

M.S. IN CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Overview

The Department of Sociology & Criminology offers a Master's of Science degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice. The program provides training in fundamentals of the criminal justice system and criminological theory, as well as foundational training in research methods and statistics. Students may tailor their programs to best fit their goals through their selected electives, curricula tracks, and choice of one of three completion options. At present, curricula tracks (comprised of six credit hours) include such areas as leadership and management, criminal law, research methods and statistics, and geographic information systems (GIS). Students have the program completion options of preparing for and taking a comprehensive examination, completing an internship and accompanying paper, or completing a Master's thesis.

For more information, please see our website: <https://crim.as.miami.edu/>.

Academic Standing

Graduate students are expected to maintain a minimum of a 3.0 overall GPA in all coursework. Should the average fall below that minimum in a semester, the student will be notified and will work with his/her advisor to rectify the performance issues. If the student has a second consecutive semester with an average overall GPA below 3.0, he/she will be placed on academic probation. Three semesters of below average performance may result in suspension from the program in accordance with guidelines for the University's Graduate School.

Admission Requirements

Students are evaluated for admission based on a holistic assessment of the following requirements. Students must submit :

1. A statement of purpose.
 - a. In this personal statement applicants detail their reasons for pursuing the degree, both in general and in our program specifically. The statement will help evaluate applicants' writing abilities as well as fit with our program.
2. Transcripts from all academic institutions attended.
 - a. Official transcripts from all academic institutions attended must be submitted. Transcripts should show that students attained a minimum of 3.0 in the last 60 credits of upper division undergraduate coursework and/or 3.0 in graduate coursework. Applicants with lower averages may be admitted to the Certificate program.
3. Letters of recommendation.
 - a. At least three letters of recommendation must be submitted. These should be positive and strongly indicate that the applicant has the aptitude and stamina necessary to successfully complete a graduate degree.

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Core Requirements		15
SOC 609	Social Statistics	
SOC 610	Advanced Research Methods	
SOC 670	Theories in Criminology and Criminal Justice	
SOC 673	The Criminal Justice System	
SOC 677	Criminology and Public Policy	
Electives		
One course from within Sociology		3
Specialization Track		6
Choose 6 credits from one of the following specialization tracks:		
Research Methods and Statistics		
EPS 625	Program Evaluation	
EPS 674	Lifestyle and Career Counseling	
PSY 633	Structural Equation Modeling	
SOC 611	Advanced Sociological Statistical Analysis I	
SOC 613	Qualitative Research Methods	
Geographic Information Systems		
GEG 691	Geographic Information Systems I	
GEG 693	Geographic Information Systems II	
Legal Issues in Criminal Justice		

LAW 320	Substantive Criminal Law	
LAW 332	Criminal Procedure Adjudication	
Public Administration		
POL 622	Introduction to Graduate Public Administration	
POL 646	Public Policy Process and Implementation	
POL 647	Human Resource Management in Public Service	
MGT 620	Managing Through People	
Completion Track		6
Choose one of the following tracks:		
SOC 690	Directed Studies (Comprehensive Exam)	
SOC 791	Graduate Internship and Paper	
SOC 810	Master's Thesis	
Total Credit Hours		30

Sample Plan of Study

Year One		Credit Hours
Fall		
SOC 673	The Criminal Justice System	3
SOC 609	Social Statistics	3
SOC 674	Seminar on Policing	3
Credit Hours		9
Spring		
SOC 677	Criminology and Public Policy	3
SOC 670	Theories in Criminology and Criminal Justice	3
SOC 610	Advanced Research Methods	3
Credit Hours		9
Summer		
SOC 791	Graduate Internship and Paper	6
Credit Hours		6
Year Two		
Fall		
Specialization Track Elective		3
Specialization Track Elective		3
Credit Hours		6
Total Credit Hours		30

Mission

The Master of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice program aims to address issues related to crime and its control in the United States. For those working in or seeking to work in criminal-justice related positions, higher levels of education are increasingly required for employment and/or advancement in many professions and jobs. The program is designed to provide students with a foundation in criminal justice and criminological theory, research methods and statistics, and substantive areas.

Goals

The program objectives of the proposed new Master's program in Criminology and Criminal Justice are to:

- Provide a terminal Master's degree for those currently or intending to work in research or applied settings in criminal justice agencies or community college teaching. It also provides an opportunity for interested students to explore potential further education in a doctoral program.
- Provide interdisciplinary training in criminology and criminal justice, enabling a strong and integrated knowledge of research and practice. This will enable greater understanding of both the etiology and prevention of crime as well as to better inform criminal justice policy.
- Provide a comprehensive understanding of the complexities of criminal behavior, its control, and of the criminal justice system.
- Provide the research and conceptual skills required to conduct advanced analyses and assessments of the criminal justice system.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will demonstrate advanced knowledge of classic and contemporary criminological theory.
- Graduates will have a thorough knowledge of the discipline and the theoretical foundations of the literature and be able to synthesize and apply them in well-written form.
- Graduates will have a thorough knowledge of the fundamentals of research in the social sciences and be able to synthesize and apply them in written form.