

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 follow-up 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), 213 (computer-based), or 79 (internet-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 coursework 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 Programs Office 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 coursework 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 coursework. 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.

The Master of Arts Degree Program Major in Criminal Justice and Criminology

The Master of Arts degree is designed to prepare graduate students to conduct research and actively participate in the development of knowledge in the areas of criminological theory, crime control, and correctional and police administration. The curriculum is broad enough to satisfy these various interests. Students who are planning careers in law enforcement, corrections or rehabilitation, or who wish a deeper understanding of crime and the criminal justice system should confer with the Graduate Program Advisor to develop a combination of elective courses which will support their particular career interests.

Admission Considerations

Admission to the Master of Arts program is based on the Admissions Committee's assessment of the applicant's scores on the Graduate Record Examination, the undergraduate academic record, and letters of recommendation from undergraduate professors. In some instances a personal interview will also be requested. Admission considerations include the following: (1) that the applicant has, or will soon have, an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution in an allied field; (2) official transcripts of all academic work previously undertaken; (3) test scores from the Graduate Record Examination; (4) at least two letters of recommendation from undergraduate professors; (5) an essay, and (6) foreign students are required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language. A minimum score of 550 (paper-based), 213 (computer-based), or 79 (internet-based) is required.

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