Requirements: Describe the admission criteria and list the courses and credit hours required for completion and the number of courses to be offered online.

    d. Tuition and Fees: Provide the tuition rate and any mandatory fees.

    e. Resource Requirements: Explain the resources required to deliver the program, clearly indicating new resources that must be secured.

    f. Enrollment: Provide enrollment projections for the first five years of implementation.

    g. Budget: Provide revenue and expenditure estimates, including the primary sources and uses of funds.

    h. The admission and exit process (include requirements for applying to certificate, process for completion). These details are important for Course of Study and Professional Development certificates. Financial Aid eligible certificates require formal application process through admissions.

    i. Other relevant information: Include any other information deemed relevant to support new certificate proposals.

The following narrative describes the certificate program.

Proposal for: Trauma-Informed Forensic Care Certificate

Competence and Compassion in Challenging Places

UCCS Interdisciplinary Certificate Program between the Master of Social Work (MSW) and Master of Criminal Justice (MCJ) Programs

***Proposal received unanimous faculty approval from the Social Work Department and the Criminal Justice Departments*.**

13. Describe the certificate program

a. Certificate Description

Proposed credential: Graduate Certificate in Trauma-Informed Forensic Care (TIFC).

Institution/units: University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS), delivered collaboratively by the MSW and MCJ programs of the College of Public Service.

Field of study and purpose: The TIFC certificate prepares graduate students and working professionals to apply trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and ethically grounded practices in forensic-based settings with a goal of fostering "competence and compassion in challenging places". These may include but are not limited to jails, prisons, probation, parole, specialty courts, community reentry, child welfare, behavioral health–legal system partnerships, law enforcement agencies, forensic psychiatric units, emergency rooms, and more.

The curriculum emphasizes: (1) the scope and effects of trauma exposure and its behavioral and health care sequelae, (2) system and organizational drivers of harm and resilience in, (3) interdisciplinary practice across custody, healthcare, and community systems, and (4) practical skills for safe, humane, and effective forensic care while navigating the dual mandate of punishment and rehabilitation.

Basic program design: The certificate is designed as a graduate-level credential that can be completed alongside the MSW or MCJ degree as an embedded specialization, or as a standalone post-baccalaureate/post-master's certificate for working professionals.

Mission fit: The certificate advances UCCS's public-serving mission by strengthening the regional and statewide workforce in public safety, behavioral health, and human services, especially roles requiring cross-system competence, ethical decision-making, and evidence-informed interventions for justice-involved populations.

b. Workforce Demand

The need for a Trauma-Informed Forensic Care Certificate first became evident through enrollment patterns in the UCCS MSW program. In response to growing student interest, the program launched an elective course, *Forensic Social Work (SOWK 6072)*, in Summer of 2023. Demand was immediate: the course filled quickly and required the addition of a second section. Interest remained strong when the course was offered again in Fall 2024, when it overenrolled, and in Fall 2025, when a second section was once again needed.

In recent years, MSW students have increasingly used electives to take courses in the MCJ program, while MCJ students have similarly enrolled in MSW electives. This pattern of cross-enrollment demonstrates strong and sustained student interest in interdisciplinary training that bridges social work and criminal justice. We are fortunate to have our MSW and MCJ programs located in the same college with expert faculty from both departments equipped to deliver trauma-informed forensic curricula.

Trauma-informed training is well-aligned with the workforce needs of both social work and criminal justice professions in a variety of forensic settings. Our recent alumni are working across a wide range of forensic settings to include: local jails such as the El Paso County Criminal Justice Center, the Colorado Department of Corrections Prison Systems, Colorado Springs Police Department, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, the Public Defender's Office, the Colorado Mental Health Institute at Pueblo, the Alternative Defense Council, Incarcerated Veteran Programs, and Co-Responder units in Colorado and other states to name a few. Colorado is always hiring forensic care professionals and was recently offering a $25,000 hiring bonus for new social work hires. A trauma-informed forensic care certificate provides vital training for occupations that show sustained annual openings and projected growth locally and nationally.

Considering the numbers, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that social work employment will grow 6% from 2024–2034, with about 74,000 openings per year on average, many driven by replacement needs (e.g., retirements and occupational exits), supporting the case for a graduate certificate that can serve both current students and working professionals (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS, 2025a). BLS also projects 3% growth for probation officers and correctional treatment specialists with about 7,900 openings per year on average over the decade, indicating continued demand for professionals who can work effectively with justice-involved populations in supervision, rehabilitation, and reentry contexts (BLS, 2025b). These projections support an interdisciplinary UCCS credential that prepares MSW and MCJ learners for overlapping and interdependent roles in forensic social work, policing, community corrections, reentry, and behavioral health services in the criminal legal system.

Workforce demand is also being shaped by changing practice expectations across law enforcement, corrections, courts, and correctional healthcare. SAMHSA's GAINS Center provides trauma training specifically for criminal justice professionals and explicitly identifies police officers, community corrections personnel, court personnel, and behavioral health professionals working with justice-involved populations as target audiences, evidence that trauma-informed response is now a cross-system workforce competency, not a niche specialty (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [SAMHSA], 2024).

Across policing, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) maintains a dedicated Trauma-Informed Policing policy/resource hub, further reinforcing the mainstreaming of trauma-informed approaches in law enforcement professional development (International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP, n.d.). Correctional healthcare systems face parallel pressures: The National Commission on Correctional Healthcare (NCCHC) documents ongoing staffing disruptions and identifies staffing as a central operational challenge in correctional health care, alongside mental health and reentry pressures, all conditions that increase the need for workforce preparation in trauma-informed, interdisciplinary forensic practice (National Commission on Correctional Health Care [NCCHC], 2023; NCCHC Resources, n.d.). Taken together, these trends support a joint MSW–MCJ Trauma-

Informed Forensic Certificate at UCCS as a workforce-facing response to shared, real-world demands across justice and health systems.

The following provides a snapshot of Colorado-specific workforce data in support of a Trauma-Informed Forensic Care Certificate.

Colorado Job-Market Snapshot (with Projections) for
Trauma-Informed Forensic Care Certificate – UCCS (MSW & MCJ)

Colorado employment and projected-demand indicators for roles aligned with trauma-informed forensic care. Projections shown are 2022–2032 Colorado long-term projections. Data Collected from O*Net – Occupational Information Network Database through the Department of Labor

Role	**Standard occupation title (SOC/O*NET)**	**CO employment (2022)**	**CO projected employment (2032)**	**CO projected growth (2022–2032)**	**CO projected annual openings (2022–2032)**
Social worker (broad proxy)	Social Workers, All Other (21-1029.00)	2,840	3,270	15%	290
Social worker (child/family/schools)	Child, Family, and School Social Workers (21-1021.00)	10,350	11,870	15%	990
Social worker (healthcare settings)	Healthcare Social Workers (21-1022.00)	3,680	4,350	18%	400
Social worker (behavioral health/SUD)	Mental Health & Substance Abuse Social Workers (21-1023.00)	1,800	2,140	19%	170
Correctional mental health professional (counseling)	Mental Health Counselors* (21-1014.00)	15,180	19,420	28%	1,840
Correctional mental health professional (psychology)	Clinical & Counseling Psychologists (19-3033.00)	1,390	1,670	20%	100

Law enforcement (police/sheriff)	Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers (33-3051.00)	10,800	12,430	15%	1,040
Law enforcement (investigation)	Detectives & Criminal Investigators (33-3021.00)	1,930	2,160	12%	170

Market Analysis:

Forensic Social Work and Trauma-Informed Policing Roles

Colorado Focus, March 2026

Note: Several fields in the original template (12-month postings, posting intensity, and time-to-fill) typically require a proprietary labor-market analytics platform such as Lightcast, Burning Glass, or JobsEQ. They are marked as unavailable where they could not be verified from public sources without sacrificing accuracy.

Method Note

Occupational proxies used. Because neither "forensic social worker" nor "trauma-informed policing" is a standard BLS occupation, this analysis uses a cluster approach. For forensic social work, the closest public labor-market proxies are 21-1023 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Workers, 21-1029 Social Workers, All Other, and 21-1092 Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialists. For trauma-informed policing, public sources mainly capture related roles such as co-responder clinicians, behavioral health crisis response clinicians, victim advocates, crisis intervention administrators, and forensic social workers embedded in courts, defense, or public safety systems.

I. Employer Demand Snapshot

- **Total job postings (12 months):** Not publicly verifiable from no-cost sources for this niche cluster; use Lightcast/Burning Glass/JobsEQ for a defensible 12-month total.
- **Posting intensity (postings per hire):** Not publicly verifiable from no-cost sources.
- **Time to fill:** Not publicly verifiable from no-cost sources.
- **Public posting snapshot (March 2, 2026):** Indeed returned 319 Colorado jobs for "forensic social worker," 694 Colorado jobs for "trauma informed," 98 trauma-informed jobs in Colorado Springs, and 475 trauma-informed jobs in Denver. These are snapshots, not annualized counts. There are also numerous statewide positions for “co-responders” in addition to hundreds of job postings for law enforcement officers.

  Recurring employers and systems observed in public postings/employer pages:

  - Colorado Department of Corrections

- Colorado Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel (forensic social work contractors and clinical supervision)
- Colorado State Public Defender (forensic social workers and internships)
- City of Aurora / Aurora Police crisis-intervention infrastructure
- City of Boulder Behavioral Health Crisis Response team
- Colorado Department of Human Services, including Division of Youth Services
- Denver-area behavioral health and hospital employers such as Denver Health and WellPower
- North Range Behavioral Health co-responder program

Other relevant and common employers include Colorado Children's Hospital, Wounded Warrior Project, US Veterans Health Administration, and regional hospitals.

Demand geography summary: The broader Front Range (Denver, Aurora, Boulder, Colorado Springs, Fort Collins/Greeley) is the strongest regional cluster because it combines employers, crisis-response models, and training programs. Denver Metro shows the broadest demand across crisis response, public health, hospitals, reentry, and public-sector administration. Colorado Springs shows smaller but clear niche demand in forensic counseling, defense-team social work, victim advocacy, and trauma-responsive community roles.

II. Skills and Competency Alignment
Top technical skills recurring across reviewed postings and occupational profiles (ranked):

1. Trauma-informed assessment and intervention
2. Crisis intervention and de-escalation
3. Case management, care coordination, and resource navigation
4. Behavioral health / mental health assessment
5. Documentation, legal records, and defensible charting
6. Court, corrections, or public-safety systems knowledge
7. Risk assessment, safety planning, and diversion planning
8. Cross-agency collaboration / co-response operations
9. Culturally responsive practice and equity-informed service delivery
10. Reentry planning and community linkage

Top soft skills: Communication, crisis composure, ethical judgment, collaboration across agencies, relationship building, cultural humility, and strong professional boundaries.

Emerging skills: Police-clinician co-response design, restorative and transformative justice, digital case management / legal record systems, diversion and reentry program coordination, and integrated behavioral health models.

Alignment notes: The user template listed forensic assessment, DSM-5 diagnosis, and expert testimony support. Those are present in some forensic-clinical roles, but public Colorado postings more consistently emphasized

trauma-informed care, crisis intervention, documentation, collaboration, reentry, and behavioral health competencies.

III. Compensation Benchmarking

Public postings salary sample (small verified sample, March 2026): Using midpoint values from 11 publicly visible Colorado ads that were clearly relevant to forensic social work, crisis response, co-response, or trauma-informed justice-related work, the sample median was about $70,000; the 25th-75th percentile range was about $62,437 to $94,069; and the top quartile began around $94,000. This is a directional sample, not a market-wide advertised salary census.

Region / proxy	Public posting sample median	BLS/OEWS benchmark	Gap / note
Colorado Springs	$70,790 (sample)	$52,940 mean for 21-1023 in Colorado Springs (May 2023)	Sample runs above the BLS proxy, partly because several visible postings were contractor/specialized roles.
Denver Metro	$70,000 (sample)	$62,880 mean for 21-1023; $58,570 mean for 21-1029 in Denver (May 2023)	Sample sits above broad social-work proxies, consistent with crisis-response and public-safety specialization.
Colorado statewide proxy	N/A	$61,330 mean for 21-1023; $58,520 mean for 21-1029; $66,070 mean for 21-1092 (May 2023)	Best statewide public benchmark available.
National	N/A	$63,870 mean for 21-1023; $68,800 mean for 21-1029 (May 2023); $61,330 median for all social workers (May 2024)	Use national figures for external comparison only.

IV. Workforce Supply and Pipeline

- **Current Colorado workers in relevant SOC codes:** 21-1029 Social Workers, All Other: 2,600; 21-1023 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Workers: 1,480; 21-1021 Child, Family, and School Social Workers: 7,560; 21-1092 Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialists: 2,280.
- **Age distribution:** A current Colorado-specific age breakout for this niche cluster was not available in a single authoritative public table that could be verified. For workforce planning, note that national social-work workforce studies continue to show an aging profession and significant replacement demand; if this field must be completed numerically, use a custom ACS PUMS or licensure data tabulation.
- **Program completions in Colorado (recent year):** MSW completions: 984; BSW completions: 247. These counts come from O*NET local training pages built on IPEDS 2023-24 completions.

- **Criminal-justice / forensic pathways:** Colorado preparation appears to be embedded in MSW/BSW programs plus internships/fellowships such as those at the Colorado State Public Defender and the Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel.
- **Supply-demand gap:** A precise Colorado gap measure would require Colorado-specific occupational openings plus a defensible definition of the forensic/trauma-informed policing job cluster. Public federal sources support the direction of demand: social workers are projected to see about 74,000 U.S. openings per year from 2024 to 2034, and probation officers/correctional treatment specialists about 7,900 openings per year.

V. Industry and Sector Demand

Best public-sector reading of sector demand: National BLS industry profiles suggest that justice-adjacent demand is concentrated in state and local government for probation/correctional treatment roles, while clinical-forensic and trauma-informed roles cluster in psychiatric and substance-use hospitals, outpatient behavioral health, residential treatment, individual and family services, and social advocacy organizations.

Sector	Public evidence	Interpretation
State and county courts / corrections	21-1092 employment is concentrated in state government (44,100) and local government (38,970).	This is the clearest public proxy for justice-system demand.
State mental health and forensic systems	Colorado state facilities and forensic hospitals advertise trauma-informed roles; public BLS coding does not separate forensic hospitals cleanly from other settings.	Important employer group, but not perfectly isolated in public data.
Hospital / behavioral health systems	For 21-1023, national employment is high in outpatient care centers (23,620), offices of other practitioners (14,000), psychiatric and substance abuse hospitals (8,150), and residential mental health/SUD facilities (11,430).	Large share of clinically oriented demand.
Nonprofit advocacy / reentry organizations	Public postings show reentry, victim services, shelter, and social-equity jobs using trauma-informed language; BLS captures part of this in individual and family services and social advocacy organizations.	Meaningful but undercounted in occupation-specific federal tables.
Police-linked crisis response / co-response	Public postings and program pages document crisis-response clinicians, co-responder clinicians, and crisis-intervention administrators in Aurora, Boulder, and North Range/Weld.	Growing practice model; not yet a stand-alone federal occupation.

VI. Credentialing and Professional Requirements

- **Degree expectations:** MSW is the strongest fit for forensic social work roles and MCJ are the strongest for law enforcement related roles; some trauma-informed public-safety and crisis roles also accept counseling, psychology, marriage and family therapy, or related master's degrees.

- **Colorado social work licensure:** Colorado LSW and LCSW remain the core social-work licenses. ASWB lists Colorado LCSW eligibility as an MSW or DSW, passage of the Clinical exam, and 3,360 hours of supervised post-degree experience with 96 hours of direct supervisor contact.
- **Continuing professional competency:** Colorado DORA requires active social workers to maintain Continuing Professional Competency for renewal.
- **Addiction credentials:** Addiction counselor credentials (for example CAS or LAC pathways under Colorado DORA) can be additive in justice, diversion, and co-occurring-disorder settings.
- **CSWE requirement:** A CSWE-accredited social work degree remains the standard educational pathway for Colorado licensure and for most forensic social work roles.
- **Important correction to the original template:** NASW offers broad professional and specialty credentials, but NASW does not offer a Certified Forensic Social Worker credential. If you want to keep a forensic certificate line, label it as an optional non-NASW credential and separate it from the NASW/CSWE/state-board section.

Key Takeaways

- Largest projected annual openings among the listed roles are in mental health counseling and police/sheriff patrol. Considering the trauma-informed initiatives of the IACP and NCCHC and local funding for co-responder units, this suggests a sizable ongoing workforce needing trauma-informed, justice-context training.
- Across social work categories, Colorado projections show steady growth (15–19%) with meaningful annual openings, supporting demand for specialized forensic/trauma training for MSW-aligned roles.
- For "forensic social worker," there is no single SOC code; workforce demand is best triangulated using social work categories above (especially Social Workers, All Other) plus employer demand in justice agencies (e.g., reentry, victim services, courts, probation/parole, corrections healthcare).

Workforce impacts: Certificate learners will have competence and specialized training for roles such as:

- Social work roles in the criminal legal system (corrections, reentry, forensic behavioral health)
- Law enforcement officers such as police and sheriff's deputies
- Probation/parole services and community corrections
- Jail/prison programming, case management, and treatment coordination
- Crisis response and co-responder teams; diversion and specialty courts
- Community reentry service delivery (housing, SUD treatment linkage, benefits navigation)
- Correctional healthcare/behavioral health team roles (care coordination, clinician, program lead)
- Policy, quality improvement, training, and program implementation roles in justice agencies and vendor organizations

c. Academic Requirements (admission criteria, courses/credits, online)

Total credits: 12 graduate credits (4 courses × 3 credits each). Certificate students will complete 2 SOWK courses and 2 CRJU courses for a total of 4 interdisciplinary courses

Recommended structure: completed over 2-4 semesters depending on student status and course rotation.

Admission eligibility

- **Degree-seeking option:** Open to students in good standing in the UCCS MSW or UCCS MCJ programs (minimum graduate GPA consistent with program policy = 2.75).
- **Non-degree/standalone option:** Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution; relevant professional experience preferred; statement of interest; resume; and any additional Graduate School requirements for non-degree enrollment.

Concepts and Competencies of the Certificate

- **Foundations of Forensic Care:** Overview of forensic principles in healthcare, ethical issues, and the legal system in the context of the prison-industrial complex.
- **Trauma-Informed Care:** Approaches to providing sensitive, humane care to victims and perpetrators of violence and trauma, across vulnerable populations.
- **Use-of-Self in Forensic Care:** Training on the unique challenges of a system defined by both punishment and rehabilitation. Focus on mitigating the "harms of helping" such as burnout, trauma, vicarious trauma, and moral injury while cultivating moral courage.
- **Public Service with Oppressed Populations:** Special focus on acute and chronic health and mental health service delivery in correctional facilities, inpatient psychiatric units, and forensic hospitals.
- **Legal and Ethical Considerations in Forensic Practice:** Examination of healthcare professionals' role in the legal system, including expert testimony, documentation, and working with disciplines with varying norms, rules, and ethical guidelines.

Proposed curriculum: Faculty teaching each of these courses will complete a trauma-informed forensic care rubric indicating that the course aligns with required trauma-informed principles. (INCLUDE LINK)

To complete the certificate, students will take a total of four courses (12 credit hours) approved by the SWRK and CJ faculty. Students are required to take SOWK 6072: Forensic Social Work (1 course/3 credits) and CRJU 5100: Administration of Criminal Justice (1 course/3 credits). Students will then select two course offerings between the Social Work (1 course/3 credits) and Criminal Justice (1 course/3 credits) programs.

Course Options

Required	
SOWK 6072: Forensic Social Work	**CRJU 5100:** Administration of Criminal Justice
Select One from Social Work & One from Criminal Justice	
Social Work - SOWK	**Criminal Justice - CRJU**
SOWK 6001: Psychopathology & Trauma*	**CRJU 5430:** Drugs, Alcohol, & Crime
SOWK 6002: Trauma & Violence*	**CRJU 5510:** Contemporary Issues in Policing
SOWK 6052: Child Welfare Policy & Practice	**CRJU 5520:** Corrections

SOWK 6053: Social Work in Health and Behavioral Health Settings	**– CRJU 5530:** Community Corrections
SOWK 6070: Crisis Intervention	**CRJU 5551:** Judicial Administration
SOWK 6059: Advanced Therapeutic Interventions* (open to current MSW students only)	**CRJU 5575:** MH and Wellness in the Criminal Justice System

*Denotes a requires course for MSW or MCJ degree

Online courses: All 4 courses will be offered in an online format to support working professionals and state/nationwide access. Supplemental programming may be made available through hybrid or in-person formats depending on instructional design and enrollment patterns.

Student Certificate Course Plan

Total of 4 Courses = 12 Credit Hours	
1. **SOWK 6072:** Forensic Social Work	2. **CRJU 5100:** Administration of Criminal Justice
Select One from Social Work & One from Criminal Justice	
3. **SOWK: select one from the list**	4. **CRJU: select one from the list**

Course Descriptions

Social Work Course Options

SOWK 6072 – Forensic Social Work (Required) - Provides an overview of social work practice in jails, prisons, parole/probation, and the legal system. Examines how psychosocial factors and forces of oppression impact people involved in the criminal justice system. Prepares students to engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate practice with special populations affected by the criminal justice system, including historically marginalized communities, people with chronic mental illness, pregnant women, the elderly, children, and adolescents. Attention will also be given to: safety considerations, use of self in forensic social work, the intersections of privilege and oppression in forensic settings, and the role of locked facilities in society.

SOWK 6001 – Psychopathology & Trauma - Uses a trauma-informed lens to view mental health conditions including diagnostic issues and the impact specific diagnoses have on behavior. Psychopathology and mental disorders from a trauma-informed and ecological perspective are examined. Emphasis is placed on understanding biopsychosocial influences on the incidence, course, and treatment of the most presented mental health related disorders and the impact of trauma on etiology and presentation across diverse populations. Students learn diagnostic skills as they relate to comprehensive social work assessment and the development of social work interventions. Ethical issues, collaboration with families, knowledge of psychopharmacology, and the varied roles social workers play in mental health settings are stressed. Pre-requisites may be waived for standalone certificate students.

SOWK 6002 – Trauma and Violence - Emphasizes trauma-informed practice with client systems across diverse populations using the World Health Organization (WHO) categories of violence: self-directed, interpersonal, and collective. Considers violence occurring within the family (e.g., intimate partner violence, child maltreatment/neglect/ abuse, and elder abuse) and community (e.g., violent crime, gang violence, and

homicide), as well as global societies (e.g., economic violence, and political violence). Emphasizes the foundational role of racism in various trauma and violence scenarios and addresses the unique needs of families and communities impacted by poverty and marginalization. Emphasizes community-engaged practice and macro social work strategies for prevention and intervention, examining the influence of policy on social work practice and promoting community-engaged and participatory action research approaches to program development and evaluation. Pre-requisites may be waived for standalone certificate students.

SOWK 6059 – Advanced Therapeutic Interventions - This course supports students in gaining advanced clinical skills to use in therapeutic interventions. Each week, we will explore practical tools for advancing your skills as a social work therapist from active listening to using mindfulness techniques. The course will support applied knowledge in counseling techniques, psychodynamic psychotherapy, cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), dialectical behavioral therapy (DBT), family therapy, motivational interviewing (MI) and narrative therapy. Students will learn these evidence-based interventions and then apply the different therapy modalities to case vignettes to actively practice these advanced therapeutic interventions. Clinical evaluation will be covered, with an emphasis on skills for evaluating the outcomes of clinical interventions. The course will conclude with a focus on building an integrative practice that involves selecting techniques from different therapeutic orientations to best support your client(s), including using cultural adaptations. Open to current MSW students only.

SOWK 6070 – Crisis Intervention - This course will provide theoretical and practical knowledge regarding best practices when clients are presenting in crisis. The course will look at crisis intervention from many perspectives, and how it manifests in many different practice settings. It will look at micro (treatment of individuals who are in crisis), mezzo (such as Critical Incident Stress Debriefing), and macro (community responses to crises such as mobile crisis units, crisis hotlines, ACT teams, etc.) levels of crisis intervention. Special attention will be given to the unique needs of children and adolescents who are in crisis. In addition, special topics will be addressed, including the crises of suicide, rape, and domestic violence, and crises associated with loss and grief (including crises experienced by caretakers and crises associated with the experience of divorce).

Criminal Justice Course Options

CRJU 5100- Administration of Criminal Justice (Required)- Analyzes the policies and practices of agencies involved in the criminal justice process from detection of crime and arrest of suspects through prosecution, adjudication, sentencing, and imprisonment to release. The patterns of decisions and practices are reviewed in the context of a systems approach.

CRJU 5430: Drugs, Alcohol, and Crime- Provides an interdisciplinary overview of theory, research and policy issues surrounding the relationship between drugs, alcohol and crime; and the criminal justice system response. Explores the socially constructed nature of illegal substances and connections to U.S. drug policy.

CRJU 5510- Contemporary Issues in Policing- Examines current thinking and experience with respect to changing and reforming police programs and practices. The course focuses primarily on the American police experience, reviewing major innovations, exploring their rationale, and examining organizational impediments to their implementation.

CRJU 5520- Corrections- Provides a critical examination of the development and implementation of correctional systems in America. The course presents the origins of correctional efforts and the evolution of the prison; reviews punishment and rehabilitation rationales in the context of sentencing models; examines the social organization of the prison, including inmate subcultures and staff work strategies; and assesses the inmates' rights movement and the impact of judicial intervention in correctional settings.

CRJU 5530- Community Corrections- Analyzes the theories and practices of probation and parole, responses of paroling authorities to public pressures and court controls, and their implications for rehabilitation. Efforts to bridge institutional settings and community life, as well as the feasibility and effectiveness of treating individuals under sentence in the community, are reviewed.

CRJU 5551-Judicial Administration- Analyzes the judicial organization, court administration, and criminal court judicial decision-making practices within the context of the broader operation of the criminal justice system. Special attention is paid to the social organization of the courtroom, examining the special roles of judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys.

CRJU 5575 – Mental Health and Wellness in the Criminal Justice System - This course examines the role of mental health and the intersection of offending, victimization, and the response of the criminal justice system. First, this course will focus on the role of mental health and potential risk factors for crime and violence. Additionally, this course will examine how committing, experiencing, witnessing, or responding to a crime can impact one's mental health and wellness. Finally, this course will focus on a criminal justice system in response to individuals with mental health concerns. For instance, what policies shape how we screen, divert or process individuals with mental health concerns through the criminal justice system? What does treatment look like for individuals in and out of custody? Through an examination of contemporary policies and practices, students should understand how mental health is critically important in the criminal justice system.

d. Tuition and Fees (tuition rate + mandatory fees)

Tuition and mandatory fees will follow published UCCS Graduate School and Bursar rates in effect at the time of enrollment. The UCCS Graduate School provides estimated tuition/fee ranges by credit load and residency.

https://graduateschool.uccs.edu/uccs-finances/program-costs

https://bursar.uccs.edu/estimate-your-bill

Program-specific fees:

- There are no new certificate fees; the certificate program will use existing course fee structures if applicable.

e. Resource Requirements

Instructional resources (existing):

- Faculty expertise from MSW and MCJ (core instruction, advising, and supervision)
- Existing Canvas infrastructure and library resources
- Existing syllabi for certificate-related courses

New resources that may need to be secured:

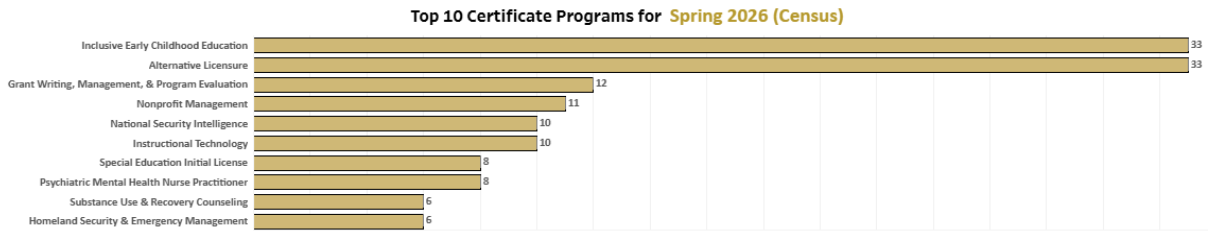
- Funding for simulation and applied learning (actors, supplies, evaluation tools)
- Modest marketing budget (targeted outreach to agencies and professional networks)
- Funding for new course sections is not expected for the three years of the certificate program. Once certificate enrollment surpasses 15 students, it is likely that funding for additional course sections may be required to accommodate certificate students.

f. Enrollment (enrollment projections for the first five years)

Assumptions: the stackable certificate draws from (1) MSW students, (2) MCJ students, and (3) a smaller pipeline of working professionals seeking a standalone credential; growth reflects increased awareness and predictable course rotation.

Year	Projected Enrollment	Projected Completions
Year 1	5	3
Year 2	10	5
Year 3	15	10
Year 4	20	15
Year 5	25	20

Projections based on UCCS Top 10 Certificate programs for 2026. See graphic below.



g. Budget

Revenue sources:

- Tuition revenue generated by certificate enrollments (captured via normal tuition distribution).
- External support (optional): agency contracts, workforce training funds, philanthropy, or grant support for simulation and evaluation.

Primary expenditures:

- There are no additional required expenditures for the certificate program
- A modest budget for market and special events (<$2000/year) would be helpful

h. Admission and Completion Process

Admission (degree-seeking students):

- Student declares certificate intent with program advisor.
- Eligibility check (good standing; GPA threshold consistent with MSW/MCJ policy, 2.75).
- Certificate plan of study filed (courses mapped; timeline established).

Admission (standalone/non-degree students, if permitted):

- Apply through the Graduate School non-degree/certificate pathway (per campus rules).
- Submit resume and statement of purpose; verify degree and prerequisites.
- Program review for fit and readiness.

Completion/exit requirements:

- Successful completion of 12 graduate credits with a minimum certificate GPA (minimum, 3.0).
- Certificate audit completed by program advisor; completion recorded per campus policy.

i. Other relevant information

Distinctive value of an interdisciplinary Trauma Informed Forensic Care Certificate in the MSW–MCJ certificate approach: The certificate is intentionally interdisciplinary and designed to reduce siloed practice and improve collaboration across custody, behavioral health, and community systems.

Equity and public impact: Trauma-informed forensic care strengthens humane practice, supports safer environments for staff and clients, and improves continuity of care across incarceration and reentry, advancing public health, safety, and community wellbeing.

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- O*NET OnLine. (n.d.). Colorado Employment Trends: 21-1023.00 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Workers. https://www.onetonline.org/link/localtrends/21-1023.00?st=CO
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Required Signatures

Additional names and signature lines may be added as necessary (e.g., center directors)

Requested by:

Stephanie Gangemi	Stephanie Gangemi Digitally signed by Stephanie Gangemi Date: 2026.04.22 17:18:50 -06'00'	4/22/26
Faculty: Name	Signature	Date

Approvals:

Shannon Johnson	Shannon Johnson Digitally signed by Shannon Johnson Date: 2026.04.24 13:31:54 -06'00'	4/24/26
Department Chair: Name	Signature	Date
Regina Winters	Regina Winters Digitally signed by Regina Winters Date: 2026.04.24 13:49:38 -06'00'	4/24/2026
College Dean: Name	Signature	Date
Campus Committee Chair: Name Graduate School Dean or Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education and Academic Planning	Signature	Date
Campus Director of Financial Aid: Name	Signature	Date
Campus Certificate Implementation Committee Chair : Name	Signature	Date
Provost: Name	Signature	Date
Chancellor: Name (if needed)	Signature	Date

To be completed by the Campus Certificate Implementation Committee:

CIP Code: _____ Plan Code: _____

Career Code: _____ Subplan Code: _____

Program Code: _____ Effective Date: _____

Date Assigned: _____

Meets all federal Gainful Employment Certificate Requirements?: ☐ Yes ☐ No
If no, what requirements are missing?

[i] CIP stands for Classification of Instructional Programs and is a numeric system used to identify degree and certificate programs that may have a variety of names. Please suggest a CIP by referring to the available codes at https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/.

[ii] To learn more about NC-SARA and the licensure disclosure requirements, please refer to the NC-SARA section at https://ir.uccs.edu/institutionaldata/accreditation and/or read the latest federal regulation at https://ir.uccs.edu/sites/g/files/kjihxj1231/files/inline-files/CFR-2020-title34-vol3-sec668-43.pdf.