

CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE, PH.D.

The Department offers a graduate program leading to the Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice. Faculty research and teaching interests span a wide variety of crime- and criminal justice-related topics, including policing, courts, corrections, law and policy, macro, meso-, and micro-level criminological theory, sentencing, victimization, and program evaluation. Graduates from the program are trained to enter positions in academia or the criminal justice system that will allow them to teach, research, or influence policy and practice in the fields of criminology and criminal justice.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to synthesize and critically evaluate existing research studies in a given area, including the identification of any gaps in the literature.
2. Students will be able to identify the strengths and weaknesses of different research designs used in criminology and criminal justice.
3. Students will be able to identify under what circumstances specific research designs are appropriate.
4. Students will be able to design their own independent research study addressing a relevant question in criminology and criminal justice.
5. Students will be able to summarize the basic premise of each major criminological theory.
6. Students will be able to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of major criminological theories.
7. Students will be able to identify linkages between criminological theories and criminal justice policies.
8. Students will be able to synthesize and critically evaluate research studies from a particular theoretical perspective, including the identification of gaps in the literature.
9. Students will understand core ideas and empirical evidence in the field concerning the development, implementation, analysis, and evaluation of law and policy related to the criminal justice system.
10. Students will be able to identify and apply appropriate methods for public policy analysis.
11. Students will complete the Ph.D. degree within a reasonable period of time and will obtain a research and/or teaching position that is appropriate for the degree.