

Criminology and Criminal Justice

Lisa Stolzenberg, Professor and Chair

Carleen Vincent Robinson, Teaching Professor and Associate Chairperson

Candice A. Blanford, Assistant Teaching Professor

Ana Carazo, Co-Director, Center for the Administration of Justice

Rosa Chang, Associate Teaching Professor and Graduate Program Director

Ellen G. Cohn, Associate Professor

G. Alexander Crowther, Visiting Research Professor

Erik Cruz, Post-Doctoral Research Associate

Stewart J. D'Alessio, Professor

Kristin Elink-Schuurman-Laura, Assistant Teaching Professor

Jamie L. Flexon, Professor

Amy Hyman Gregory, Assistant Teaching Professor and Undergraduate Program Director

Tim Goddard, Associate Professor

Rob Guerette, Professor

Suman Kakar Sirpal, Associate Professor

Besiki Luka Kutateladze, Associate Professor

Lin Liu, Assistant Professor

Ryan C. Meldrum, Professor and Director of Research and Communications

Robert Peacock, Assistant Professor

Melba Pearson, Senior Fellow

Stephen Pires, Associate Professor

Rebecca Richardson Dunlea, Assistant Professor

Juan M. Saiz, Teaching Professor

Luis P. Salas, Professor and Associate Vice President for Research

Theodore Shields, Associate Teaching Professor and Technology Liaison

Kristen Zgoba, Assistant Professor

Master of Science in Criminal Justice

Admissions Requirements

1. Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.
2. GPA of 3.2 or higher in upper division coursework.
3. Grade of "B" or better in an undergraduate research methods course.
4. Statement of purpose describing the reasons for pursuing an advanced degree, research interests, and career plans.
5. Example of your written work judged by the admission committee to be of sufficient quality.
6. Two letters of recommendation from professors or employers familiar with your academic and professional qualifications.

Degree Credit Requirements

The Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice requires 36 credit hours (12 courses). All students entering the program are required to complete five courses (15 credits) of core requirements, four electives (12 credits) in criminal justice, and three courses (9 credits) in general electives.

Core Requirements

All candidates must take five core courses (15 credits)

CCJ 6025 Criminological Theory

CCJ 6676	Transnational Crime and National Security	3
CCJ 6705	Research Methods in Criminal Justice	3
CCJ 6706	Data Analysis in Criminal Justice	3
CCJ 6485	Criminal Justice Policy Analysis	3

Criminal Justice Electives

Four courses (12 credits). All elective credits must be earned at the graduate level in criminal justice (i.e., course numbers of 5000 and higher with the prefixes CCJ, CJC, CJE, CJJ, CJL, DSC).

College teaching preparation: Students interested in college teaching should complete the Graduate Teaching Certificate Program offered by the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and CCJ 6926 Teaching Methods and Strategies.

Doctoral studies preparation: Advanced students intending to enroll in a doctoral degree program should complete CCJ 6915 Supervised Research.

General Electives

Students must select three additional elective courses (9 credits). These courses may be taken outside of criminal justice, if no credits have been transferred in from another degree program or included in a joint degree program. All courses taken from outside fields must be relevant to criminal justice and approved by the graduate director. All elective credits must be earned at the graduate level (i.e., course numbers of 5000 and higher).

Graduation Requirements

To receive the Master's degree in Criminal Justice, a student must satisfy all University regulations governing graduate study. All students must complete the five core courses, four electives in criminal justice, and three courses in general electives. A minimum graduate GPA of 3.0 is required.

Accelerated MS in Criminal Justice Programs Pathways

Combined BS/MS in Criminal Justice Degree Pathway: This pathway accelerates completion of the MS in Criminal Justice for qualified students enrolled in the BS in Criminal Justice at FIU.

Criminal Justice 4+1 Degree Pathway: This pathway accelerates completion of the MS in Criminal Justice for qualified students enrolled in an approved bachelor's degree program at FIU (other than the BS in Criminal Justice).

Admission Requirements: Students must have completed 75 credits, have a minimum of a 3.2 cumulative GPA, and meet the admissions criteria for the MS in Criminal Justice. Only 5000-level or higher courses, and no more than 12 credits may be applied toward both degrees.

Completion Requirements: Students must complete their bachelor's degree at FIU, including up to 12 credits of graduate criminal justice courses.

Juris Doctor/Master of Science in Criminal Justice Joint Degree Pathway

The faculties of the College of Law and the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Florida International University have approved a joint degree pathway

culminating in both a Juris Doctor degree (JD), awarded by the College of Law, and a Master of Science in Criminal Justice degree (MSCJ), awarded by the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Under the joint degree program, a student can obtain the degrees in significantly less time than it would take to obtain both degrees if pursued consecutively. Essential criteria relating to the joint degree pathway are as follows:

1. Candidates for the pathway must meet the entrance requirements for and be accepted by both programs. Both programs must be informed by the student at the time of application to the second program that the student intends to pursue the joint degree.
2. The joint degree pathway is not open to students who have already earned a JD or a MSCJ.
3. For law students, enrollment in the MSCJ program is required no later than the completion of 63 credit hours in the JD program. For MSCJ students, enrollment in the JD program is required no later than the completion of 24 credit hours in the MSCJ program.
4. A student must satisfy the curriculum requirements for each degree before either degree is awarded. The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice will allow 12 credit hours of College of Law criminal law and jurisprudence courses to be credited toward both the MSCJ and JD degrees. These 12 credit hours of law classes will be in lieu of four elective courses. Reciprocally, law students may receive 9 hours of credit toward the satisfaction of the JD degree for courses taken in the MSCJ curriculum upon completion of the MSCJ degree with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher. Subject to prior approval, law school students are normally allowed 6 credit hours from graduate level courses offered by other units of the University as counting toward the JD degree.
5. A full-time law student enrolled in the joint degree pathway may spend the first year in either the College of Law or the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. A part-time law student enrolled in the joint degree pathway may begin the student's studies in either program, but must take the first three semesters of law study consecutively. Students admitted to one program may enter the second program thereafter without once again qualifying for admission so long as they have notified the second program before the end of the first week of the first semester in the second program and are in good academic standing when studies commence in the second program.
6. A student enrolled in the joint degree pathway will not receive either degree until the student has satisfied all of the requirements for both degrees, or until the student has satisfied the requirements of one of the degrees as if the student had not been a joint degree pathway candidate.

Master of Science in Criminal Justice/Master of Public Administration Joint Degree Pathway

The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice and the Department of Public Policy and Administration have a joint degree pathway culminating in both a Master of

Science in Criminal Justice (MSCJ) and a Master of Public Administration (MPA). The joint degree pathway prepares graduate students for overlapping careers in criminal justice and public management. It is intended to prepare students for positions in public, private, and nonprofit organizations that require both criminal justice and management knowledge. Under the joint degree pathway, a student can obtain both degrees in significantly less time than it would take to obtain both degrees if pursued consecutively. Important criteria relating to the joint degree pathway are as follows:

1. Candidates in the joint degree pathway must meet the entrance requirements established by each individual program. Candidates must indicate in the application their intention to pursue the joint degree option. Students deciding to pursue the joint degree option after having been admitted to one program will indicate this intention only on their second application.
2. Applicants for a joint degree pathway will not be accepted from candidates who have already completed either degree. MSCJ or MPA students must apply and be admitted by no later than the second to last semester in which they are expected to complete their original degree requirements.
3. Joint degree pathway candidates will not receive either degree until all requirements for both programs have been satisfied. Students deciding against completing a second degree must satisfy all first-degree program requirements as if the student had never been a joint degree pathway candidate.
4. The joint degree pathway requires a total of 60 credit hours. Candidates must complete 14 core courses included in the MSCJ and MPA programs (42 credits) and 6 electives (18 credits). A minimum of 2 electives must be taken within the CCJ and 2 electives in PA.

Doctor of Philosophy in International Crime and Justice

The PhD program in International Crime and Justice focuses on international areas of study within the criminology and criminal justice field.

Admission Standards

To be considered for admission to the doctoral program, applicants must fulfill these minimum requirements:

1. A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.
2. A GPA of 3.2 or higher in upper division coursework or a 3.2 or higher for all master's degree coursework.
3. Graduate Record Exam (GRE) All sections of the exam must be taken within the last five years.
4. Two letters of recommendation from professors or employers familiar with your academic and professional qualifications.
5. A 300- to 500-word statement that describes the student's interests in pursuing an advanced degree in international crime and justice, including any specific research interests, as well as your ultimate career goals.
6. Completed research paper or thesis that demonstrates writing skills.
7. International graduate student applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit a score for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or for the International English Language

Testing System (IELTS). Minimum required scores is 550 on the paper-based TOEFL, 80 on the internet-based TOEFL (iBT) or 6.5 overall on the IELTS.

CCJ 7980

Ph.D. Dissertation

15

Graduation Requirements

The Ph.D. in International Crime and Justice requires a minimum of 75 credits hours of graduate course work beyond the bachelor's degree, including a comprehensive exam and dissertation based on the student's original research. A maximum of 36 credits are transferrable from a completed master's degree program with the approval of the graduate director. A minimum of 30 credit hours must be earned in academic courses that are part of the doctoral program (excludes, comprehensive exam and dissertation credits). Doctoral programs normally include courses at the 6000 level and above. Courses at the 5000 level may be included in a doctoral degree program in appropriate cases. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher is required for graduation. All program requirements, including the dissertation, must be approved by the University Graduate School.

Award of M.S. en route to Ph. D.: Students directly admitted into the Ph.D. program may apply to be awarded the M.S. degree in Criminal Justice. To be eligible students must have completed all degree requirements of the M.S. in Criminal Justice.

Required Courses (30)

CCJ 6025	Criminological Theory	3
CCJ 6705	Research Methods in Criminal Justice	3
CCJ 6706	Data Analysis in Criminal Justice	3
CCJ 6741	Advanced Data Analysis in Criminal Justice	3
CCJ 6079	Geospatial Crime Analysis	3
CCJ 6485	Criminal Justice Policy Analysis	3
CCJ 6040	Comparative Crime and Criminal Justice Systems	3
CCJ 6675	Applied Research on Human Rights and Rule of Law	3
CCJ 6676	Transnational Crime and National Security	3
CCJ 6926	Teaching Methods and Strategies.	3

Research Tools Requirement (9): Classes that may satisfy the research tools requirement include quantitative analysis, legal research, grant writing, qualitative research methods, program evaluation and performance measures, survey research and design, and secondary analysis. This listing is not intended to be exhaustive. Approval of the research tools by the graduate director is required.

International Crime and Justice Electives (9 credits)

Students must complete 9 credits from the following list:

CCJ 6047	International Criminal Justice	3
CCJ 6620	Immigration and Crime	3
CCJ 6696	Human Trafficking	3
CJE 6025	Comparative Policing	3
DSC 6020	Terrorism and Homeland Security	3

Other course approved by the graduate director.

General Electives (9 credits)

Any courses taken outside of criminology and criminal justice must be approved by the Graduate Director.

Comprehensive Exam and Dissertation (18)

CCJ 7960	Comprehensive Exam	3
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Course Descriptions

Definition of Prefixes

CCJ-Criminology and Criminal Justice; CJC-Corrections; CJE-Law Enforcement; CJJ-Juveniles; CJL-Law and Process; DSC-Domestic Security

CCJ 5669 Minorities in Justice Administration (3). This course focuses on current research and theories of racial, ethnic, and gender discrimination within America's criminal justice system.

CCJ 6025 Criminological Theory (3). The study of theoretical and research issues related to the nature and causes of crime and the administration of justice.

CCJ 6040 Comparative Crime and Criminal Justice Systems (3). This course provides a cross-national survey of crime and criminal justice. Emphasis will be on crime rates, forms of criminality, police, courts, and corrections.

CCJ 6047 International Criminal Justice (3). A study of international crimes, international criminal tribunals, and the prosecution and punishment of persons alleged to have committed international crimes.

CCJ 6056 History of the American Criminal Justice System (3). Focuses on the history and evolution of the American criminal justice system.

CCJ 6079 Geospatial Crime Analysis (3). Exploration and examination of patterns of crime through a geographical lens using the Geographic Information System (GIS) software.

CCJ 6362 Death Penalty (3). This course examines legal, empirical, and policy issues related to the death penalty in the United States.

CCJ 6485 Criminal Justice Policy Analysis (3). An overview of the formation, implementation, quantitative and qualitative evaluation, and ethical aspects of policy making in the criminal justice system. Prerequisite: 15 criminal justice graduate credit hours.

CCJ 6486 The Global Search for Justice and Legitimate Policing (3). Analyzes different paths that democratic societies across the globe have pursued to promote greater justice in police-citizen interactions in order to develop more legitimate police agencies.

CCJ 6489 Ethics in Criminal Justice (3). This course is designed to introduce students to ethical decision-making in the criminal justice system.

CCJ 6620 Immigration and Crime (3). This course explores the relationship between immigration and crime and the nature and extent of crime in immigrant communities.

CCJ 6635 Biosocial Criminology (3). Overview of current thinking, research, and debate centered on the overlapping role that genes, biology, the brain, and environmental factors play in the commission of violent and antisocial behavior.

CCJ 6665 Victimology and the Criminal Justice System (3). An examination of the relationship between victims and offenders and the manner in which the criminal justice system responds to victims of crime.

CCJ 6675 Applied Research on Human Rights and Rule of Law (3). Students will develop a greater understanding of pressing human rights problems and how to define and study them, design programs to address them, monitor program implementation, and measure impact.

CCJ 6676 Transnational Crime and National Security (3). Examination of the nature of transnational crime and the manner in which it relates to national security.

CCJ 6696 Human Trafficking (3). An investigation of the origins and current trends in the trafficking of humans for profit.

CCJ 6705 Research Methods in Criminal Justice (3). An intensive introduction to the methods used in criminal justice research.

CCJ 6706 Data Analysis in Criminal Justice (3). An applied introduction to multivariate statistical analysis in criminal justice research.

CCJ 6741 Advanced Data Analysis in Criminal Justice (3). An applied introduction to longitudinal analysis in criminal justice research. Prerequisite: CCJ 6706.

CCJ 6915 Supervised Research (1-3). Graduate students engage in criminal justice research under the direction of a faculty member. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisites: CCJ 6705, CCJ 6706.

CCJ 6926 Teaching Methods and Strategies. (3). Introduces students to effective pedagogical, teaching, and learning strategies used across the higher education continuum. Prerequisite: 18 graduate credit hours in criminal justice.

CCJ 6935 Special Topics (3). An intensive analysis of a particular topic in criminal justice. May be repeated for different topics.

CCJ 6946 Internship Program (0-6). Provides graduate student with the opportunity to gain work experience in an organization. Prerequisite: Student must have a minimum of 3.0 GPA.

CCJ 7960 Comprehensive Exam (3-9). Completion of a research study suitable for submission to an academic journal, including an oral presentation and defense (pass/fail grading). Corequisite: Completion of all required coursework.

CCJ 7980 Ph.D. Dissertation (1-12). Supervised research on an original research project submitted in partial fulfillment of doctoral degree requirements, including an oral presentation and defense (pass/fail grading). Prerequisites: CCJ 7960

CJE 5024 Violent Crime & Criminal Behavior (3). This course deals with violent criminal behavior and the criminal justice system's reaction to violence.

CJE 6025 Comparative Policing (3). An examination of key police systems across the globe with a focus on rule-of-law policing. Emphasis will be on how police agencies differ in their organization, administration, and procedures.

CJE 6446 Seminar on Crime Prevention (3). An in depth study of current approaches and practices in crime prevention, historical trends, and the future of crime prevention policy and practice.

CJE 6628 Cold Case Investigation (3). Covers best practice cold case investigation techniques and discusses resources available to investigators.

CJE 6695 Cybercrime (3). Examines criminality in online environments, including hacking, online identity theft, fraud, terror, trade in illicit substances/items, sexual crimes, and responses to cyber criminality.

CJE 6708 Efficacy of Forensics in Investigations (3). Discussion of forensic evidence efficacy, issues facing evidence collection and examination, use of forensic evidence in the investigative process, and courtroom challenges.

CJE 6716 Law Enforcement Practicum (3-6). Combines classroom instruction with specialized police training and workplace experience to produce successful law enforcement professionals and future leaders in the field.

CJJ 6040 Juvenile Justice Administration and Policy Analysis (3). This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the juvenile justice system administration and the various cases and legislative initiatives that have affected juvenile justice.

CJL 6418 Law and Social Control (3). This course examines law as an instrument of social control. It explores the effectiveness of law in controlling criminal behavior and its impact on the criminal justice system.

CJL 6421 Legal Issues in Criminal Justice Administration (3). This course examines diverse and frequently debated legal topics from both legal and sociological perspectives.

CJL 6522 Courts and Sentencing (3). Examines the role of criminal courts in the administration of justice, with a special focus on contemporary research and theory about courtroom decision making.

DSC 6020 Terrorism and Homeland Security (3). This course focuses on the domestic and international threats of terrorism and the basic security issues that surround terrorism today.