Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD Criminology and Criminal Justice

The School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Arizona State University offers an on-campus program of coursework and research leading to the PhD in criminology and criminal justice.

This program emphasizes criminal justice theory, research and policy and is designed to produce highly skilled criminology and criminal justice faculty and agency researchers and administrators.

The doctoral program is organized around five components: a comprehensive examination, a core of required courses in research methods and analytical techniques, a core of required courses in theory and research on crime and the criminal justice system, a dissertation, and elective courses in criminology, criminal justice and related fields.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** Watts College of Public Service & Community Solutions
- **Location:** Downtown Phoenix campus

Degree Requirements

84 credit hours, a written comprehensive exam, a prospectus and a dissertation

The doctoral program in criminology and criminal justice includes a minimum of 72 credit hours of coursework and 12 credit hours (and only 12) of dissertation. A maximum of 30 credit hours of coursework from a previously awarded master's degree or JD may, with the approval of the supervisory committee, be applied toward the doctoral plan of study.

Each student is required to complete coursework in two core areas. This includes six credit hours of coursework in theory and research on crime and the criminal justice system and nine credit hours of coursework on research methods and analytical techniques. Elective courses comprise the remainder of the
coursework required for the doctorate. All students must demonstrate proficiency in research design as well as quantitative and qualitative methods.

**Required Core (15 credit hours)**
CRJ 601 Seminar on Criminological Theory (3)
CRJ 602 Seminar on Criminal Justice Policies and Practices (3)
CRJ 603 Advanced Research Design (3)
CRJ 604 Advanced Statistical Analysis (3)
CRJ 605 Topics in Quantitative Methods (3)

**Electives (27 credit hours)**
Students choose a minimum of nine courses in consultation with the supervisory committee (27).

**Other Requirements (30 credit hours)**
credit hours for coursework from master's degree or JD (30)

**Culminating Experience (12 credit hours)**
dissertation (12)

---

**Admission Requirements**

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions.

An applicant should hold a master's degree from an accredited institution; it may be in criminal justice, criminology or another field (e.g., sociology, political science, history, social work, public administration, psychology or philosophy). In exceptional cases, the admission committee will consider applicants who hold only a bachelor’s degree.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00="A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. GRE scores
4. two letters of recommendation
5. current curriculum vitae or resume
6. personal statement
7. sample of the applicant's written work
8. proof of English proficiency.

**Additional Application Information**

An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency, which can be found at [https://admission.asu.edu/international/graduate/english-proficiency](https://admission.asu.edu/international/graduate/english-proficiency).

Official transcripts must be submitted from every university or institution in which a degree was awarded.

GRE scores must be from within the last five years.

The letters of recommendation must be from faculty members or others qualified to evaluate the applicant's academic potential for doctoral study.

The personal statement should not exceed five pages, and it should describe the applicant's prior education, relevant professional experience and career goals. The statement must explain how the doctorate in criminology and criminal justice will help the applicant attain his or her career goals. The statement should explicitly explain how the student's plans are consistent with the role and mission of the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at ASU.

The applicant's sample of written work should be submitted electronically. The writing sample may be an article (published or unpublished), a research paper, or any other extended sample of expository skill, and the sample must be no longer than 35 pages in length. Longer writing samples should not be submitted without first consulting the graduate director. Documents should not be password protected. Acceptable file types are .rtf, .pdf, and .doc.

Students should see the unit website for application deadlines.

**Application Deadlines**

Fall

**Contact Information**

School of Criminology and Criminal Justice | UCENT 600
gradscj@asu.edu | 602-496-2356