PHD IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY STUDIES (PHD)

Description

The Ph.D. in Criminal Justice Policy Studies degree program is designed to educate students to become competent and productive scholars in creating, studying, and evaluating criminal justice policies. The degree program prepares students for competitive jobs in the industry including careers as college/university professors, researchers for public and private organizations, and policy analysts.

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 45

General Education Requirements

All Ph.D. students must complete a minimum of 45 credits beyond a master's degree program. Students entering without a master's degree must also complete the requirements of the master's degree in addition to the requirements listed below as part of the doctoral degree. Specifically, the 45 credits of the doctoral degree include: CRJU 7010 Proseminar in CJ Policy Studies; CRJU 7020 Advanced Criminal Justice Statistics; CRJU 7030 Advanced Criminological Theory & Policy; and CRJU 7040 Advanced Criminal Justice Policy Studies; 9 hours of substantive core, including a minimum of 3 hours in each of the three substantive core areas: criminal justice system & issues; methods, data, & analysis; and policy studies; an additional 6 hours of approved elective courses; and 18 hours of dissertation credits.

Course Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
First-year Core Courses (Required for All Students)		
Select 9 hours of the following:		9
CRJU 7010	Proseminar in CJ Policy Studies	
CRJU 7020	Advanced Criminal Justice Statistics	
CRJU 7030	Advanced Criminological Theory & Policy	
CRJU 7040	Advanced Criminal Justice Policy Studies	
Core Area Electives		
Select a minimum of one course in each core area for a minimum of 9 hours of substantive core coursework:		9-15
Core Area 1: Criminal Justice System & Issues:		
CRJU 6210	Seminar in Law Enforcement	
CRJU 6220	Seminar in Courts & Sentencing	
CRJU 6230	Seminar in Corrections	
CRJU 6300	Seminar in Homeland Security	
CRJU 6410	Transnational Crime	
CRJU 6420	Cybercrime and Cyber Security	
CRJU 6430	Legal Issues in Criminal Justice [1]	
CRJU 6999A	Special Topics in Criminal Justice	
Core Area 2: Methods, Data, & Analysis:		
CRJU 6590	Data Management & Data Science	
CRJU 6610	CJ Policy and Program Evaluation	
CRJU 6997A	Thesis	
CRJU 6640	GIS and Crime Mapping Analysis	
CRJU 6670	Qualitative Research Design & Analysis	
CRJU 6680	Analytic Writing	
CRJU 6690	Big Data Analytics	
Core Area 3: Policy Studies:		
CRJU 6200	Criminal Justice in American Society	
CRJU 6520	Comparative CJ Systems & Policy	
CRJU 6810	Law & Public Policy	
CRJU 6830	Innovation & Reform in Policing	
CRJU 6840	Police & Community Partnerships [1]	
CRJU 6860	Ethics & Criminal Justice Policy	
Other Electives		
CRJU 7490	Independent Study [2]	0-6
Dissertation		
CRJU 7998A	Dissertation	1-9

1. May be taken 2 times with a different topic.
2. Can be taken up to twice. Requires Instructor and Graduate Program Coordinator approval.

Other Academic Requirements

The student also must complete:

1. A first-year qualifying written (take-home) exam that is taken at the end of the first year of doctoral coursework, and is based on material from the first-year required core classes (i.e., CRJU 7020 Advanced Criminal Justice Statistics, CRJU 7030 Advanced Criminological Theory & Policy, and CRJU 7040 Advanced Criminal Justice Policy Studies). Successfully passing the first-year qualifying exam is required to continue on in the doctoral program.
2. A "publishable paper" which represents a single-authored, independent research project that resembles a manuscript suitable for submission to a peer-reviewed journal. This is equivalent to the comprehensive exam, and must be passed successfully in order to continue on into the dissertation phase of the program.
3. A written and oral defense of a dissertation prospectus.
4. A written and oral defense of a dissertation.

Admission Requirements

1. Evidence of an awarded Baccalaureate Degree from an accredited college or university.
2. Quality of the applicant's academic record, as evidenced by cumulative grade point average. At least a 3.0 or equivalent grade point average on the last 60 hours of undergraduate coursework or at least a 3.0 or equivalent grade point average on master's coursework is required.
3. Submission of Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score is optional. There are no minimum GRE scores required. Applicants interested in having their GRE scores considered for admission must have their GRE scores submitted directly to The University of Mississippi. The GRE score must have been taken within five (5) years of application for admission to the Ph.D. in Criminal Justice Policy Studies program. The Ph.D. in Criminal Justice Policy Studies program does not accept Law School Admission Test (LSAT) or Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) scores as substitutes for a GRE score.

4. Three (3) letters of recommendation, preferably from professors familiar with your academic qualifications and/or skills who are able to comment on your potential to be successful in a doctoral program.
5. Statement of Interest. A 400-500 word statement of interest that describes your interest in pursuing the Ph.D. in Criminal Justice Policy Studies, your future career goals, and why you believe you will be successful in the doctoral program.
6. Writing Sample. Submit a sample of your recent written work that best showcases your skills as a writer and critical thinker. Writing samples should be in English and be no less than 10 double-spaced pages and no more than 35 pages double-spaced pages in length. There are no specific formatting requirements. This could be a term paper from a previous course, a thesis, a lead author academic publication (i.e., peer-reviewed journal article, encyclopedia/book chapter), professional report, policy brief, or any other document that demonstrates your writing and analytic skills.
7. Curriculum vitae or resume.
8. International students must demonstrate compliance with the University of Mississippi's English Language Proficiency Score Requirements and Exemptions policy.