Criminology Graduate Student Handbook
(M.S. and PhD)

Fall 2015 Update
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINOLOGY

School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences
University of Texas at Dallas
Master of Science in Criminology

Professors: Drs. Bruce Jacobs, Alex Piquero, Nicole Leeper Piquero, Robert Taylor, and John Worrall

Associate Professors: Drs. Denise Boots, Tomislav Kovandzic, Robert Morris, and Lynne Vieraitis (Program Head)

Assistant Professors: Dr. Nadine Connell

Clinical Professors: Dr. Elmer Polk

Clinical Assistant Professors: Dr. Timothy Bray

Master’s Advisor Ms. Nora Hernandez and Ms. Christina Rhodes

Graduate Program Administrator Katie Doctor-Troup

Mission:

The Mission of the Master of Science in Criminology program at the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) is threefold:

- To deliver high-quality education to a diverse body of students in terms of the etiology, control, and variation of law-breaking across space and time.
- To serve local, regional, and national communities through professional development programs, public policy analyses, program, and policy design and evaluation research.
- To advance the understanding of criminology through a multidisciplinary mix of theoretical and applied research, as well as to provide a forum for new ideas and approaches to the study of crime.

Objectives:

The Master of Science in Criminology provides students with a coherent yet intellectually challenging degree that prepares them to conduct interdisciplinary research among the many aspects of criminology and criminal justice, varying with individual interests and areas of specialty. Graduates of the M.S. program will be competent to teach at the community college and at the University level as adjunct lecturers. Graduates will also be ready to enter into analytic and administrative posts within a vast array of research and policy institutions, criminal justice organizations, and in the private sector.
Admissions

The admissions requirements for the M.S. program are as follows:

- Minimum undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.2 as reflected on official transcripts from the undergraduate institution and strong academic performance
- Preferred combined verbal and quantitative Graduate Records Examination (GRE) score of 300 as shown on official score report (1,000 under old scoring system)
- Letter of intent from applicant explaining why he or she seeks admission into the program
- Two to three strong letters of recommendation (preferably from professors or academics who can speak to the intellectual and scholastic abilities of the student and their probability of successfully completing the graduate program)

To be considered for Fall admission, M.S. Program applications must be submitted in full by July 1. Students with less than a complete application file may be denied or not considered for admission. Students with complete and exceptional packages will be considered for admission into the graduate program in semesters other than the Fall semester, but students generally are strongly encouraged to consider applying for Fall admission at the beginning of the academic year. Due to course sequencing and orientations, students who start in a non-traditional semester (Spring or Summer) may not be able to take classes in the suggested course sequence.

Student orientations are provided for all entering students in each academic calendar year. These meetings are held in August before the start of classes and all students are required to attend, regardless of semester of admission. Students who miss this orientation meeting or who enter the program in non-traditional semesters are responsible for reviewing the handbook and curriculum policies independently to ensure they understand the requirements necessary for satisfactory progress in their degree plan.

Facilities

Students have access to the computing facilities in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences (EPPS) as well as the University's Computing Center. EPPS has three computing laboratories which have 15-25 computers each, equipped with major social science software packages, including E-Views, R, Rats, PASW and STATA. A computerized geographic information system, the Lexis Nexis Database, and West Law are also available for student use in certain labs. The University's Computing Center provides personal computers and UNIX Workstations. Many important data and reference materials are also available online via the library’s and UTD’s memberships in numerous organizations. All Criminology program communications are done with students via UT Dallas email accounts as per university policy and it is the student’s responsibility to check this email account frequently for important correspondence.

Prerequisites

For the Master of Science in Criminology, students with an undergraduate degree in criminology or a related field will have the necessary academic foundation to begin their graduate coursework. Applicants are not required to have an undergraduate degree in criminology or criminal justice,
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but such training will help to facilitate the pursuit of advanced degrees in criminology. Applicants need to have a passing grade in an upper division, undergraduate statistics course.

If these conditions are not met, the applicant may be required to take undergrad prerequisite courses as a part of the graduate program.

**Non-Degree Seeking Option**

Students who lack sufficient criminological background and/or fail to meet other program requirements may be eligible for admission under the Graduate Non-Degree Seeking program. A student can complete up to 15 hours in order to fulfill program prerequisites, because of other admission criteria deficits, or simply to “test the waters” in order to determine whether criminology graduate education is for them. After the conditional period, a subsequent application is necessary (no charge will be incurred for the application to continuing students) for admission to the graduate program, at which time the program head and/or graduate director will review progress and make a determination as to full admittance into the Degree seeking program. All credits acquired during the non-degree seeking time period will be transferred directly to the graduate program, but a minimum grade of B must be earned for a class to be eligible for transfer. Students should consult the graduate catalog for additional details on the non-degree seeking option.

**Graduate Transfer Credit Policies**

Students may be awarded up to 9 hours of transfer credit (no more than 9 of the 36 required hours), which will be applied toward their degree plan upon consultation with the graduate director. However, students must earn a grade of B or above in a class for it to be considered eligible for transfer credit. Also, the graduate director has sole discretion to decide the manner in which transfer credits will be applied. Final transfer credit determinations will be awarded in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in the University's General Academic Regulations after a review of official transcripts. These policies are subject to change and it will be the student’s responsibility to verify compliance with current policy at the time of their transfer into the Program. See http://policy.utdallas.edu/pdf/utdpp1052 for more information on the graduate transfer credit policy.

**Fast Track Program for UT Dallas Undergraduate Students**

Undergraduate students at UT Dallas who have been admitted to Fast Track programs at UT Dallas leading to baccalaureate/master's degrees may, with the permission of the student's Undergraduate Associate Dean and graduate advisor, take a maximum of 15 specified semester hours of graduate work as an undergraduate. The graduate hours may be used to complete the bachelor's degree and also to satisfy requirements for the master's degree. When this option is chosen, credit for the fast track hours used for an undergraduate degree will not be computed in the graduate GPA. However, they reduce the total number of graduate hours required to earn the respective degree. The student must declare at the time of registration for the course, on a form provided by the Undergraduate Associate Dean, how each approved course is to be applied and may not change option once declared. Exceptions to the 15-hour maximum may be granted by
petition to the Deans of Graduate and Undergraduate Education submitted through the relevant program's director of graduate studies.

In order to apply, an application should be filed with the Undergraduate Advisor. The Undergraduate Advisor will verify eligibility, after which point the graduate director will approve or deny the petition. Approval must then be secured from the EPPS Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Education, followed by the Dean of Graduate Education (4 steps in total).

**Fast Track Program Requirements**

- Students must have a minimum overall cumulative GPA of 3.25 at UTD, and 3.25 in criminology courses. A student should not have D or F grades on their record, or they must obtain additional justification from the program director.

- Students must be within 30 hours of graduating.

- Students may not initiate the application process during their last semester as an undergraduate.

- Students who have already been accepted into Fast Track must have earned a B or better in their graduate classes to continue in the Fast Track program AND to be considered for admission into a master’s program in EPPS.

- Students who successfully complete the Fast Track requirements do NOT need to complete the letters of recommendation, the GRE, or the personal narrative to apply to an EPPS master’s program, BUT they must complete the graduate application to enter into the master’s program.

- If a student loses his or her Fast Track status, the student will be required to fulfill the admissions requirements, if the student decides to apply to the master’s program at UTD in the future.

- Students need to complete 9 graduate credit hours to complete the Fast Track program.

Students enrolling in a Fast Track Program will be academically evaluated in the same manner and held to the same grading standards as graduate students in their graduate courses (in graduate courses, anything below a B is not considered passing and students will not earn credit for the course toward a graduate degree).

**Degree Requirements**

Students seeking a Master of Science in Criminology degree must complete 36 semester hours of criminology coursework, including 15 hours of required core classes, six hours of independent research with a faculty member to satisfy the writing requirement, and another 15 hours of electives. Students not wishing to continue on to the Ph.D. may omit the writing requirement and substitute six hours of additional hours of electives (see Non-Writing Option section below).
Independent Study

Independent studies (CRIM 8V01) be repeated for elective credit up to a maximum of 9 hours for M.S. students and 12 hours for Ph.D. students. Student performance is assessed by instructor as pass/fail only.

Non-Writing Option

MS students on a terminal track who do not wish to be considered for admission into the doctoral program have the option of taking 6 hours of any EPPS graduate classes as electives in lieu of a writing requirement. All students must receive a B or better in the criminology core courses and a 3.0 overall grade point average in order to complete graduation requirements and receive the M.S. in Criminology degree.

Writing Option

Students who wish to track into a doctoral program or otherwise want to satisfy a writing requirement rather than take 6 hours of electives may complete one of two options. There is no writing requirement for entrance into the UTD Criminology Ph.D. program.

The first writing requirement option is an analytical research paper. It is an original empirical research project that formally tests one or more specific research questions. The analytical paper option is typically reserved for students who wish to enter the Criminology program at UTD. Students who pursue this option must select a three-member faculty committee to supervise the project. The committee chair can be any clinical, tenure-track, or tenured faculty member in the Criminology program. At least one of the other committee members must be a clinical, tenure-track, or tenured faculty member in the Criminology program. The composition of the committee must be approved by the graduate director. The committee helps the student guide the paper through to completion, at which point the student defends the paper before the committee. Students who pursue this option must enroll in 6 hours of CRIM 6V98. The analytical paper is completely “in house,” meaning that the student does not need to work with or through the graduate dean’s office. Also, there are no formatting requirements other than those imposed by the committee.

The second writing requirement option is a traditional thesis. This paper is akin to the analytical writing paper, but adheres to the UTD policy memorandum, Policy on Procedures for Completing a Graduate Degree (87-III.25-48)—with the added requirement that the committee chair must be a faculty member in the Criminology program. The thesis option is typically reserved for students who either wish to complete a traditional thesis or who will pursue further graduate studies at another university that requires (or prefers) a traditional thesis. The procedures for writing a thesis, formatting it, selecting a committee, and defending the final product are made available through the graduate dean’s office. Students who pursue this option must enroll in 6 hours of CRIM 6V96.

For both the analytical paper and the thesis option, students must adhere to the policies of the UTD Institutional Review Board (IRB) and get all necessary approval/s from the IRB prior to starting
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a project (see the graduate Dean’s website regarding IRB conditions or consult the Office of Research homepage for more information).

If a student was originally admitted into the program as a M.S. student and wishes to be considered for admission to the doctoral program upon completion of the M.S., s/he must submit a subsequent application to the program by stated deadlines and be admitted into that program in accordance with the normal admission standards.

Dual Master’s Degrees

Per the Graduate Dean’s office, students are encouraged to pursue additional master’s degrees with The University of Texas at Dallas. To the extent that the requirements of some master’s degrees overlap, especially within the school of EPPS, some of the credit hours taken in pursuit of previous or simultaneously earned master’s degrees at UT Dallas may be counted toward an additional master’s degree. The only limitation being that one-half of the credit hours for any master’s degree earned at UT Dallas must be satisfied by new course work. Thus, any student wishing to gain a M.S. in Criminology is required to take a minimum of 18 hours with new course work from this program. A student is required to develop an approved plan of studies through the Criminology M.S. with the graduate director prior to enrolling in a dual degree. Similarly, a student wishing to earn two master’s degrees concurrently must develop an approved plan of studies through both relevant departments and programs and all coursework for any degree must meet the academic standards of that degree.

Time Limits

Per the Graduate Dean’s Office, all requirements for a graduate degree, including transfer credit, must be completed within the specified time period. Students exceeding the specified time limit will not be eligible for their degrees and will be dismissed from the graduate program. An approved leave of absence will not alter the time limits placed on graduate degrees.

All requirements for the master’s degree must be completed within one six-year period. All requirements for the doctoral degree must be completed within one ten-year period. Students whose master’s degrees are accepted for full credit toward a Ph.D. must complete all requirements for the doctoral degree within one eight-year period. Work exceeding these limits, whether done at this university or elsewhere, will not count towards the degree. Exceptions to time limit specifications must be approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Catalog Policy

Provided the requisite courses continue to be offered, students are bound by the course work requirements of the catalog in force at the time of their admission, within a six-year limit for the completion of the master’s degree and ten years for the doctoral degree. This regulation applies to specific course work and the number of credit hours for the academic degrees set forth in the catalog. All other requirements will change or be continued with the issuance of supplements to the graduate catalog and subsequent revisions to the handbook.
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Masters of Science in Criminology Degree Plan Details

15 Hours of Required Criminology Core Classes:
CRIM 6300: Proseminar in Criminology
CRIM 6301: Research Design I
CRIM 6303: Etiology of Crime and Criminality
CRIM 6311: Crime and Justice Policy
EPPS 6313: Introduction to Quantitative Methods

15 Hours of Electives:
9 hours in Criminology graduate courses
6 hours open graduate-level electives in any program or school

Plus: 6 hours of CRIM 6V96 or CRIM 6V98 (for Ph.D. track students)
OR 6 hours of EPPS graduate-level electives (for students wishing to terminate at M.S.)

Total Masters in Criminology Hours: 36

Suggested Curriculum Sequence for M.S. in Criminology
(with 9 hours of classes per semester)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Fall     | CRIM 6300  
CRIM 6303  
EPPS 6313 | 3 hours of CRIM 6V96/6V98 or elective  
Elective  
Elective |
| Spring   | CRIM 6301  
CRIM 6311  
Elective | 3 hours of CRIM 6V96/6V98 or elective  
Elective  
Elective |
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Academic Standing

In order to qualify for graduation, students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average for all graduate courses (including those taken outside of criminology). Students must also earn a grade of B or better in all required core classes.

Graduate Grading and Grade Point Average

The following grading scale is used in all Graduate coursework at the University:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>GRADE POINTS PER SEMESTER HOUR</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Failure of either a Pass/Fail or Graded Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Incomplete</td>
<td>Grades of F, X, P &amp; W do not produce Grade points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Grades of F, X, P &amp; W do not produce Grade points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>Withdraw</td>
<td>Grades of F, X, P &amp; W do not produce Grade points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Important: This handbook is subject to change in accordance with university and program amendments. Students are responsible for remaining updated and in compliance with policies throughout their attendance in the program and prior to graduation applications being processed. The policies set forth in this handbook default to new university policies that may be amended without notice.
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN CRIMINOLOGY

School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences
University of Texas at Dallas

Fall 2015 Update
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Graduate Program Administrator: Katie Doctor-Troup

Mission:

The Mission of the Doctor of Philosophy in Criminology program at the University of Texas at Dallas is threefold, to:

- Deliver high-quality education to a diverse body of graduate students regarding the etiology, control, and variation of law-breaking across space and time.
- Serve local, regional, and national communities through professional development programs, public policy analyses and evaluation research, program and policy design, and as a forum for new ideas and approaches to the study of crime.
- Advance the understanding of criminology through a multidisciplinary mix of theoretical and applied research.

Objectives:

The doctoral program in Criminology is an interdisciplinary, research-oriented degree offered in conjunction with other graduate programs in the School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences at UT Dallas. The objective of the Ph.D. program is to provide students a coherent, yet intellectually challenging degree that adequately prepares them to conduct research among the many aspects of criminology and criminal justice, varying with individual interests and areas of specialty. Graduates of the Ph.D. program will be qualified to teach at the University level as professors. Graduates will also be competent to enter into analytic and administrative posts within the vast array of research and policy institutions, criminal justice organizations, and in the private sector.

Admissions

The general admissions requirements for the doctoral program are as follows:

- A master’s degree in criminology, criminal justice, or a related discipline (master’s degrees from other disciplines will be evaluated ad hoc) from a traditional university, similar to UTD.
- Minimum undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.2 as reflected on official transcripts from the undergraduate institution and strong academic performance with 3.5 GPA or higher in graduate-level coursework taken to date
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- Preferred combined verbal and quantitative Graduate Records Examination (GRE) score of 300 as shown on official score report (1,000 under old scoring system)
- A letter of intent from applicant explaining why he or she seeks admission into the program
- Three strong letters of recommendation (preferably from professors or academics who can speak to the intellectual and scholastic abilities of the student and their probability of successfully completing the doctoral program)

To be considered for Fall admission and funding opportunities, applications must be submitted in full by February 15th. Students can apply as late as July 1, per university policy, but they will likely not be considered for funding opportunities. Students with less than a complete application file may be denied or not considered for admission. Students with complete and exceptional packages may be considered for admission into the graduate program in the Spring semester, but students generally are strongly encouraged to consider applying for Fall admission at the beginning of the academic year. Due to course sequencing and orientations, students who start in a non-traditional semester may not be able to take classes in the suggested course sequence, which may delay degree completion. Non-fall applications are discouraged.

Student orientations are provided for all entering students in each academic calendar year. These meetings are held in August before the start of classes and all students are required to attend, regardless of semester of admission. Students who miss this orientation meeting or who enter the program in non-traditional semesters are responsible for reviewing the handbook and curriculum policies independently to ensure they understand the requirements necessary for satisfactory progress in their degree plan.

For the Doctor of Philosophy in Criminology, students with an undergraduate or Master’s degree in Criminology or a related field will have the necessary academic foundation to begin their graduate coursework. Applicants are not required to have a degree in criminology or criminal justice, but such training will help to facilitate the pursuit of advanced degrees in criminology. Applicants lacking a criminology/criminal justice background may be required to take one or more M.S.-level courses to prepare them for Ph.D. studies.

If these conditions are not met, the applicant may be required to take undergrad prerequisite courses as a part of the graduate program.

Non-Degree Seeking Option

Students who lack sufficient criminological background and/or fail to meet other admission requirements may be eligible for admission under the Graduate Non-Degree Seeking program. A student can complete up to 15 hours in order to fulfill program prerequisites, because of other admission criteria deficits, or simply to “test the waters” to determine whether criminology graduate education is for them. After the conditional period, a subsequent application is necessary (no charge will be incurred for the application to continuing students) for the program, at which time the program head and/or graduate director will review progress and make a determination as to full admittance into the Degree seeking program. All credits acquired during the non-degree seeking time period will be transferred directly to the program to which the student applies.

Facilities
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Students have access to the computing facilities in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences (EPPS) as well as the University’s Computing Center. EPPS has three computing laboratories which have 15-25 computers each, equipped with major social science software packages, including E-Views, R, Rats, PASW and STATA. A computerized geographic information system, the Lexis Nexis Database, and West Law are also available for student use in certain labs. The University’s Computing Center provides personal computers and UNIX Workstations. Many important data and reference materials are also available online via the library’s and UTD’s memberships in numerous organizations. All Criminology program communications are done with students via UT Dallas email accounts as per university policy and it is the student’s responsibility to check this email account frequently for important correspondence.

Graduate Transfer Credit Policies

A student who has previous graduate course work comparable to the curriculum of the UT Dallas Graduate Criminology program may be considered for transfer credit. Transfer decisions are made in consultation with the Ph.D. Advisor (see above). However, the graduate director has sole discretion to decide the number of manner in which transfer credits will be applied. Final transfer credit determinations will also be awarded in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in the University’s General Academic Regulations after a review of official transcripts. Transfer of master’s level credit into a doctoral program is limited to a maximum of 36 hours.

To qualify for transfer of credit of any class, the grade earned in the course must be a B or better from an accredited college or university, and the course must not be a correspondence or extension course. In most cases, transfer courses will be substituted for elective credit, lessening the required hours needed for the Ph.D. In some cases, credit may be awarded for a core class at the discretion of the graduate director, provided an official transcript and a syllabus accompanies the transfer request. Such decisions are made on a case-by-case basis. Finally, students requesting credit for the thesis or analytical paper must also produce the written work for evaluation along with proper documentation on the student’s official transcript.

All petitions for transfer of course credit should be submitted by the student to the graduate director in the first semester of active enrollment in the program; however, acceptance of transfer of credit hours will not occur until after the student has completed 9 semester credit hours at UT Dallas with a GPA of at least 3.0. All petitions must be processed and approved no later than the semester prior to the student’s anticipated graduation.

No more than 15 semester credit hours taken as a non-degree student at UT Dallas can be subsequently applied to a degree program at UT Dallas. Exceptions to these transfer policies may be granted only on petition to the program and approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies. These policies are subject to change and it is the student’s responsibility to verify they are in compliance with current policies at all times. See http://policy.utdallas.edu/pdf/utdpp1052 for more information on the graduate transfer credit policy.

Students wishing to transfer into the Criminology Graduate Program from another graduate program at UT Dallas (outside the school of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences) must submit an application through Enrollment Services (there will be no charge for continuing students) and be formally admitted into the program. A student wishing to change programs within the School of EPPS must complete the
“Graduate Change of Program Form” and secure written approval from the Program Director or graduate director, who will determine if the student meets the admission requirements prior to formal admission into the program.

Funding Opportunities

Funding opportunities are competitive, merit-based, and can range from a small stipend to a full assistantship with tuition assistance depending upon available funding. Students who intend to seek funding should apply for admission as a doctoral track student to be considered for university funding lines, as there are extremely limited funding opportunities for Masters students. Students should note their desire to be considered for funding as a teaching or research assistant in their letter of intent to the program, or later should they become interested. Funding is always dependent upon budgets from year to year, is not guaranteed, and is also contingent upon adequate progression in coursework and academic standing as well as satisfactory performance of all job responsibilities and requirements. Funded students must abide by all pertinent UTD policies and procedures, including those pertaining to academic dishonesty. A finding of academic dishonesty from Judicial Affairs will result in automatic revocation of funding. Most funding opportunities run on the 9-month academic calendar, unless otherwise noted.

Funded students will be evaluated each semester by their supervising professor. Both will sign the document and the evaluation will be placed in the student’s permanent file. The program head and assistant program head (Ph.D. Advisor) will also evaluate each funded student at the end of the academic year to make the determination whether funding should be continued in the following academic year.

Funded Students are required to attend all sponsored program functions and support program activities. Additional responsibilities and training may also be required for students to meet specific needs that will advance their professional skills and socialization.

Funded students must be considered full time (enrolled in 9 hours per long semester with one exception noted below) and are responsible for compliance with all policies, including submitting required reports, grade submissions, or other necessary paperwork in a timely manner. Students are responsible for regularly checking their UT Dallas student email account and to respond promptly to all Program communications with faculty and administrators made through email or mail. Failure to comply for any reason may result in a loss of funding without notice.

Doctoral student funding is limited to four academic years of funding. Exceptions may be granted in rare circumstances at the direction of the program head. In no case will a student be funded who has in excess of 99 hours of coursework on his/her transcript (129 hours inclusive of the M.S.).

Time Limits

All requirements for the doctoral degree must be completed within one ten-year period. Students whose Master’s degrees are accepted for full credit toward a Ph.D. must complete all requirements for the doctoral degree within one eight-year period. No work exceeding these limits will count towards the degree. Exceptions to time limit specifications must be approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Catalog Policy
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Provided the requisite courses continue to be offered, students are bound by the course work requirements of the catalog in force at the time of their admission, within a six-year limit for the completion of the master’s degree and ten years for the doctoral degree. This regulation applies to specific course work and the number of credit hours for the academic degrees set forth in the catalog. All other requirements will change or be continued with the issuance of supplements to the graduate catalog and subsequent revisions to the handbook.

Independent Study Hours

Independent studies (CRIM 8V01) can be repeated for elective credit up to a maximum of 9 hours for M.S. students and 12 hours for Ph.D. students. Student performance is assessed by instructor as pass/fail only.

Doctoral students who completed a master’s at another university may apply ONLY 6 hours of independent study credit to pre-comprehensive exam coursework. Students who completed all their master’s requirements at UTD can enroll in a maximum of 12 hours of independent study. Also note that “comps prep” hours are technically independent study credit hours, but do not apply to the above thresholds.

Doctoral Program Requirements

To earn the Ph.D. in Criminology, students must fulfill the following requirements:

- Year 1 (Section A—see below) course work (18 hours)
- Qualifying Examination (Section B)
- Year 2 (Section C) course work (12 hours)
- Comprehensive Examination (Section D)
- Doctoral Dissertation/Three-Paper Option Writing Requirement (9 Hours) – (Section F)
- Complete a minimum of 36 hours of graduate coursework beyond the master’s level. (as outlined below)

Section A: Year 1 Coursework (18 hours)

The first year of the Ph.D. program consists of 18 hours of required courses, mainly covering research methods and statistics, criminological theory, and justice policy. Specifically, the coursework includes:

Year 1- Fall Semester
- CRIM 6301: Research Design I
- EPPS 7313: Descriptive & Inferential Statistics
- CRIM 7305: Prof Development in Criminology

Year 1- Spring Semester
- CRIM 6307: Extent of Crime & Measurement
- EPPS 7316: Regression and Multivariate Analysis
- CRIM 7315 or equivalent: Evidence-Based Crime Prevention
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Note that the above courses need not be taken in a sequence, but the above format is what how these courses tend to be offered at UTD.

IMPORTANT: Students should understand that 9-hours is considered a “full load” in graduate school. There is no requirement that 9 hours are taken each semester. However, students should know that course offerings are not set in stone from semester to semester but all must be completed prior to completing the qualifying examination and taking Year 2 coursework (in addition to other requirements noted herein). In rare cases, the graduate director may approve deviations from this sequence. Also note that funded students MUST be enrolled in at least 9 graduate hours to receive the funding during a regular semester.

Section B: Qualifying Examination Following Year 1 Coursework

Doctoral students officially beginning the PhD program in Fall 2014 and thereafter are required to sit for the criminology qualifying examination after completing Year 1 coursework (18hrs). The qualifying examination will be taken on a specified date (at the end of the spring semester) in a computer-lab on the UTD campus. The qualifying examination requires that students respond to one of several questions generally represented within the framework of substantive matter covered in the year 1 coursework (i.e., research methods/statistics). Students will be given 3-hours to complete the exam and will not have access to outside materials while completing the exam. Qualifying exams are graded on a PASS/FAIL basis.

Students will be notified of their exam outcome via email from the program head. Students who do not pass the qualifying exam will be informed as to the major issues resulting in a failure. Those failing the Qualifying Methods Examination must retake the examination in August of the same year, near the end of the summer semester. Students not passing the qualifying examination at the 2nd attempt will be dismissed from the program. Criminology faculty will provide reasonable details about exam expectations within one month of the examination date. Qualifying examinations will be graded by multiple tenure-track CRIM faculty members whose identities will remain anonymous.

IMPORTANT: Students can sit for the qualifying exam only after ALL year 1 required coursework (18 hours) is completed.

Section C: Year 2 Coursework
The second year of coursework consists of 12 hours of required criminology, methods/statistics, and comprehensive examination preparatory hours. These classes may vary from semester-to-semester, and other relevant courses as determined by the program head or Ph.D. Advisor may be approved on a case-by-case basis. Note that the comprehensive examination will typically be taken during the spring semester of Year 2 (for full time students starting in fall)

Year 2 - Fall Semester
-A Statistics or Methods Elective (may be from within EPPS or otherwise)
-CRIM 7300: Advances in Theory
-CRIM 7301: Seminar in Criminology Research and Analysis

Year 2 – Spring Semester
-Independent Study (Comp Prep)
-Other required electives (if still needed)

IMPORTANT: Students on funding MUST be enrolled in at least 9 graduate hours during the semester to which the funding is applied. These hours may exceed the required coursework hours outlined above. **Most students should expect to take additional electives.**

Section D: Comprehensive Examination

Students are required to sit for the criminology comprehensive exam after completing both Year 1 and Year 2 coursework and before entering the dissertation phase. A student must be registered for at least three (3) semester credit hours of graduate course work (typically independent study or electives) during the semester in which he or she wishes to take the Comprehensive Examination. Students on funding may need to enroll in additional hours as required by their student fellowships and should consult with their major professors for appropriate classes to take during their comprehensive exam semester (such as directed study, CRIM/Non-CRIM electives, etc.). A student should verify these minimum requirements and ensure they are in good standing at the university prior to declaring their intent to sit for the examination in the semester of their choice.

Students accepted to the Criminology Doctoral Program under the fall 2014 handbook, and thereafter, will be required to pass a comprehensive examination consisting of two sections prior to moving to the ABD phase of the degree. The two sections will consist of: a) Criminological Theory and b) Crime & Justice Policy. Research methods and statistics will be blended into each of these components. Students should expect to have a mastery of research methods and statistics beyond the level required for the qualifying exam in order to pass the comprehensive examination. Students will be eligible to sit for the comprehensive examination no sooner than the 5th academic semester upon admission to the doctoral program, having passed the qualifying examination and successfully completed other required coursework.

The exam takes place over one full day. For each of the topical areas, students will be able to choose one question from a set of questions. The program will provide students with a computer (with no internet connection) and students have four hours to answer each question. Students are not to bring any outside materials to the comprehensive exam (no books, notes, USB drives, etc.). On the exam day, two questions will be answered (with a 1-hour break between each).
Doctor of Philosophy in Criminology

A comprehensive exam is a highly necessary component of the doctoral program in Criminology. Essentially, it ensures that students have mastered the requisite knowledge and have acquired the necessary skills to advance to the dissertation stage. In particular, students are required to demonstrate their understanding of the central issues facing the discipline and show that they have shaped their own positions on these issues (from course work, research, and outside readings) and have the ability to articulate and defend these positions. The exam thus tests not only the knowledge base of the student, but also whether students exhibit the capability to advance knowledge in the field through theory development and a focused research agenda. A successful comprehensive exam demonstrates that the theoretical and empirical literature to date has been synthesized and critically assessed and that the student has the skills necessary to make future contributions to the field.

The comprehensive examination will be offered bi-annually, once during the first 2-weeks of the fall semester and again during the first 2-weeks of the spring semester. This approach will allow those students wishing to enter the job market post-comps will be able to do so during the fall following the passing of the examination, regardless of a fall or spring attempt. Specific exam dates will be announced at least one month prior to the examination.

Students wishing to take the comprehensive exam must announce their intent to sit by completing an “Intent to sit for comprehensive exam” form and turning it in to the Ph.D. Advisor at least two months in advance of the semester in which they intend to sit.

The questions are chosen by a committee of tenure-track Criminology faculty members. The exam will be graded, and feedback provided to the students by the committee as to the student’s individual performance on the examination in both areas after the conclusion of the grading period, which may take several weeks. The committee’s composition may change from year to year, with at least one member remaining on for the following year to maintain continuity in the comprehensive examination process. Questions will change from semester to semester, though past questions will be made available for reference. Students should also understand that comprehensive exam questions will cover material not covered in the classroom and should prepare accordingly.

Grading will be pass/fail. Students in the Criminology program who fail the examination on the first attempt must retake the failed portion(s) within one year, but preferably during the following semester. Students failing the second examination will not be allowed to pursue a doctoral degree in that program and will be formally dismissed. Per university policy, under no circumstances will a third examination be allowed. Students who are funded with assistantships may, at the discretion of the program head and Ph.D. Advisor, lose their funding if they fail any area of the first exam. Funding may be reinstated following successful completion of the retake. Students should also understand that subject matter not covered in coursework will likely be required to successfully answer comprehensive exam questions.
Doctor of Philosophy in Criminology

Section E: Curriculum Sequence Ph.D. Coursework

(with 9 hours of classes per semester)

75-hour Ph.D. suggested sequence with 36 M.S./M.A. hours applied

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>End of Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>-CRIM 6301: Res. Design I*</td>
<td>-CRIM 6307: Extent of Crime &amp; Measurement</td>
<td>Qualifying Exam (Methods)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-EPPS 7313: Descriptive &amp; Inferential Stats</td>
<td>-EPPS 7316: Regression and Multivariate Analysis</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-CRIM 7305: Prof Development in Crim.</td>
<td>-CRIM 7315: Evidence-Based Crime Prevention</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>-Statistics or Methods Elective</td>
<td>-Independent Study (Comp Prep)**</td>
<td>Comprehensive Exams (Theory and Policy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-CRIM 7300: Advances in Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-CRIM 7301: Seminar in Crim. Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>On market</td>
<td>-Dissertation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-Dissertation***</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* If student previously took this course or EPPS 6310 at UTD and passed with a B or better, the course will need to be substituted with an additional advanced EPPS graduate statistics or methods course.
** Minimum of three hours
*** Minimum number of hours to reach 75-hour degree requirement

Section F: Doctoral Candidacy and Dissertation/Three Paper Option

Doctoral Candidacy

Students will enter into doctoral candidacy with a designation of A.B.D. (all but dissertation) upon successful completion of (1) all Criminology program Year 1 and Year 2 coursework, (2) passing the qualifying and comprehensive examinations, and (3) assignment of an approved faculty supervising committee through the submission of the Dissertation Committee Form signed by all committee members. In order to graduate, students must complete the dissertation or three paper option and all credit hour minimum requirements.

Doctoral Dissertation/Three Paper Option Requirement

The Criminology program accepts the three paper option as an alternative to the traditional dissertation and students must complete one or the other. A decision should be made before the form is submitted to faculty members for signature although the title is not required at this time. The original form will be forwarded to the Graduate Dean’s office for approval.
The dissertation is an original work initiated and completed independently by the doctoral candidate. This work typically includes an introduction, literature review, outline of hypotheses, discussion of data and methodology, one or more analytical chapters, and a conclusion/discussion chapter of results and implications. A dissertation manuscript for the Doctor of Philosophy degree must demonstrate an independent research competence on the part of the candidate that substantially adds to knowledge in the candidate’s field with respect either to its intellectual substance or professional practice.

Alternatively, the three paper option is composed of a set of articles that together represent a significant and coherent contribution to our knowledge in the discipline of Criminology. These three papers, once completed and ready for oral defense are preceded by a written introduction that places the articles in the context of the relevant academic literature and ties them together. The works are then followed by a chapter that draws out the principal conclusions across the studies and their relevance and contribution to the field. These papers are written in the style of journal article and must be of publishable quality, as determined by the candidate’s committee. At least one of these papers must have been submitted for publication prior to the final oral defense of the body of work as a whole. These works are generally authored solely by the doctoral candidate, but they may have joint authorship with committee members on one (but no more than one) of the papers. Theses or analytical papers used to meet the requirement for the M.S. degree may not be used as one of the three papers to meet this requirement.

While there is no preference between the dissertation and the three paper option offered by the Program, students should give serious consideration to both of these options and determine what might be their best decision with their long-term goals in mind post-graduation. Students who use the three paper option follow the same rigorous sequence of defense as the student who writes a traditional dissertation. All requirements for the dissertation also apply to the three paper option and committee members are still the Dissertation Supervising Committee regardless of the preference in format.

Students must adhere to the UTD policy memorandum, Policy on Procedures for Completing a Graduate Degree (87-III.25-48)—with the added requirement that the committee chair must be a faculty member in the Criminology program.

Academic Standing
In order to qualify for graduation, students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average for all graduate courses (including those taken outside of criminology). Students must also earn a grade of B or better in all required core classes.

Graduate Grading and Grade Point Average
The following grading scale is used in all Graduate coursework at the University:
### Grade Points per Semester Hour

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>GRADE POINTS PER SEMESTER HOUR</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>Not considered passing for required courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>Not considered passing for required courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>Not considered passing for required courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Failure of either a Pass/Fail or Graded Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Incomplete</td>
<td>Grades of F, X, P &amp; W do not produce Grade points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>Grades of F, X, P &amp; W do not produce Grade points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>Withdraw</td>
<td>Grades of F, X, P &amp; W do not produce Grade points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Enrollment/Registration Requirements (see UTDPP1052 sec. 7):

A student **must** be registered for at least three semester credit hours of graduate course work during the semester in which any major degree examination, such as the Qualifying Examination, Comprehensive Examination, or Final Oral Examination (i.e., thesis/dissertation final defense), is taken, or during the semester in which the proposal is submitted for approval.

**Continuous Enrollment for Thesis or Dissertation:** Once a student has enrolled in thesis or dissertation unless a leave of absence has been granted, that student must maintain continuous enrollment (not necessarily for thesis or dissertation) of at least three semester hours during consecutive long semesters until the final approved copy of the manuscript has been deposited in the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies. If the approved copy of the manuscript has been deposited in the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies too late to permit graduation during that semester, but before the Census day of the Full-Term session (as defined in the academic calendar) of the subsequent semester, the student may register in absentia for his/her final semester of graduation.

**Enrollment During the Semester of Graduation:** With the exception of in absentia registration, doctoral students having successfully defended the dissertation, but did not graduate during that semester, must be enrolled in at least 1 credit hour in the semester in which they graduate. Enrollment for 1 semester credit hour in the final semester is only allowed once.

### Important:

This handbook is subject to change in accordance with university and program amendments. Students are responsible for remaining updated and in compliance with policies throughout their attendance in the program and prior to graduation applications being processed. The policies set forth in this handbook default to new university policies that may be amended without notice.
Doctor of Philosophy in Criminology

Ph.D. Requirements Checklist:

NAME: 

Semester Began: Fall / Spring 20___

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Semester Taken</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRIM 6301: Research Design I</td>
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<td>EPPS 7313: Descriptive &amp; Inferential Stats</td>
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<td>CRIM 7305: Prof Development in Crim.</td>
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<td>EPPS 7316: Regression and Multivariate Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRIM 7315: Evidence-Based Crime Prevention</td>
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<tr>
<td>Any EPPS Graduate level Statistics or Methods Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRIM 7300: Advances in Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRIM 7301: Seminar in Crim. Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independent Study (Comp Prep) - 3hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thesis/Analytical Writing Requirement</td>
<td>Yes / No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qualifying Examination</td>
<td>Yes / No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Examination</td>
<td>Yes / No</td>
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Completed at least 75 graduate hours toward Ph.D. (including M.S.)  
If not from the M.S., list additional coursework below:

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Dissertation Hours (9 total) and Final Oral Examination  
Examination  

Yes / No