

2022-23 Graduate Handbook Online 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 program 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 Graduate Program Office at

crimgradprogram@fsu.edu
P: 850.645.9169

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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 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—leader 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, 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 students build fundamental technical skills and the ability to think critically and use the findings of research to inform decision-making.

The online 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 frontlines 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.

Orientation

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

Here students will learn about academic policies and procedures, obtain their FSU card number, find registration information, and create their Canvas account with FSU. The FSU card number and password is essential in facilitating your access to the FSU library database and logging on to Canvas. You may log onto Canvas at myfsu.edu.

Master's Degree Tracks

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

Degree Tracks

There are regular degree tracks or options of study within the Criminology and Criminal Justice MA or MS degree programs: a course work only 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 may select to complete 36 hours of course work only or may choose to complete 30 credit hours of coursework along with 6 area paper credit hours or may choose to complete 30 hours credit hours with a 6 credit hour graduate internship. Students completing the area paper option are required to nominate a master's directive committee, consisting of a major professor and two other faculty members. The committee supervises the preparation of the paper and must approve the paper's format, though it need not conform to the University's formal thesis guidelines.

Master's Program

An oral defense of the paper is not a College requirement, though the student's committee may request it. **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. This option requires an oral thesis defense and thesis submission in a University approved format.

*Note: Any individualized course such as area paper, thesis, directed individual study (DIS), etc. will be subject to out-of-state tuition rates and fees for out-of-state students. Individualized courses are not eligible for market rate tuition or for state tuition waivers.

Thesis and Area Paper Distinction

Typically the area paper takes two semesters to complete and involves a high quality literature review and critique that is focused on one subject that the student is particularly interested in investigating. A thesis, on the other hand, is based on the manipulation and analysis of a particular body of data. In most cases the thesis also requires two semesters to complete. When completing a thesis, it is not necessary that the student is the one who originally collected the data; secondary data analysis is typically done.

Students are required to seek Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval prior to commencing any research involving human subjects. The student's name must appear on the approval form as a PI or co-PI for the period of time when the student's research was conducted. Failure to obtain the required approvals may result in the area paper or thesis being embargoed and unpublishable in any form.

Major Professor and Master's Supervisory Committee

Students who choose the thesis or area paper 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 year. 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 administrator of the appointment. Those choosing the course work only option for the degree will use the graduate administrator 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 names are submitted to the graduate administrator.

Master's Requirements

Master's students must complete 36 credits for the degree. These credits are composed of required "core" courses and Criminology and Criminal Justice elective hours, and may include up to nine graduate credit 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. Failure to maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA will first result in academic probation and if not corrected in the following semester of enrollment, will result in academic dismissal.

2022–2023 Faculty

Megan Augustyn, Associate Professor

Ph.D. University of Maryland.
Risk factors involved in the development of delinquency, procedural justice and the consequences of contact with the criminal justice system.

Bill Bales, Professor Emeritus

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

**Kevin Beaver, Judith Rich Harris
Professor of Criminology**

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.

Julie Brancale, Assistant Professor

Ph.D. Florida State University.
Juvenile and criminal justice policy evaluation, victimization across the life course, police use of technology, education and delinquency, qualitative methods.

Erin Castro, Assistant Professor

Ph.D. University of Florida.
Dating violence, sexual offense, gender differences in offending and victimization, criminological theory, quantitative methods.

Ted Chiricos, Professor Emeritus

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

Cecelia Chouhy, Assistant Professor

Ph.D. University of Cincinnati.
Cross-national approach to: testing criminological theories, effectiveness of correction programs, sources of public opinion.

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.

Jennifer Copp, Associate Professor

Ph.D. Bowling Green State University. Intimate partner violence, consequences of incarceration, neighborhoods and crime, adolescence and young adulthood, health and well being.

Kimberly Davidson, Assistant Professor

Ph.D. The Pennsylvania State University.
Criminology, corrections, programming and rehabilitation, community reentry, substance use.

Emma Fridel, Assistant Professor

Ph.D. Northeastern University.
Lethal violence, communities and crime, quantitative methods.

Marc Gertz, Professor Emeritus

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, 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, criminological theory, life course criminology.

Bryan Holmes, Assistant Professor

Ph.D. Pennsylvania State University.
Sentencing, courts, race/ethnicity, corrections, inequity in punishment, quantitative methods.

Young-An Kim, Assistant Professor

Ph.D. University of California-Irvine.
Neighborhoods and crime, criminology of place, crime patterns in street segments, sociology of health, urban sociology and quantitative research methods.

Gary Kleck, Professor Emeritus

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

Brendan Lantz, Assistant Professor

Ph.D. Pennsylvania State University.
Group crime and co-offending, social networks, violence, hate and bias crime.

**Dan Mears, Mark C. Stafford Professor of
Criminology**

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

Sylvia Piatkowska, Associate Professor

Ph.D. State University of New York at Albany.
Crime and deviance, comparative and international criminology, hate crime, policing, social control, spatial analysis, advanced quantitative methods.

Joseph Schwartz, Associate Professor

Ph.D. Florida State University.
Biosocial criminology, life-course/developmental criminology, traumatic brain injury, behavioral endocrinology, behavior genetics, quantitative research methods, criminological theory.

Sonja Siennick, Professor

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

**Eric Stewart, Ronald L. Simons
Professor of Criminology**

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

Brian Stults, Associate Professor

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

Jillian Turanovic, Associate Professor

Ph.D. Arizona State University. Victimization, incarceration, crime and deviance, life course theory.

Gordon Waldo, Professor Emeritus

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

Patricia Warren, Professor

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

Marin Wenger, Assistant Professor

Ph.D. Pennsylvania State University. Stratification, communities and crime deviance, quantitative methods.

Steven Zane, Assistant Professor

Ph.D. Northeastern University.
Evidence-based crime policy, law and social control, juvenile transfer policy, intersection of social science and law.