



COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Administrative Officers

Dean, College of Criminal Justice and Director, The Criminal Justice Center	Vincent J. Webb, Ph.D.
Associate Dean	W. Wesley Johnson, Ph.D.
Associate Dean	Janet L. Mullings, Ph.D.

Degrees Offered

Majors	Degrees
Criminal Justice	M.S.
Criminal Justice and Criminology	M.A.
Criminal Justice Leadership and Management	M.S.
Forensic Science	M.S.
Security Studies	M.S.
Criminal Justice*	Ph.D.
Victim Services Management	M.S.

* In a joint program with the University of Houston Law School, students may concurrently seek a Doctor of Philosophy in Criminal Justice (Ph.D.) and a Doctor of Juris Prudence (J.D.).

Degree Programs

The College of Criminal Justice offers a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Criminal Justice, a Master of Arts degree in Criminal Justice and Criminology, a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice Leadership and Management, a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice, a Master of Science degree in Forensic Science and a Master of Science in Security Studies. The Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Arts programs are designed primarily to prepare graduate students to conduct research in the various areas of criminological theory, crime control, correctional and police administration, and social rehabilitation. These programs are based on a multidisciplinary study of the behavioral sciences as they apply to these specialized areas.

The Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice Leadership and Management is designed to serve the needs of the experienced professional in criminal justice. Course content is aimed at developing and enhancing managerial skills. This program is offered in an intensive semester time frame. To be considered for admission, the applicant to the Master of Science program must be currently employed in a criminal justice occupation in a management position or aspiring to become employed in a management position, with a minimum of two years experience.

The Master of Science in Criminal Justice is available to students with or without previous employment experience in criminal justice. Course content is aimed at providing a base of knowledge and skills necessary to administer criminal justice-related programs. Courses are typically offered in residence at The University Center in The Woodlands and via distance education.

The deadline for submitting applications to the Master of Arts program, the Master of Science in Criminal Justice programs, and the Doctor of Philosophy program is February 1 for the fall semester and September 1 for the spring semester. The deadline for submitting applications to the Master of Science in Criminal Justice

Leadership and Management program is May 1 for the fall semester. The Master of Science in Forensic Science is a non-thesis degree program which includes a support sequence in biological sciences, chemistry and criminal justice. Additional coursework in a more specialized area of forensic science is provided as well. The deadline for submitting applications to the Master of Science in Forensic Science program is December 31 for the fall semester only. Though applicants are considered after the deadline, priority is given to those applicants who have submitted their applications on time.

The Master of Science in Security Studies is a new degree program offered by only a few universities. Students will be required to complete 36 graduate semester hours that can be finished in approximately two years. Students have the option of completing a thesis or an internship that includes a directed management project on an assigned topic in collaboration with the participating internship agency. The deadline for submitting applications to the Master of Science in Security Studies is February 1 for the fall semester and September 1 for the spring semester.

Graduate students in the College of Criminal Justice are expected to maintain a minimum 3.0 grade point average. Two grades of "C" are grounds for dismissal from the program. All students, regardless of program degree, must declare a major with the graduate office by completing a declaration of official major form.

The Doctor of Philosophy in Criminal Justice

The degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Criminal Justice is designed to produce students of crime and justice who possess (1) a deep and extensive awareness of the body of knowledge in the field of criminal justice and, (2) the intellectual and methodological skills necessary for the continuing process of discovery and understanding of crime and justice related issues. The graduate should be capable of integrative and analytical thinking, competent at transmitting knowledge, able to engage in various accepted modes of research, and should possess skills in problem-solving.

To accomplish this, the College of Criminal Justice has a faculty of diverse scholars committed to the study of crime and justice issues. The curriculum includes courses that provide theoretical and applied knowledge of the phenomena of crime and criminal justice. In addition to the demonstration of excellence in the classroom, students are expected to engage in research in accordance with personal specialized interests beyond specified courses.

Through the combined efforts of faculty and students, the Doctor of Philosophy program in Criminal Justice produces students capable of making contributions to criminal justice through the academic and applied components of the discipline. The curriculum is designed to ensure that graduates are well equipped to participate in criminological positions emphasizing research, theory, and administration.

Admission Considerations

1. A master's degree in Criminal Justice or an allied field.
2. Test scores from the Graduate Record Examination
3. Official undergraduate and graduate transcripts for all academic work. Grades must show evidence of the ability to do doctoral level work.
4. Three letters of recommendation, preferably from faculty who are sufficiently acquainted with the student to comment on potential for success in the doctoral program.
5. An original essay as described in the doctoral application form.
6. Foreign students are required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) unless they have completed a degree in the United States. A minimum score of 550 (paper-based) or 213 (computer-based) is required.
7. A current resume or vita.

A holistic review of each student's application file will be completed on a competitive basis.

Requirements for Completing the Ph.D. Program

The following guidelines are offered to demonstrate the nature of the doctoral program and should not be misconstrued as representing the formal requirements for a Ph.D.

1. Students should consult with the Graduate Program Advisor to design a course of study beyond the master's degree that will provide an in-depth knowledge in the areas of research and statistics, criminological theory, criminal justice administration and legal issues in criminal justice.

2. Students must register full-time, a minimum of 9 credit hours per semester, on campus for at least two consecutive long semesters. Transfer credit of up to a maximum of nine hours of post-master's course work may be allowed toward electives, at the discretion of the appropriate Dean.
3. Students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average in all courses
4. Students must pass comprehensive examinations.
5. Students must complete and defend a doctoral dissertation, which is the product of original scholarly research and is of such quality as to represent a meaningful contribution to knowledge in the field of criminal justice.
6. Students who enter with a master's degree have six years to complete the doctoral degree from the first semester they register.

The Doctoral Curriculum Master's Degree Completed

The Doctoral degree requires 58 hours of 500-, 600-, and 700-level coursework. Students must choose a plan of study from three areas of concentration: Criminological Theory, Law and Judicial Process, or Criminal Justice Administration. Four courses must be completed in the concentration area. Two courses must be completed in each of the optional areas (waiver areas) not attempted to demonstrate competency in these areas. A grade of A or B is required of all concentration area courses. Additionally, a GPA of 3.5 must be maintained in the concentration area.

Total Credits Required:

Research and Statistics	10 SCH
Concentration	12 SCH
Waiver Areas	12 SCH
Electives (600/700-level)	12 SCH
Dissertation	12 SCH
Total Hours	58 SCH

Possible Stem Work Required

Substantive Courses
 CJ 530 Critical Analysis of Justice Administration
 CJ 532 Perspectives in Criminology

Research Fundamentals
 CJ 592 Survey of Research Methods
 CJ 685 Statistics for Criminal Justice Research
 CJ 615 Criminal Justice Statistics Lab

Research and Statistics Requirements

CJ 742 Advanced Statistics I
 CJ 787 Research Design
 CJ 793 Computer Based Data Analysis

Criminological Theory

For a waiver, students must complete
 CJ 737 Criminological Theory
 CJ 760 Advanced Seminar in Criminological Theory

For a concentration area, students must complete:
 CJ 737 Criminological Theory
 CJ 760 Advanced Seminar in Criminological Theory

And additionally at least two courses selected from:

CJ 563 The Juvenile Offender
 CJ 660 Seminar in Deviant Behavior
 CJ 661 Social Policy
 CJ 672 Seminar in Criminology and Corrections
 CJ 739 Distribution and Correlates of Crime

Criminal Justice Administration

For a waiver, students must complete
 CJ 730 Seminar in Organizational Theory

And additionally at least one course selected from:
 CJ 633 Seminar in Organization and Administration
 CJ 734 Seminar in American Policing
 CJ 736 Seminar in American Corrections
 CJ 738 Seminar in American Courts

For a concentration area, students must complete:
 CJ 730 Seminar in Organizational Theory

And additionally at least one course selected from:
 CJ 633 Seminar in Organization and Administration
 CJ 734 Seminar in American Policing
 CJ 736 Seminar in American Corrections
 CJ 738 Seminar in American Courts

And additionally at least two more courses selected from:
 CJ 633 Seminar in Organization and Administration
 CJ 639 Police in Society
 CJ 665 Community Relations and the Administration of Justice
 CJ 687 The Ethics of Criminal Justice
 CJ 734 Seminar in American Policing
 CJ 736 Seminar in American Corrections
 CJ 738 Seminar in American Courts

Law and Judicial Process

For a waiver, students must complete:
 CJ 593 Legal Aspects of the Criminal Justice System
 CJ 780 Seminar on the Legal Aspects of the Criminal Justice System

For a concentration area, students must complete:
 CJ 593 Legal Aspects of the Criminal Justice System
 CJ 780 Seminar on the Legal Aspects of the Criminal Justice System

And additionally at least two courses selected from:
 CJ 533 Seminar in Law
 CJ 534 Courts as Organizations
 CJ 696 Legal Aspects of Criminal Justice Management
 CJ 738 Seminar in American Courts

Doctoral Comprehensive Examination

The purpose of the doctoral comprehensive examination is two-fold. The primary purpose is to ensure that each student has gained a satisfactory understanding of the core areas of the curriculum. The secondary purpose is to provide the student and faculty an opportunity to identify areas of deficiency and to establish for the student a program of study to remedy those deficiencies.

Students become eligible to take comprehensive examinations during the long semester following the completion of all "required substantive courses" included in the doctoral curriculum. Formal application to take the exams must be made in writing to the Graduate Standards Committee at least 60 calendar days prior to the scheduled examination. Formal approval will depend upon the completion of all required

substantive coursework, the maintenance of at least a 3.0 GPA for all doctoral courses that have been completed, and certification that the student has conferred with his/her faculty mentor regarding preparedness to take the examination.

Admission to Candidacy

Admission to candidacy is granted upon successful completion of all course work and passing of the written comprehensive examinations.

Dissertation

A doctoral dissertation must be the product of original scholarly research and must be of such quality as to represent a meaningful contribution to knowledge in the field of criminal justice. It is expected that much time and effort will be devoted to the dissertation phase of the doctoral program.

Advisement

Academic Advisement

The Graduate Program Advisor and the appropriate Dean conduct academic advisement. At least a month before the end of each semester, graduate students should contact the college's graduate office for advisement for the next term. All readings courses, special projects, internships, practicums, and workshops for students must be coordinated by the Graduate Program Advisor and appropriate Dean. Students are encouraged to consider the makeup of the comprehensive examinations before they develop a plan of study to ensure they will have a base of knowledge in the primary areas of the curriculum by the time they finish the course work. Doctoral students are authorized to enroll in courses at the 500 through the 800 levels. If it is necessary for a student to do stem work in order to meet the prerequisites for graduate courses, those credit hours will be in addition to the classroom hours required for the doctoral degree. The normal course load during the fall or spring semester is 9 hours. During a summer session, the maximum permissible load is 6 hours.