

Bernice Petit

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Education

Southern Oregon University, Ashland, OR

September 2019 – Present

Major: B.A. Chemistry & B.S. Criminal Justice

Concentration: Forensics

Minor: Psychology & Biology

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Shanell Sanchez

Anticipating graduating Cum Laude in June 2024

Academic/Research Interests

- Rehabilitation
- Prison reform
- Recidivism
- Mental and Substance abuse disorders
- Forensic Chemistry
- Re-entry
- Race & crime
- Juvenile delinquency
- Comparative analysis of America's correctional system to other countries
- Theories concerning criminality and behavior

Course Presentations

“The Pros and Cons of Rehabilitation Programs and the characteristics/precursors that can lead to high rates of recidivism”, CCJ 400- Capstone, June 2023.

The presentation highlighted the pros and cons of prison rehab programs and how certain societal, economic, and personal strains or pressures can lead to an increased risk in recidivism. The presentation highlighted the benefits of rehabilitation programs and how there should be a stronger focus on these programs in prisons.

“Restorative Justice in Ireland”, CCJ-389C- Study-Away Ireland, November 2022.

The presentation highlighted the restorative practices of Ireland's criminal justice system.

“Harlequin Ichthyosis”, BI 341-Genetics, November 2022.

The presentation introduced and discussed the genetic factors/variables that produce Harlequin Ichthyosis, an autosomal recessive genetic disorder affecting the ABCA12 gene of the body.

“Electromagnetism in Astronomy”, Physics 203, June 2022.

The focus of this presentation was to talk about the physics components of astronomy such as electromagnetism and how it protects and affects our world.

Course Presentations Continued

“The pros and cons of rehabilitation programs and if they work in reducing the recidivism rate of offenders”, CCJ 301 Research and Writing I, March 2022.

This presentation focused on prison rehabilitation programs and how there is a correlation between those who participate in these programs and their recidivism versus offenders that do not.

“Complementary treatments such as Exercise Therapy can improve the cardiovascular fitness & mental health of individuals suffering with Schizophrenia”, a Literature Review, University Seminar 103, June 2020.

The focus of this presentation was to discuss the effects of exercise therapy treatment for individuals suffering from schizophrenic disorders.

Research Experience

“The Pros and Cons of Prison Rehabilitation Programs and the characteristics/precursors that can lead to high rates of recidivism”, literature review and survey research, January 2022-present, and under the supervision of Dr. Shanell Sanchez, Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice.

This research study focuses on analyzing the benefits of rehabilitation programs and their effects on recidivism as America has one of the highest recidivism rates in the world.

Work In Progress

ACJS Conference, March 2024. Planning to go to the conference under the guidance of Dr. Allison Burke and present my research on rehabilitation and recidivism.

Medical Death Investigator Internship at Jackson County Sheriff’s Office, January 2024- Planning to do an internship with the MDI unit at Jackson’s County Sheriff’s Office where I will get the opportunity to go to autopsies, go to crime scenes, help collect and analyze evidence, go on ride-alongs. ETC.

“Liquid Syllabus”, 2023, alongside Dr. Shanell Sanchez & Jayce Bachmann.

This research focuses on the benefits of liquid syllabuses fostering a creative, welcoming, and humanizing environment for students and instructors during the Covid-19 pandemic. The research presents a qualitative assessment of 200 students and their experience with liquid syllabuses.

“Covid Diaries”, 2023, alongside Dr. Shanell Sanchez & Jayce Bachmann.

This research focuses on the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on students and community members. The research focuses on the effects of Covid-19 on in-person university, the economy, individuals in poverty, the health care system, politics, and other areas of focus such as mental health and the correlation between race and Covid-19.

Honors and Awards

- SOU Provost’s List Spring 2023
- SOU Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program Spring 2023-Present
- Criminal Justice Department Award “Outstanding Junior” Spring 2023
- SOU President’s List Winter 2023
- SOU Provost’s List Spring 2022
- SOU Provost’s List Winter 2022
- SOU President’s List Spring 2021
- SOU Provost’s List Fall 2021
- SOU Provost’s List Winter 2020
- SOU President’s List Fall 2019
- SOU Honors College Fall 2019-Present

Grants and Scholarships

- Federal Pell Grant Fall 2019 – Present
- Dr Alvin Fellers Memorial Scholarship Fall 2019- Present
- Churchill Scholarship Fall 2019-Present
- Claude and Sadie B. Jones Scholarship Fall 2019-Spring 2023
- Oregon Opportunity Grant Fall 2019-Spring 2022
- Soroptimist International Scholarship Fall 2022-Spring 2023
- Kaiser Permanente Medical Center Scholarship Fall 2019-Spring 2023
- Ellis H. Bremer Memorial Scholarship Fall 2020-Present

Internships

Victims Assistance Program, Jackson County District Attorney Office April 2022-June 2022
 I worked under the Victim Assistance unit, and I participated in data entry, filing paperwork and cases, court cases, hearings, grand jury, sentencings, outreach, determination hearings, juvenile court cases, and developed pertinent skills needed for the Criminal Justice field.

Related Work Experience

OHRA, Ashland, Oregon April 2021 – Present
 I work as a shelter staff at the Ashland shelter for the houseless. I do many different jobs such as helping with job or rental applications, cleaning, fixing rooms, helping to mediate resident disputes, routine perimeters around the building, serving dinner to the guests, and hosting activities and game/movie nights for the residents.

Other Work Experience

Bridge Mentor, Ashland, Oregon

May 2020 – Present

As a Bridge Mentor, I work with the Bridge Program to help provide under-represented, low-income, and minority incoming freshman a smooth transition into college. I provide mentorship and peer guidance in everything and anything they might need help with. I TA for the bridge class and help to present class materials and lectures. I am also a mandatory reporter, so I am able to share and point them in the direction of many on-campus and off-campus resources if needed.

Community/Volunteer Service

Helper, Eco-Environmental Sustainability day.

Fall 2019

I volunteered at the farm for a day and helped plant fresh fruits and vegetables, placed new soil and fertilizer, and cleaned up weeds and other invasive plants.

Leadership Experiences

- Bridge Mentor, Bridge Program
- ALA Girls State, Labor Commissioner

May 2020 – Present

June 2018-June 2019

Memberships and Affiliations

- Latino Student Union
- Black Student Union

Specialized Certifications (and Licensure(s))

- Certification in CPR/First aid/AED

September 2021-Present

Special Skills and Abilities

- Bi-lingual (English and Haitian Creole)
- Confident Speaker
- Excel
- Trained as a Caregiver: Summer 2020- present
- Ability to receive constructive criticism and effectively apply it

(Updated 12/1/2023)