

## OVERVIEW OF THE Ph.D. PROGRAM

The School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (SCCJ) at Arizona State University offers a program of coursework and research leading to the Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice. This program emphasizes criminal justice theory, research, and policy. The program is designed to produce highly skilled criminology and criminal justice faculty, agency researchers, and administrators. The Ph.D. program in criminology and criminal justice is organized around five components:

- (1) Required courses in theory and research on crime and the criminal justice system;
- (2) Required courses on research methods and analytical techniques;
- (3) Elective courses in criminology, criminal justice, and related fields;
- (4) Comprehensive examination;
- (5) Dissertation.

A *minimum* of 84 credit hours are required to complete the degree. This includes a minimum of 72 hours of coursework and 12 hours of dissertation. A maximum of 30 hours of course work from a previously awarded master's degree or juris doctor degree may be applied toward the doctoral program of study.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- An earned Master's degree or a juris doctor degree from an accredited institution.
- Scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).
- Two letters of reference from faculty or others qualified to evaluate the student's potential.
- Resume.
- Personal statement, not exceeding five pages, that describes the applicant's prior education, relevant professional experience, career goals, and how the Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice will help the applicant attain his/her career goals.

The deadline for submission of all application materials for the PhD program is January 15th.

## COURSEWORK

### Core Required Classes

- (1) CRJ 601 Seminar on Criminological Theory
- (2) CRJ 602 Seminar on Criminal Justice Policies and Practices
- (3) CRJ 603 Advanced Research Design
- (4) CRJ 604 Advanced Statistical Analysis
- (5) CRJ 605 Special Problems in Quantitative Methods.

Elective courses may include SCCJ graduate courses (policing, courts, corrections, victimization, violence, race and gender, juvenile justice, etc.) and graduate courses in related disciplines (e.g., sociology, political science, public administration, psychology).

## GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP

Many students admitted to the program are awarded a graduate assistantship (research or teaching). This includes a stipend of \$23,000 - \$25,000 per year, plus tuition remission and health benefits.

Graduate Teaching and Research Assistants (TAs and RAs, respectively) must be enrolled for at least 6 credit hours during each fall and spring semester of the appointment. The RA/TA is assigned to an SCCJ faculty member for 20 hours of work per week.

Assistantship funding generally is provided for three years, renewable annually based on student performance.

## PROGRAM COMPONENTS AND TIMELINE

### Years 1-3

- Coursework, required and elective

### Year 3

- Comprehensive Exam – 72-hour “take-home” exam with 2 questions (theory, systems); 15 page limit
- Identify your Dissertation Committee

### Years 3-5

- Dissertation prospectus
  - Developed with the Dissertation Committee
  - Includes (1) a statement of the problem; (2) a comprehensive literature review; and (3) a detailed discussion of the research design/methodology.
  - Oral Defense with the Dissertation Committee
- Dissertation
  - Must reflect original scholarship and contribute to the body of knowledge on criminal justice.
  - The Oral Dissertation Defense is open to all members of the university community. The defense engages the student and Supervisory Committee in a critical, analytical discussion of the research, the findings of the study, and implications.

For more information on the Ph.D. Program:

- <https://ccj.asu.edu/degree-programs/Graduate-1/phd>
- Dr. Michael White, Director of the PhD Program
  - 602-496-2351; [mdwhite1@asu.edu](mailto:mdwhite1@asu.edu)
- Shannon Stewart, Graduate Student Support Specialist
  - 602-496-2365; [Shannon.Stewart@asu.edu](mailto:Shannon.Stewart@asu.edu)