A graduate certificate for practitioners seeking advanced expertise as presentence investigators, mitigation specialists, sentencing advocates or victim advocates.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: Certificate Criminal Sentencing and Sentencing Advocacy (Certificate)

Social workers, criminal justice professionals and recent graduates of psychology and other social and behavioral sciences perform a number of roles in the disposition and sentencing of public offenders. They also provide support for victims of crime during the criminal justice process.

The certificate program in criminal sentencing and sentencing advocacy assumes that in order for any professional to function effectively they must have a fundamental knowledge of the respective roles sentencing professionals play during various phases of the criminal justice process.

In keeping with this viewpoint, all students are required to take courses for practice as both a presentence investigator and a sentencing advocate. Those courses are seminars in courts and sentencing, in presentence investigations, and in alternatives to penal sanctions. After taking these required courses, they select an area of specialization that will further their expertise as either a probation professional, mitigation specialist or victim advocate. They take these courses from a range of electives available in the schools of Criminology and Criminal Justice and Social Work.

This interprofessional certificate program also provides participants with content on the relationship between mental disorder and crime and the way in which differential sentencing frameworks affect the sentencing of offenders suffering from mental disorders. This course is highly recommended for social workers desiring to
practice as mitigation specialists and in criminal justice professions responsible for making recommendations about the appropriateness of sentencing alternatives.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** Watts College of Public Service & Community Solutions
- **Location:** online

Degree Requirements

15 credit hours

**Required Core (9 credit hours)**
- CRJ 513 Seminar in Courts and Sentencing (3)
- SWG 528 Presentence Investigations (3)
- SWG 529 Alternatives Penal Sanctions (3)

**Electives (6 credit hours)**

Additional Curriculum Information
For electives, students should see the academic unit for the approved course list.

Admission Requirements

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

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in social work, criminology, criminal justice or a related field, or if they are individuals who are currently enrolled in the master of criminal justice program.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of 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. 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.

There are no required admission examinations for this program.

Attend Online
ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may view the program description and request more information here.

Global Opportunities
PLuS Alliance
Global Experience
Global Degree

Career Opportunities

Contact Information
School of Social Work | UCENT 800
social.work@asu.edu | 602-496-0800