

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Graduate Handbook
On-line Master's Program

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This guide, in conjunction with the University Graduate Bulletin, is intended to provide graduate students with a reference concerning admission requirements. Please consult the University Graduate Bulletin for academic regulations and procedures and student services.

Any questions you have about your graduate career in the FSU College of Criminology and Criminal Justice may be directed to the College's Distance Degree Office at:

crimgradprogram@fsu.edu

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Introduction

The College of Criminology and Criminal Justice

The College of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Florida State University offers a master's degree in criminal justice studies through the University's distance learning program. The degree program is specifically designed for working criminal justice professionals and others who want the rigor and challenge of a first-rate graduate program but also need the convenience and flexibility that distance learning provides.

Quality and Flexibility

The College's master's degree in criminal justice studies is a fully integrated part of our larger graduate program, which is consistently ranked among the top programs in criminology and criminal justice in the United States. Our distance learning courses are taught by the same faculty who teach in our on-campus graduate and undergraduate programs. You will be working with faculty who are leading scholars in their fields. Additionally, a comprehensive support system will guide you through every phase of the program.

Education for Leadership

The master's degree in criminal justice studies is especially designed for highly motivated students who are looking toward leadership positions in law enforcement, corrections, juvenile justice, and elsewhere in the criminal justice system—in Florida, the nation, and overseas. Past graduates of the College have achieved national and international recognition and hold prestigious positions in many states and a number of foreign countries.

From the growth of computer crime to the rise of international terrorism, the world that criminal justice leaders must deal with is changing rapidly. The master's in criminal justice studies is based on the idea that today's—and tomorrow's—leaders in criminal justice will need a broad array of high-level skills to successfully meet the evolving challenges of the field. To that end, our program

offers a solid grounding in the fundamentals of the field, including criminological theory, criminal law, research methods, and statistics. Students get hands-on training in computer applications in criminal justice and a range of courses that deal with vital current issues, from race and ethnicity in criminal justice to the growth of transnational crime. Our goal is to help you build fundamental technical skills and the ability to think critically and use the findings of research to inform decision-making.

The on-line master's program aims to provide students with the best elements of the criminological tradition, and to make that tradition relevant to the real-world needs of those working on the front lines of the justice system. Accordingly, the College has developed the master's program in consultation with a broad range of criminal justice professionals as well as academic specialists.

Master's Program

Orientation

All new FSU distance learning students must complete on-line orientation before registering for classes. Soon after being admitted to the University, please complete the on-line orientation at: online.fsu.edu/orientation.

Here students will learn about academic policies and procedures, obtain their FSU card number, find registration information, and create their mandatory Academic Computing and Network Services (ACNS) account with FSU. The FSU card number and password is essential in facilitating your access to the FSU library database and logging on to Blackboard. You may log onto Blackboard at campus.fsu.edu.

Master's Degree Tracks

There are two regular degree tracks or options of study within the master's degree program. These include a course work option and a thesis option.

1. Course Work Only Option: The course work only option requires the completion of 36 credits of course work. Students electing this option are advised by the graduate coordinator or graduate director, who are to be consulted by the student with regard to their course schedules and academic progress in the program.

Note: The selection of this option excludes the student from consideration for future admission into our Ph.D. program. Students choosing the course work only option who later decide to continue their studies may be admitted to the Ph.D. program on a provisional basis until they have completed the thesis or area paper.

2. Thesis Option: The thesis option requires the successful completion of 30 semester hours of course work and 6 hours of thesis credits. Students choosing to complete a thesis must identify a major professor and supervisory committee, subject to the approval of the dean. This option also requires an oral defense of the thesis and that the thesis be submitted in a University approved format. Copies of the formal guidelines and requirement for preparation of a thesis are available on the Office of Graduate Studies Web site, at fsu.edu/gradstudies through your GradSpace site in Blackboard.

Major Professor and Master's Supervisory Committee

The major professor's role is to assist the student in selecting elective courses, direct the preparation of the thesis, chair the master's supervisory committee, and provide general advice and counseling related to the student's pursuit of the degree.

Students who choose the thesis option should select a permanent major professor soon after entering the program. In most cases this should be done by the end of the first semester. They may choose anyone on the faculty who has "graduate faculty" status by requesting that the faculty member serve in this capacity. If the faculty member agrees to serve, the student must notify the graduate coordinator of the appointment and seek the dean's approval. Those choosing the course work-only option for the degree will use the director of on-line studies as their faculty advisor throughout their tenure in the program.

The **master's degree supervisory committee** is composed of the major professor and two other faculty members holding master's directive status. Students are expected to choose their additional committee members with the assistance of their major professor. Once selected, the names are submitted to the dean for approval. For full-time students, this form should be submitted before the end of the third semester.

Coursework

Master's Requirements

Master's students must complete 36 credits for the degree. These credits are composed of required "core" courses and CCJ elective hours, and may include hours taken outside of the College.

Core Courses

All students must complete each of the following five core courses with a letter grade of "C" or better. If a lower grade is earned in these courses, they must be retaken. A required course may only be retaken once. Students must maintain an overall 3.0 GPA or higher.

CCJ 5078 Computer Applications in Criminal Justice

Introduces the use of the computer and the Internet. Will include discussion of the use of these technologies within the criminal justice system. Class will cover word processing, spreadsheets, databases, graphics, and Internet applications such as e-mail, chat, forum discussions, search engines, Web page browsers, etc.

CCJ 5285 Survey of Criminal Justice Theory and Research

Gives an overview of the theoretical issues and research on the law and legal control of deviance in society.

CCJ 5606 Survey of Criminological Theories

Provides students with a deeper understanding of criminological theory. Physiological, genetic, psychological, and psychiatric theories of criminal behavior are explored.

CCJ 5705 Research Methods in Criminology I

Overviews research design for criminological studies with an emphasis on data collection methods and measurement of validity and reliability.

CCJ 5706 Applied Statistics in Criminology I

Focuses on the use of statistical techniques in criminology.

Elective Courses

CJE 5024 Police and Society

A social psychological examination of current issues and problems in municipal law enforcement, including such topics as the informal exercise of police authority, police role conflict, the relative significance of law enforcement and social service, and interactional dynamics of police subculture.

CCJ 5082 Science, Evidence, and Law

An examination of the philosophy of science, legal procedures, and the criteria required for results of scientific examinations to be admitted into a trial as evidence.

CCJ 5309 Penology

A survey of approaches to corrections, correctional institutions, their residents, programs and management, and special problems such as probation and parole, riots, outside contacts, and special institutions.

CJL 5420 Criminal Law, Procedures, and Individual Rights

This class considers the definitions and development of criminal law, criminal procedure, and criminal rights, with special attention to constitutional theory and practice.

CCJ 5456 Criminal Justice Admin

An application of organization and administration theories to the criminal justice system. The course uses an interactionist perspective of administration to facilitate understanding of the fundamentals of all organizations, including criminal justice organizations.

CCJ 5546 Prevention and Treatment of Crime and Delinquency

Theoretical development of crime prevention, punishment, and treatment. Topics include historical models of crime control, growth of crime prevention, and aspects such as environmental design, community action programs, and technology systems.

CCJ 5636 International Crime and Its Control

Covers information about the nature and amount of transnational crime and the agencies that study and seek to control transnational crime.

CCJ 5669 Race, Ethnicity, Crime, and Social Justice

Considers the relationships among race, ethnicity, and crime in the justice system. The effect of social policy on racial and ethnic inequality is studied, and theories of ethnic and racial justice are presented in terms of their effect on crime and criminal justice.

CJE 5766 Forensic Science in Investigation

This course combines the various theories of the conduct of crime with knowledge of how physical evidence is generated during the commission of a crime in order to produce information that enables the investigation and prosecution of criminal activity. The course emphasizes decision-making in forensic science examinations and evaluation of their reliability.

CCJ 5981r. Directed Individual Study

A course with contents determined by the student in consultation with the instructor, with whom the student meets regularly for supervision of study. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 hours. (S/U grade only)

Coursework

CCJ 6665 Victimology

Introduces students to the field of victimology and explores its conceptual boundaries, basic concepts, and literature within various sub areas. The course will explore policy developments and practical applications that stem from the concern over victims. The progression from a criminal to a victim justice system will be emphasized.

CCJ 6920 Life-course Criminology

This course examines the development of criminal offending from conception through adulthood. A range of topics are covered including brain development, personality formation, and the biosocial correlates to criminality.

CCJ 6920 Juvenile Delinquency

Key issues in the study of juvenile delinquency, with special attention to three topics: (1) our society's social construction of concepts like "childhood" and "adolescence" (and the implications this has for our views of juvenile delinquency), (2) the different theoretical perspectives used to explain individual variations in juvenile delinquency, and (3) current thinking and research on the question of how our justice system should best respond to juvenile delinquency.

Master's Checklist

Course Work Only: 36 Credit Hours
Thesis Option: 36 Credit Hours

Required CCJ Courses: 15 Hours*

- CCJ 5078 Computer Applications in Criminal Justice
- CCJ 5285 Survey of Criminal Justice Theory and Research
- CCJ 5606 Survey of Criminological Theories
- CCJ 5705 Research Methods in Criminology I
- CCJ 5706 Applied Statistics in Criminology I

CCJ Electives: 12 Hours

Additional Graduate Electives

9 hours for 36-credit-hour program
These electives can be CCJ or another FSU program. Elective courses must be graduate courses (5000 level or above).

27 criminology and criminal justice credit hours are required for the master's degree.
24 of these credit hours must be graded hours (not pass/fail).

Students must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.

*A grade of C or better must be earned in all required courses.

Notes

Administrative Information

Transfer Credit Policy

Up to 6 graduate level credit hours from another accredited university or college may be counted toward your degree at FSU. These credits must be approved by the director of the distance learning program.

Textbook Information

Some of your on-line learning courses may require you to purchase a Course Packet, which will include some combination of the following:

- Study Guide—This is your key to the course, as it contains your course syllabus, descriptions of course activities and resources, assignments, and a course calendar. It may also provide additional course content.
- Textbooks—Most courses have required readings, which include textbooks and other published materials.

How to order

Course packets and materials for the on-line classes are usually available the FSU bookstore. In some cases, individual instructors may choose to make materials available through other outlets.

When ordering, be certain to include the following:

1. Course prefix and number
2. Section number
3. Course title
4. Semester and year
5. Your name and shipping address

FSU Bookstore
Main Level Parking Garage
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4113

www.efollett.com
fsutextbooks@hotmail.com
phone: 1-800-255-3781
fax: 1-850-644-9953

Drop/Add

Students may add or drop classes themselves from their schedule through the fourth day of classes. For deadline date, refer to the Academic Calendar on the Registrar's Web site: <http://registrar.fsu.edu>. Students who cancel their registration within this time frame are not liable for tuition.

University Time Limits for Degree Completion

Florida State University requires that work toward the master's degree be completed within 7 years of one's initial enrollment.

Any work transferred from another school is included in the seven year rule.

Graduation

In addition to meeting all the master's degree completion requirements, students must complete the following:

- Request a graduation check with the graduate coordinator during the semester preceding graduation to determine eligibility for the degree.
- Apply for graduation at the Office of the Registrar during the first two weeks of the last semester. (Those who apply for graduation but do not complete the necessary work during that semester must self-delete with the Registrar's Office and register again during the first two weeks of the semester in which they plan to graduate.)

The College of Criminology and Criminal Justice will clear master's students for graduation with course work only if they are a terminal master's student and do not intend to apply for the doctoral program. All other students must have a completed thesis before they will be cleared for graduation. This will not prohibit a student from being accepted provisionally into the doctoral program and continuing course work.

Permanent Withdrawal

To drop all classes or your only class, you must formally withdraw from the University. Do so by contacting your academic coordinator at crimgradprogam@fsu.edu, and then Withdrawal Services, 850-644-1741

There is no grade liability through the fourth week of the semester.

Students who cancel their registration and are not enrolled for the following term (not enrolled for two consecutive terms) must apply for readmission.

Readmission

Returning students who meet the following criteria must submit an application to the admissions section of the Office of the University Registrar.

1. Been dismissed.
2. Withdrew during a previous term.
3. Canceled their registration and were not enrolled during the previous semester.
4. Have been out of school for two or more consecutive terms (including the summer term; finishing an incomplete does not count, you must be registered).

Students seeking readmission must meet the application deadlines. For readmission deadlines:

- Go to registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/undergrad/info/university_calendar.htm
- Scroll down to the second table, which is titled "Admission/Readmission Dates"

Students claiming classification as Florida residents must also reestablish their eligibility for this classification when applying for readmission.

The University reserves the right to refuse readmission to any student who has an unsatisfactory academic, conduct, or health record. Students who are denied readmission to the University may appeal that decision by filing a written petition with the Dean's office. To request an application or if you have any questions regarding the readmissions process please contact the Registrar's Office, 850-644-5856.

Frequently Asked Questions

Notes

Q: How does a resident student degree differ from an on-line student degree?

A: The coursework covers the same topics and classes are often taught by the same professors, but, of course, all work is assigned and submitted online. The actual degree is the same.

Q: Does the degree say “online”?

A: No. The degree and diploma have the same language as the campus program’s.

Q: What is the minimum number of credit hours I can enroll in?

A: There is no restriction on the number of credit hours you can enroll in unless you are applying for financial aid. In order to be eligible for financial aid you have to enroll in at least 6 credit hours.

Q: How many hours a week do I need to set aside for study or course work?

A: You should allow at least 10 hours a week to study for each class you’re taking.

Q: What is the program’s accreditation?

A: It is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Q: What is the program ranking?

A: The FSU criminology program is ranked 7th in the country.

Q: How long does it take to complete the degree?

A: A full-time student can complete the degree within 2 years, and part-time students will be able to complete the degree within 3 to 5 years.

Q: What careers will this degree prepare me for?

A: Law enforcement, corrections, juvenile justice, community college teaching...

Q: What is the maximum amount of time students are allowed to complete the degree?

A: 7 years.

2010–2011 Faculty

Bill Bales, Associate Professor

Ph.D. Florida State University.
Sentencing, assessing the effectiveness and consequences of punishment strategies, evaluation of correctional practices and programs, community reentry.

Eric Baumer, Allen E. Liska Professor of Criminology

Ph.D. University of Albany.
Temporal and spacial crime patterns, community influences on attitudes and behavior, sociology of punishment, comparative criminology.

Kevin Beaver, Associate Professor

Ph.D. University of Cincinnati.
Biosocial criminology, genetic/biological correlates of offending, life-course/developmental criminology, stability of violent behaviors.

Tom Blomberg, Dean, Sheldon L. Messinger Professor of Criminology

Ph.D. Univ. of California at Berkeley.
Delinquency, education, and crime desistance, penology and social control, victim services, criminological research and public policy.

Ted Chiricos, William Julius Wilson Professor of Criminology

Ph.D. University of Massachusetts.
Social threat and social control, criminal sentencing, labeling effects, immigration.

Billy Close, Assistant Professor

Ph.D. Florida State University.
Race and justice, the political economy of crime and social control, popular perceptions of crime and punishment, media representation of crime and its consequences, sociological and criminological theory.

Bill Doerner, Professor

Ph.D. University of Tennessee.
Ecology of crime, corrections, law enforcement, victimology.

Marc Gertz, Professor

Ph.D. University of Connecticut.
Public opinion and the criminal justice system, organization politics and the courts, comparative courts, interest groups, voting behavior.

Carter Hay, Associate Professor

Ph.D. The University of Texas at Austin.
Family- and parenting-related causes of adolescent crime, development of self-control and its implications for crime, effects of family and community poverty on crime, role of the family and community in affecting desistance from crime and prisoner reentry, link between public opinion and public policy in relation to the expanded use of incarceration.

Gary Kleck, Professor

Ph.D. University of Illinois at Urbana.
Gun control, crime control, violence.

Dan Maier-Katkin, Professor

J.D. Columbia University.
Infanticide, law and society, juvenile justice, international human rights, crimes against humanity, criminal law.

Dan Mears, Professor

Ph.D. The University of Texas at Austin.
Crime and delinquency, juvenile and criminal justice, crime theory, public policy and opinion, domestic violence, immigration, mental health, religion, sentencing, corrections and re-entry.

Alex Piquero, Professor

Ph.D. University of Maryland, College Park.
Criminal careers, quantitative research methods, criminological theory.

Nicole Piquero, Associate Professor

Ph.D. University of Maryland.
White-collar and corporate crime, criminological theory testing, gender and crime.

Sonja Siennick, Assistant Professor

Ph.D. Pennsylvania State University.
Crime and deviance, the life course, quantitative methods.

Eric Stewart, Associate Professor

Ph.D. Iowa State University.
Social processes and crime, neighborhood context and police behavior, recidivism among women offenders.

Brian Stults, Assistant Professor

Ph.D. University at Albany (SUNY).
Race and crime, neighborhoods and crime, residential segregation.

Gordon Waldo, Professor

Ph.D. Ohio State University.
Research methods, law and social control, corrections, delinquency, juvenile justice.

Patricia Warren, Assistant Professor

Ph.D. North Carolina State University.
Racial profiling, race and class inequalities, disparities in criminal justice processing, crime and social control.