

# Criminology and Criminal Justice

Michael Smith, Chair  
Kathy R. Smiling, Director of Academic Programs

## **Professors**

Geoffrey P. Alpert, Ph.D., Washington State University, 1975

## **Associate Professors**

John D. Burrow, Ph.D., Michigan State University, 1998, J.D., University of Wisconsin, 2001

Barbara A. Koons-Witt, Ph.D., Michigan State University, 2000, *Graduate Director*

Michael Smith, Ph.D., Arizona State University, 1996, J.D., University of South Carolina, 1993, *Department Chair*

## **Assistant Professors**

Abigail Fagan, Ph.D., University of Colorado, 2001

Robert Kaminski, Ph.D., State University of New York at Albany, 2002

Jeffrey Rojek, Ph.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis, 2005

Eric L. Sevigny, Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh, 2006

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## Overview

The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice offers programs leading to the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees 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 and micro-level criminological theory, sentencing, victimization, and program evaluation. Graduates from these programs are well-prepared to enter teaching, research, or policy-making positions in the criminal justice system.

## Admission

Applicants must possess a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university. An undergraduate major in criminology, criminal justice, or a related social science is desirable. In addition to meeting all admission requirements of the University's Graduate School, applicants must submit scores obtained on the Graduate Record Examination (general test only), letters of academic reference, and a written statement outlining academic and/or professional objectives.

Admission to each program is competitive and is based primarily upon the following criteria: 1) undergraduate and graduate (if applicable) academic performance (expected minimum GPA of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale), 2) GRE scores (expected combined minimum score of 1000 points on the quantitative and verbal sections of the general test), 3) the strength of recommendation letters (2 letters for admission to the M.A. program and 3 letters for admission to the Ph.D. program), and 4) the department graduate committee's assessment of students' interests and objectives. Criteria 1 and 2 should be viewed as general guidelines and not absolute requirements for admission to each program.

## Degree Requirements and Regulations

### Requirements for the M.A. degree in criminology and criminal justice include:

1. Core Courses: Fifteen hours of core courses, each of which must be completed with a grade of **B** or better: CRJU 701, 702, 703, 705, and 741.
2. Electives: 9 hours of courses with no more than two courses (6 credit hours) below the 700 level and no more than two courses outside the department.
3. Comprehensive examination: each student must successfully complete a general M.A. comprehensive examination, which will test the student's knowledge of major philosophical, scientific, theoretical, and policy issues related to criminology and criminal justice. Students who fail the exam will be permitted to retake it one time.

4. Thesis: students must complete a 6 credit hour thesis. Successful completion of the thesis will require an oral defense before the student's thesis committee.

5. Program Progress: Students who accumulate more than 6 hours of graduate credit below the grade of **B** will not be permitted to continue the program. No course may be repeated more than one time.

6. Audited Courses: Core courses may not be audited. Other courses may be audited, but students must remember that audited courses cannot be repeated for credit.

7. Transfer Credits: Students may transfer up to 6 credit hours from other programs and/or institutions provided they meet departmental requirements. Transfer credits may not be applied to core courses.

**Requirements for the Ph.D. degree in criminology and criminal justice include:**

Students Admitted with Master's (M.A./M.S.) or Law (J.D.) Degrees

1. Core Courses: Fifteen hours of core courses, each of which must be completed with a grade of **B** or better: CRJU 706, CRJU 810, CRJU 814, CRJU 821 and either CRJU 816 or CRJU 817. With approval of the graduate director, substantially equivalent courses from outside the department may be substituted for CRJU 706, CRJU 816, and/or CRJU 817.

2. Electives: 9 hours of courses, all of which must be at the 700 level or above. At least one, but no more than two, of these courses should be taken from outside the department.

3. Qualifying examination: All students admitted to the Ph.D. program in criminology and criminal justice must successfully complete a qualifying examination prior to formal admission to candidacy.

4. Comprehensive examination: Each student must successfully complete both a written and oral Ph.D. comprehensive examination after completing all required course work. Students will be examined on their knowledge of research methods and design, data analysis, law and policy issues related to criminology and criminal justice, and their understanding of important issues related to criminological theory. If a student fails the Ph.D. comprehensive examination, the student will be permitted to retake the exam one time.

5. Dissertation preparation and defense: 12 hours of dissertation credit must be successfully completed to earn the Ph.D. degree. The dissertation is an original research project that advances scientific knowledge in the student's chosen area of interest. The dissertation must be orally defended by the student before the student's dissertation examining committee. The oral defense before the examining committee cannot take place until after the successful completion of the comprehensive examination.

6. Foreign Language: The foreign language requirement established by the Graduate School can be satisfied either by passing a reading proficiency examination in one of the foreign language areas or by completing the research methods sequence (CRJU 706, CRJU 814, CRJU 816 or CRJU 817) with a grade of **B** or higher in each course. English is accepted as satisfying this requirement for those students whose native language is not English.

7. Residency Requirement: Doctoral residency is established by enrolling in a minimum of 18 graduate credit hours over the course of three consecutive semesters (excluding summers). While not necessary to satisfy the residency requirement, any graduate credit hours taken during summer terms (including May session) will count toward the 18 graduate hours needed for residency.

8. Program Progress: Students who accumulate more than 6 hours of graduate credit below the grade of **B** will not be permitted to continue the program. No course may be repeated more than one time.

9. Audited Courses: Core courses may not be audited. Other courses may be audited, but students must remember that audited courses cannot be repeated for credit.

10. Transfer Credits: Students may transfer up to 6 credit hours from other programs and/or institutions provided they meet departmental requirements. Transfer credits may not be applied to core courses.

#### Students Admitted with Baccalaureate Degrees Only

1. Masters-level Coursework: Twenty-four hours of coursework, to include: CRJU 701, 702, 703, 705, 741, and three (9 credit hours) additional elective courses. No more than two elective courses (6 credit hours) may be taken below the 700 level. Students who accumulate more than 6 hours of masters-level graduate credit below the grade of **B** will not be permitted to continue the program. No course may be repeated more than one time.
2. Core Courses: Fifteen hours of core courses, each of which must be completed with a grade of **B** or better: CRJU 706, CRJU 810, CRJU 814, CRJU 821 and either CRJU 816 or CRJU 817. With approval of the graduate director, substantially equivalent courses from outside the department may be substituted for CRJU 706, CRJU 816, and/or CRJU 817.
3. Electives: Nine hours of courses, all of which must be at the 700 level or above. At least one, but no more than two, of these courses should be taken from outside the department.
4. Qualifying examination: All students admitted to the Ph.D. program in criminology and criminal justice must successfully complete a qualifying examination prior to formal admission to candidacy.
5. Comprehensive examination: Each student must successfully complete both a written and oral Ph.D. comprehensive examination after completing all required coursework. Students will be examined on their knowledge of research methods and design, data analysis, law and policy issues related to criminology and criminal justice, and their understanding of important issues related to criminological theory. If a student fails the Ph.D. comprehensive examination, the student will be permitted to retake the exam one time.
6. Dissertation Preparation and Defense: Twelve (12) hours of dissertation credit must be successfully completed to earn the Ph.D. degree. The dissertation is an original research project that advances scientific knowledge in the student's chosen area of interest. The dissertation must be orally defended by the student before the student's dissertation examining committee. The oral defense before the examining committee cannot take place until after the successful completion of the comprehensive examination.
7. Foreign Language: The foreign language requirement established by the Graduate School can be satisfied either by passing a reading proficiency examination in one of the foreign language areas or by completing the research methods sequence (CRJU 706, CRJU 814, CRJU 816 or CRJU 817) with a grade of **B** or higher in each course. English is accepted as satisfying this requirement for those students whose native language is not English.
8. Residency Requirement: Doctoral residency is established by enrolling in a minimum of 18 graduate credit hours over the course of three consecutive semesters (excluding summers). While not necessary to satisfy the residency requirement, any graduate credit hours taken during summer terms (including May session) will count toward the 18 graduate hours needed for residency.
9. Program Progress: Students who obtain more than two grades below a **B** in their final 24 hours of graduate coursework will not be permitted to continue in the program. No course may be repeated more than one time.
10. Audited Courses: Core courses may not be audited. Other courses may be audited, but students must remember that audited courses cannot be repeated for credit.
11. Transfer Credits: Students may transfer up to 6 credit hours from other programs and/or institutions provided they meet departmental requirements. Transfer credits may not be applied to core courses.

#### **J.D./M.A. Joint Degree Program**

The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, in cooperation with the University of South Carolina School of Law, offers a combined degree program which permits a student to obtain both the Juris Doctor and the Master of Arts in Criminal Justice degrees in approximately four years. Through the combined program, the total course load may be reduced by as many as 15 credit hours from that required if the two degrees were earned separately, since 6 hours of electives toward the M.A. degree may be taken in law courses and 9 hours of electives toward the J.D. may be earned in the M.A. program.

Prior to obtaining admission to the combined degree program, a student must be admitted to both the School of Law and the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Upon admission to the combined degree program, the student will be assigned courses to be elected in both programs.

## Financial Assistance

Applicants requesting graduate assistantships and fellowships should contact the department. Applicants requesting all other types of financial assistance should apply to the director of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208.

## Course Descriptions (CRJU)

- **524 -- Victimization. (3)** Causes and consequences of criminal victimization and public policy responses to victimization issues.
- **531 -- Alternatives to Incarceration. (3)** A survey of the correctional alternatives to imprisonment, including probation, parole, and various community service programs. The research evidence on the various alternatives and the role of the community and citizens in the correctional process.
- **532 -- Violence in American Society. (3)** Historical overview of violence in American society. An examination of the theoretical causes and preventive strategies for acts of violence. Both individual and collective violence are studied.
- **542 -- Drugs and Crime. (3)** A survey of the relationship between substance abuse and criminal offending. The historical and contemporary criminal justice system responses to illegal substances.
- **543 -- Criminal Justice and Mental Health. (3)** An overview of the interface between the mental health sciences and the criminal justice field.
- **545 -- Crime Prevention and Private Security. (3)** Crime prevention strategies and their relationship to private sectors of law enforcement.
- **554 -- Women and Crime. {=WOST 554} (3)** Impact of gender-based relations on crime and the criminal justice system.
- **562 -- Citizen Involvement in Criminal Justice. (3)** Citizen involvement programs including crime prevention, dispute-resolution centers, and use of volunteers.
- **563 -- Race, Crime, and Criminal Justice. (3)** An historical overview of the intersection between issues of race, crime, and justice. The impact of the criminal justice system on minority groups.
- **577 -- Law and Criminal Justice Policy. (3)** (Prereq: CRJU 221 and 321) Examines the law's impact on contemporary criminal justice policies. Specific focus will be on the origins of criminal statutes and their application to corrections and courts.
- **582 -- Computer Applications in Criminal Justice. (3)** Computing, database systems, and software applications in research and professional practice.
- **585 -- Selected Topics in Crime and Public Policy. (3)** Public policy responses to crime, their formation, and their impact on both crime and criminal justice systems. Individual topics to be announced with suffix and title. May be repeated with consent of advisor.
- **591 -- Selected Topics in Criminal Justice. (3)** A seminar for advanced students. Individual topics to be announced with suffix and title. May be repeated once with the consent of the advisor.
- **701 -- Survey of Criminal Justice. (3)** Classical and recent literature in criminal justice. Trends and issues that transcend criminal justice.
- **702 -- Law and Justice. (3)** Examination of law as an instrument of criminal justice policy, social control, and the protection of civil liberties.
- **703 -- Research Methods in Criminal Justice. (3)** (Prereq: STAT 201) Scientific methods in criminal justice research to include methods of design, data collection, and interpretation of research findings.
- **704 -- Organization and Management in Criminal Justice. {=POLI 756} (3)** Management strategies and selected analytic tools for the administration of criminal justice agencies.
- **705 -- Quantitative Methods in Criminal Justice. (3)** (Prereq: CRJU 703) Descriptive and inferential statistics and the use of computers in criminal justice.
- **706 -- Advanced Quantitative Analysis for Criminology and Criminal Justice. (3)** A detailed treatment of the general linear model, logistic regression analysis, and statistical models for event count data analysis with applications in criminology and criminal justice.
- **711 -- Police Practices and Problems. (3)** Historical and contemporary role of the police, societal expectations, resource allocation, police policies, and the effectiveness of various police strategies in controlling crime.
- **712 -- Police Administration and Management. (3)** Principles of leadership and management applied to law enforcement.
- **731 -- Corrections. (3)** Historical development of corrections, trends, and changes in the field of corrections and rehabilitation.
- **732 -- Correctional Policy. (3)** Policy development, implementation, and evaluation in corrections.
- **741 -- Criminology. (3)** The major theories of the etiology of criminal behavior, including biological, environmental, and other causative factors.

- **743 – Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Child Abuse and Neglect. {=EDCE 769, HPRE 769, NURS 726 SOWK 769} (3)** Current knowledge about child abuse and neglect, including typologies, etiology, effects, and current practice interventions.
- **751 – Juvenile Justice. {=SOWK 763} (3)** Historical evolution of the juvenile justice system.
- **752 – Prevention and Treatment of Delinquency. (3)** Theories and methodologies for the organization of delinquency prevention and control programs. Emphasis on the role of the program evaluation.
- **791 – Selected Topics in Criminal Justice. (3)** Seminar for advanced students. Topics of current importance, such as drugs, judicial reform, or crime prevention. (May be repeated for credit up to 6 semester hours with consent of advisor.)
- **792 – Directed Study in Criminal Justice. (3)** Independent study for advanced students, under faculty supervision. (May be repeated for credit up to 6 semester hours with consent of advisor.)
- **794 – Internship in Criminal Justice. (3)** Placement in a criminal justice agency under faculty supervision.
- **799 – Thesis Research: Thesis Preparation. (1-9)**
- **810 – Crime, Law, and Public Policy. (3)** The study of the legal and policy-making processes as they apply to criminology and criminal justice. Examines the interrelationships between law, crime, and public policy and the research methodologies appropriate for the study of crime-related policies in society.
- **814 – Seminar in Research Design. (3)** Intensive coverage of the logic and practice of research design and measurement issues commonly encountered in criminology and criminal justice research. Emphasizes the use of experimental research designs as the preferred methodology for making causal inferences.
- **816 – Applied Quantitative Data Analysis. (3)** Review of applied quantitative methodological literature in criminology and criminal justice. Topics include analysis of data from randomized field experiments, interrupted time-series studies, regression discontinuity studies, instrumental variable estimation, treatment probability matching estimators, statistical power analysis, and study planning.
- **817 – Qualitative Research Methods and Data Analysis. (3)** Examination of the qualitative research paradigm and its contribution to social inquiry, including the collection, organization, and analysis of qualitative data. Collection and analytic strategies involve interviewing, observation, and textual analysis.
- **821 – Advanced Criminological Theory. (3)** Advanced coverage of theoretical developments and empirical research in criminology, with a focus on definitive statements from important theoretical traditions, empirical tests of criminological theories, and the translation of theory into policy.
- **899 – Dissertation Preparation (1-12).** Dissertation Preparation.