

# DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

## Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide criminology and criminal justice education, research, and service to students, practitioners, policymakers, and the community by creating an intellectually challenging environment that promotes collegiality and instills the highest level of ethical standards in the pursuit of informed policy and practice.

The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice offers a Master of Science degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice.

## Master of Science Degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice

The Master of Science (M.S.) degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice is designed to provide students with competency in research, policy planning, evaluation, agency management, and preparation for continued graduate study in criminology and criminal justice. The program assists students to develop and apply research expertise toward the resolution of contemporary practice and policy issues.

## Program Admission Requirements

To qualify for unconditional admission, applicants must satisfy University-wide graduate admission requirements and submit:

- An online application
- All official transcripts
- Two letters of recommendation
- A resume
- A personal statement

An applicant admitted unconditionally as a degree-seeking student must possess a baccalaureate degree from an accredited university or equivalent training at a foreign institution; have a grade point average of 3.0 or better in the last 60 semester credit hours of undergraduate work as well as all previous graduate work; have 18 hours in criminal justice, criminology, or a closely-related discipline, or professional experience in the justice system; be in good standing at the last institution attended; and the recommendation of the Criminology and Criminal Justice Graduate Program Committee. Students who do not meet these criteria may be admitted conditionally or on probation as degree-seeking depending on the nature of the deficiency. Admission as a special graduate student may be considered by the Graduate Program Committee upon request of the applicant.

## Degree Requirements

The minimum number of semester credit hours required for the degree, exclusive of other study to remove deficiencies, is 36. Degree candidates must complete the following three requirements:

A. 15 semester credit hours of core courses: <sup>1</sup> 15

CRJ 5073	Research Methods
CRJ 5083	Quantitative Analysis
CRJ 5103	The Criminal Justice System

CRJ 5123	Criminal Justice Policy
CRJ 6373	Criminological Theory
B. 15 semester credit hours of electives as follows:	15
1. At least 9 semester credit hours of prescribed electives should be taken from the required courses listed below:	
CRJ 5133	Justice Organizations and Administration
CRJ 6103	Seminar on Topics in Theory of Crime and Justice
CRJ 6123	Seminar on Topics in Research Methods
CRJ 6203	Seminar on Topics in Corrections Policy
CRJ 6213	Gender and Crime
CRJ 6233	Minorities and Crime
CRJ 6303	Seminar on Topics in Policing/CP
CRJ 6343	Study Abroad: International Crime and Justice
CRJ 6383	Capstone Course
CRJ 6403	Seminar on Topics in Law and Society
CRJ 6951	Independent Study
CRJ 6953	Independent Study
CRJ 6961	Comprehensive Examination

2. Up to 6 semester credit hours of electives may be taken outside of the discipline in related UTSA graduate programs with approval of the Graduate Advisor of Record (GAR).

C. 6 semester credit hours consisting of one of the following options. 6  
Student must complete the 15 credit hours of the core coursework and a minimum 9 credit hours of electives (total of 24 credit hours) to be eligible for one of the following options:

1. Non-Thesis Option (Written Comprehensive Examination): Students who select the non-thesis option are required to take the written comprehensive examination and complete two additional electives (6 hours). It is required that one of these additional electives be CRJ 6383 Capstone Course. It is graded as Credit/Non-Credit. This course provides a review of the five core courses from which all exam questions will be drawn. CRJ 6383 Capstone Course will operate as a stand-alone course. A student must complete this course to satisfy the requirements of the degree, but can also receive credit for this course without successfully completing the comprehensive exam. In the event that a student does not pass all five sections, the student must re-take the comprehensive exam in a subsequent semester. Students have one calendar year (two semesters) from their initial attempt to successfully pass the comprehensive exam. Students will be dismissed from the program after two unsuccessful attempts to pass the comprehensive exam. Students do not need to re-enroll in CRJ 6383 to re-take the comprehensive exam. Students not enrolled in any other courses would be required to enroll in 1 credit hour of CRJ 6961 Comprehensive Examination in the subsequent long semester in which the student wishes to re-take the comprehensive exam.

2. Thesis Option: This option is available only with permission from an instructor and the Graduate Advisor of Record. Students electing the Thesis option are required to enroll in CRJ 6993 or CRJ 6996 Master's Thesis for a total of 6 credit hours, which includes completion of an oral comprehensive exam (i.e., successful proposal defense). Students failing to complete all requirements of the thesis option within the 6 credit hours would be required to enroll for 1 credit hour of CRJ 6991 Master's Thesis if no other courses are being taken that term. The Master's thesis requires compliance with UTSA thesis requirements and a successful final thesis defense.

**Total Credit Hours** **36**

<sup>1</sup> NOTE: Students are expected to complete the majority of core courses prior to enrolling in elective courses. Students are encouraged to enroll in CRJ 5073 Research Methods, CRJ 5103 The Criminal Justice System, and CRJ 6373 Criminological Theory in their first semester and CRJ 5083 Quantitative Analysis and CRJ 5123 Criminal Justice Policy in their second semester.

## Criminal Justice (CRJ) Courses

### **CRJ 5073. Research Methods. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.**

Prerequisite: CRJ 3013 or equivalent. Introduction to methodologies used in justice research. Topics include research design, sampling theory, data collection, measurement, and analysis. Course Fee: STHC \$18.

### **CRJ 5083. Quantitative Analysis. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.**

Prerequisite: CRJ 5073 or equivalent. Advanced practice in research design, quantitative techniques, and statistical software used in criminal justice research. Familiarizes students with conventions for statistical report writing and data presentation. Course Fee: STSP \$9.

### **CRJ 5103. The Criminal Justice System. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.**

Introduction to contemporary issues in criminal justice, including current and historical concepts of criminal justice, the different components of the system, the interrelationships among the components of the system, and the function of the criminal justice system in society. Course Fee: STHC \$18.

### **CRJ 5123. Criminal Justice Policy. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.**

Examines criminal justice policy formation, implementation, and evaluation. Familiarizes students with various criminal justice policies and their effectiveness. (Formerly titled "Justice Policy Formation and Implementation.") Course Fee: STSP \$9.

### **CRJ 5133. Justice Organizations and Administration. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.**

Examines organization and administration of justice and legal organizations. Covers organization theory and behavior as applied to justice and legal organizations. (Formerly titled "Management of Justice Organizations.") Course Fee: STSP \$9.

### **CRJ 6103. Seminar on Topics in Theory of Crime and Justice. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.**

Consideration of selected topics related to the theory of crime and justice. Explores particular theories or perspectives of crime and its implications for justice policy. Topics may focus on traditional or emerging theories of crime and justice. May be repeated for credit when topics vary, but no more than 6 hours will apply to the Master's degree. Course Fee: STSP \$9.

### **CRJ 6123. Seminar on Topics in Research Methods. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.**

Prerequisite: CRJ 5083 or equivalent. Study of qualitative or quantitative methods not addressed as part of the regular course offerings. Topics may include systems analysis in criminal justice, interrupted time-series analysis, and qualitative methods in criminal justice research. May be repeated for credit when topics vary, but no more than 6 hours will apply to the Master's degree. Course Fee: STSP \$9.

### **CRJ 6203. Seminar on Topics in Corrections Policy. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.**

Consideration of selected topics in the field of corrections. Topics may include offender classification, case management, pretrial supervision, management of confinement facilities, juvenile justice, special needs populations, comparative corrections, offender re-entry, restorative justice, and criminal sanctions on individuals or corporations. May be repeated for credit when topics vary, but no more than 6 hours will apply to the Master's degree. Course Fee: STSP \$9.

### **CRJ 6213. Gender and Crime. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.**

This course uses an interdisciplinary approach to provide students with an overview of gender issues in the criminal justice system. The course integrates research design and both qualitative and quantitative methods to develop a graduate level understanding of gender and justice policy issues. Students will learn to examine issues and problems associated with changes in the representation of men and women in justice organizations, explore the internal/psychological and structural barriers to equal treatment of men and women in the justice system, as well as examine employment and policy decisions within a framework of traditional and nontraditional gender role expectations and justice system needs. (Formerly titled "Gender Issues in the Criminal Justice System.") Course Fee: STSP \$9.

### **CRJ 6233. Minorities and Crime. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.**

This course is an interdisciplinary exploration of the historical and contemporary differences and similarities in the study of minorities within the criminal justice system. The course integrates a variety of interdisciplinary perspectives used in the past to study minority issues and to empirically test the most important ideas concerning these topics. Topics for discussion may include the following: deviance, juvenile delinquency, substance use, gang membership, images of criminality, as well as involvement with police, courts, and correctional institutions. (Formerly titled "Minorities in the Criminal Justice System.") Course Fee: STSP \$9.

### **CRJ 6303. Seminar on Topics in Policing/CP. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.**

Consideration of selected topics related to police and private sector crime control practices. Topics may include the roles, responsibilities and limitations of public and private enforcement; surveillance, use of force, minority relations, extralegal practices, labor relations, security operations, terrorism, and national security. May be repeated for credit when topics vary, but no more than 6 hours will apply to the Master's degree. (Formerly titled "Seminar in Topics in Policing and Crime Control.") Course Fee: STSP \$9.

### **CRJ 6343. Study Abroad: International Crime and Justice. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.**

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. A lecture/seminar course associated with a study abroad program related to the study of cross-cultural differences in crime and applications of criminal justice systems and practice. Involves international travel and field trips. May be repeated for credit when the destination country varies. Course Fee: STSP \$9.

**CRJ 6373. Criminological Theory. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.**

Examination of theoretical perspectives on crime and their impact on justice policy. Includes progression of criminology as an interdisciplinary field, theory construction and evaluation, and approaches to preventing and controlling crime in the United States. (Formerly titled "Justice Policy Formation and Implementation.") Course Fee: STSP \$9.

**CRJ 6383. Capstone Course. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.**

Prerequisite: Completion of the 15 semester credit hours of core courses and a minimum of 9 semester credit hours of electives. This course is designed to prepare students for the comprehensive examination and covers topics from the core courses. The grade report for the course is either "CR" (satisfactory performance) or "NC" (unsatisfactory performance). Course Fee: STSP \$9.

**CRJ 6403. Seminar on Topics in Law and Society. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.**

Consideration of selected topics related to law and society issues. Topics may include decision making by groups or individuals, criminal law and courts, international law, sentencing reforms, and history of law. May be repeated for credit when topics vary, but no more than 6 hours will apply to the Master's degree. (Formerly titled "Seminar on Topics in Law, Society and Justice Policy.") Course Fee: STSP \$9.

**CRJ 6951. Independent Study. (0-0) 1 Credit Hour.**

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and permission in writing (form available) from the instructor and the student's Graduate Advisor of Record. Independent reading, research, discussion, and/or writing under the direction of a faculty member. For students needing specialized work not usually available as part of the regular course offerings. May be repeated for credit, but no more than 6 hours will apply to the Master's degree. Course Fee: STSP \$3.

**CRJ 6953. Independent Study. (0-0) 3 Credit Hours.**

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and permission in writing (form available) from the instructor and the student's Graduate Advisor of Record. Independent reading, research, discussion, and/or writing under the direction of a faculty member. For students needing specialized work not usually available as part of the regular course offerings. May be repeated for credit, but no more than 6 hours will apply to the Master's degree. Course Fee: STSP \$9.

**CRJ 6961. Comprehensive Examination. (0-0) 1 Credit Hour.**

Prerequisite: Approval of the Graduate Advisor of Record to take the Comprehensive Examination. May be repeated as many times as approved by the Graduate Advisor of Record. Enrollment is required each term in which the Comprehensive Examination is taken if no other courses are being taken that term. The grade report for the course is either "CR" (satisfactory performance on the Comprehensive Examination) or "NC" (unsatisfactory performance on the Comprehensive Examination). Course Fee: STSP \$3.

**CRJ 6991. Master's Thesis. (0-0) 1 Credit Hour.**

Prerequisites: Completion of the core courses (15 semester credit hours), and at least 9 semester credit hours of electives (for a total of 24 hours of graduate work), and permission of the Graduate Advisor of Record and Faculty Thesis Advisor. Oral comprehensive examination, thesis preparation, and defense. May be repeated for credit but no more than 6 hours will apply to the Master's degree. Credit will be awarded upon successful completion of the thesis. Course Fee: STSP \$3.

**CRJ 6993. Master's Thesis. (0-0) 3 Credit Hours.**

Prerequisites: Completion of the core courses (15 semester credit hours), and at least 9 semester credit hours of electives (for a total of 24 hours of graduate work), and permission of the Graduate Advisor of Record and Faculty Thesis Advisor. Oral comprehensive examination, thesis preparation, and defense. May be repeated for credit but no more than 6 hours will apply to the Master's degree. Credit will be awarded upon successful completion of the thesis. Course Fee: STSP \$9.

**CRJ 6996. Master's Thesis. (0-0) 6 Credit Hours.**

Prerequisites: Completion of the core courses (15 semester credit hours), and at least 9 semester credit hours of electives (for a total of 24 hours of graduate work), and permission of the Graduate Advisor of Record and Faculty Thesis Advisor. Oral comprehensive examination, thesis preparation, and defense. May be repeated for credit but no more than 6 hours will apply to the Master's degree. Credit will be awarded upon successful completion of the thesis. Course Fee: STSP \$18.