

CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE, PHD

School of Criminology & Criminal Justice, College of Public Affairs & Community Service

Vision Statement

The vision of the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice is to be a program that is recognized nationally for its quality *and* impact on research and instruction. In terms of doctoral education, the aim is to foster a learning environment in which graduate students may gain the necessary knowledge, skills, and competencies to prepare them for careers in academia or in the public or private sectors. The curriculum emphasizes written and verbal communication skills, methodological competency, a strong statistical foundation, and hands-on research experience. Doctoral students will actively engage in research under the supervision of faculty, the Director of the School's Nebraska Center for Justice Research, and/or the Director of the Juvenile Justice Institute.

Program Contact Information

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Program Website (<https://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-public-affairs-and-community-service/criminology-and-criminal-justice/graduate-programs/doctor-of-philosophy.php>)

Admissions

Application Deadlines (Fall 2021)

- Fall: January 20

Program-Specific Requirements

- An earned Master of Arts or Master of Science degree in criminology or criminal justice from an accredited institution is required for unconditional admission into the program.
- Applicants with a master's degree in an allied field (sociology, political science, public administration, etc.) and who lack substantial coursework in criminology & criminal justice may be granted provisional admission. They will be granted unconditional admission upon successful completion of 18 hours of criminology & criminal justice coursework from the core curriculum.
- Applicants who have completed a baccalaureate degree must first complete the requirements for the Master of Arts degree prior to admission into the PhD program.
- Applicants are required to have a command of oral and written English. Those who do not hold a baccalaureate or other advanced degree from the United States, **OR** a baccalaureate or other advanced degree from a predetermined country on the waiver list, must meet the minimum language proficiency score requirement in order to be considered for admission.
 - Minimum required scores are as follows:
 - IELTS: minimum score of 7.5 is required; 8.0 is preferred
 - Internet-based TOEFL: minimum score of 21 in each of the four areas, and a minimum overall score of 95 (the paper TOEFL will NOT be accepted).
 - PTE: 76 or higher
 - **NOTE:** all English-as-second-language students will be required to take a proficiency assessment examination upon admission.

That assessment will be used to determine if further assistance is required.

- Decisions regarding admission to the program are made by the Graduate Recruitment and Admissions Committee in the School of Criminology & Criminal Justice. The Committee will evaluate applicant materials and make recommendations for student admissions during the spring semester of each year, and newly admitted students will begin taking courses in the fall semester of each year. Admissions decisions are competitive. If more students than the School can reasonably handle apply for admission in any given year, the Committee will admit those most qualified.
- Entrance Exam: GRE is required
 - A combined score of at least 300 on the verbal and quantitative portions of the revised Graduate Record Examination (GRE); students demonstrating exceptional academic potential may be considered with a GRE score of less than 300.
- Three (3) Letters of Recommendation
 - Individuals who are qualified to comment on the applicant's ability to pursue doctoral-level coursework. At least two of the three letters must be from academics who have known the applicant as a student and/or as an individual who worked under their direct supervision.
- Statement of Purpose
 - A statement of purpose, not to exceed five (5) typewritten, double-spaced pages, describing the applicant's prior education, relevant professional experience, career goals, and the specific relationship of the PhD degree to the achievement of these goals, must be submitted. Within their statements, applicants should note their research interests and the faculty with whom they may wish to work.
- Writing Sample
 - This may be a chapter from a master's thesis, a published article, or a manuscript written in a scholarly style.
- Resume

Degree Requirements

| Code | Title | Credits |
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| Required Courses | | 21 |
| CRCJ 9020 | SEMINAR ON THEORIES OF CRIME | |
| CRCJ/PA 9080 | ADVANCED STATISTICAL APPLICATIONS (Statistics 2) | |
| CRCJ 9090 | SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN RESEARCH METHODS (either quantitative or qualitative) ¹ | |
| CRCJ 9100 | SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN STATISTICAL ANALYSIS (Statistics 3) | |
| CRCJ 9050 | ACADEMIC WRITING | |
| CRCJ 9700 | TEACHING CRIMINAL JUSTICE AT THE COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY LEVEL | |
| CRCJ 9800 | ADVANCED RESEARCH DESIGN | |
| Select one of the following required three-hour diversity courses: | | 3 |
| CRCJ 9030 | SEMINAR ON RACE, ETHNICITY, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE | |
| CRCJ 8130 | SEMINAR IN WOMEN AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE | |
| Or a master's-level or higher course from another department as approved by the Supervisory Committee Chair and the Doctoral Program Chair | | |
| Electives | | 18 |
| All doctoral students will select six (6) courses from the electives list for a total of 18 hours. | | |
| CRCJ 8040 | SEMINAR IN POLICE AND SOCIETY | |

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| CRCJ 8050 | SEMINAR IN CORRECTIONS | |
| CRCJ 8060 | SEMINAR IN THE CRIMINAL COURT SYSTEM | |
| CRCJ 8070 | SEMINAR IN CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE | |
| CRCJ 8080 | SEMINAR IN JUVENILE JUSTICE | |
| CRCJ 8090 | SEMINAR IN THEORETICAL CRIMINOLOGY | |
| CRCJ 8100 | CRIMINAL JUSTICE ORGANIZATION, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT | |
| CRCJ 8130 | SEMINAR IN WOMEN AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE | |
| CRCJ 8190 | INDEPENDENT STUDY | |
| CRCJ 8210 | PROGRAM EVALUATION AND POLICY ANALYSIS | |
| CRCJ 8230 | TERRORISM | |
| CRCJ 8800 | SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE | |
| CRCJ 9010 | SEMINAR ON LAW & SOCIAL CONTROL | |
| CRCJ 9030 | SEMINAR ON RACE, ETHNICITY, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE | |
| CRCJ 9040 | COMPARATIVE CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS | |
| CRCJ 9090 | SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN RESEARCH METHODS | |
| CRCJ 9130 | ADVANCED RESEARCH ON POLICING | |
| CRCJ 9150 | SPECIAL TOPICS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESEARCH | |
| CRCJ 9160 | SEMINAR IN COMMUNITY-BASED CORRECTIONS | |
| CRCJ 9170 | SEMINAR ON INSTITUTIONAL CORRECTIONS | |
| CRCJ 9180 | SEMINAR ON THE CRIMINAL COURT SYSTEM | |
| CRCJ 9200 | SEMINAR ON VIOLENT CRIME AND CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR | |
| CRCJ 9220 | ADVANCED CRIMINOLOGICAL THEORY AND THEORY CONSTRUCTION | |
| CRCJ 9980 | DIRECTED READINGS IN CRIMINOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE (3 hours) | |
| CRCJ 9990 | DISSERTATION (see details below) | 20 |
| Total Credits | | 62 |

¹ This course may be substituted with a course from another department. Permission for course substitution must be granted by a student's Supervisory Committee and DPC.

Both 8000- and 9000-level elective courses are available to doctoral students.

There is a series of 9000-level courses that are required for doctoral students.

A maximum of six (6) hours of dual-level courses (4—/8—6 course number) can be included in the program of study.

A maximum of three (3) hours of directed readings (CRCJ 9980) may be included in the program of study; these three (3) hours must be used in preparation for the comprehensive examination. All coursework, excluding coursework in the form of directed readings related to the comprehensive examination, must be completed within two and half (2.5) years from the time a student's program of study is approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies. Three (3) hours for directed readings are to be used for the comprehensive examination in the fall semester of the student's third year

in the program. All students will be required to complete all courses listed as required courses. Students also must take elective courses in criminal justice or related fields.

Students are expected to complete 36 hours of coursework within two years. Except in extraordinary circumstances. Some of these hours may be taken during summer semesters.

Comprehensive Examination and Admission to Candidacy

After completion of 36 hours of coursework, doctoral students will be required to pass a comprehensive examination. The examination has two parts—criminological theory and criminal justice systems. Students are expected to work on their comprehensive examinations during the fall and spring semesters of their third year in the program. During the third year, students may take up to three hours of CRCJ 9980 per semester. Students may not take more than six hours of CRCJ 9980 and only three hours of CRCJ 9980 will count towards the required 18 hours of electives. It is expected that a doctoral student will complete 42 hours of coursework by the end of the fall semester of their third year.

Dissertation

Students may begin work on the dissertation including registering for dissertation credits only after successful completion of the both comprehensive examinations. The dissertation must reflect original scholarship and contribute to the body of knowledge on Criminology & Criminal Justice. The dissertation topic must be approved by the student's Dissertation Committee, which consists of a chair and three other members. One Committee member must be a faculty member from outside the School of Criminology & Criminal Justice. The dissertation topic, prospectus, and the dissertation all require the approval of the Dissertation Committee. A doctoral student will be required to take at least one hour of CRCJ 9990 each fall and spring semester while working toward the completion of the dissertation. A minimum of 20 credit hours of CRCJ 9990 is required for all doctoral students.

Total Credit Hours

A minimum of **92 graduate hours** beyond the baccalaureate degree. This includes up to 30 hours earned in a master's degree. Satisfactory completion of a teaching practicum is also required.