

# **M.A. in Criminology, Law, and Society Academic Assessment Plan**

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Barbara Zsembik  
[zsembik@ufl.edu](mailto:zsembik@ufl.edu)

*Office of the Provost*

*University of  
Florida*

*Institutional  
Assessment*

*Continuous Quality  
Enhancement*

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# Academic Assessment Plan for M.A. in Criminology, Law, and Society

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

## A. Mission

### Graduate Program

The department offers an interdisciplinary MA program, with pursuit of cutting edge research and analysis in criminology, law and society. Graduate education typically involves training in both crime and justice and law and society. There are 7 criminologists appointed to the graduate faculty of the CLS program. The MA program strives for excellence in the generation, dissemination, and application of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary knowledge in the areas of crime, justice, law, and their relationship to society.

### College

The principle mission of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) is to lead the academic quest to understand our place in the universe, and to help shape our society and environment. Through teaching, research and service, CLAS continually expands our knowledge and practice in the most fundamental questions in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and natural and mathematical sciences. At the graduate level, students master a specialized body of knowledge and pursue original research under the guidance of outstanding faculty. As a public institution, CLAS serves society through its research programs to advance our knowledge and capabilities, through its teaching to prepare tomorrow's leaders, and through its outreach programs to ensure dissemination of the state of the art in areas ranging from languages and literatures, to social behaviors, to the fundamental laws of nature.

### University

The faculty and staff of the University of Florida are dedicated to the common pursuit of the university's threefold mission: teaching, research and service. Teaching is a fundamental purpose of this university at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Research and scholarship are integral to the educational process and to the expansion of our understanding of the natural world, the intellect and the senses. Service reflects the university's obligation to share the benefits of its research and knowledge for the public good. The university serves the nation's and the state's critical needs by contributing to a well-qualified and broadly diverse citizenry, leadership and workforce. These three interlocking elements — teaching, research and scholarship, and service — span all the university's academic disciplines and represent the university's commitment to lead and serve the state of Florida, the nation and the world by pursuing and disseminating new knowledge while building upon the experiences of the past. The university aspires to advance by strengthening the human condition and improving the quality of life.

### Shared Mission

Our mission aligns with the UF and CLAS missions to ensure that every graduate student is trained with the highest academic standards and will be successful in scientific, scholarly, and professional arenas. We share values of high academic standards, ethical conduct of scholarship and research, creation and transmission of knowledge that enhance the human experience, diversity, and a commitment to advance the health, education and well-being of citizens throughout the world.

## B. Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment Measures

SLO Type	Student Learning Outcome	Assessment Method	Degree Delivery
Knowledge	1. Identify, define and describe criminological and law and society theories and criminological and law and society	Students will complete and pass their MA oral thesis (or non-thesis project) defense within two years of matriculation.	Campus
Skills	2. Identify, define and describe their primary track of interest (either Crime & Justice or Law & Society)	Students will complete and pass their MA oral thesis (or non-thesis project) defense within two years of matriculation.	Campus
Skills	3. Conduct independent empirical research with scientific integrity	Students will complete assigned projects in substantive specialty seminars within the term enrolled.	Campus
Professional Behavior	4. Prepare and produce documents professionally and ethically.	Students will successfully complete sexual harassment training compliance within the first term of matriculation	Campus
Professional Behavior		Students will successfully complete the training module in FERPA Basics within the first term of matriculation	Campus
Professional Behavior		Students will successfully complete the Institutional Review Board's required reading for all researchers within the first term of matriculation	Campus

Professional Behavior	5. Practice role of professional criminologist	Students will successfully complete a teaching assistantship, research assistantship, or other graduate training experience before graduation	Campus
Professional Behavior		Students will successfully complete a research proposal in (CCJ 6936 Seminar in Crime Law and Justice) in their first semester	Campus

### C. Research

The MA program in Criminology, Law & Society strives for excellence in the generation, dissemination, and application of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary knowledge in the areas of crime, justice, law, and their relationship to society. The program endeavors to excel in all of these areas and to move into the top 5 programs of its kind in the country. Research will lead the way. It generates the knowledge that is central to our mission. The graduate program is critical to the research enterprise as we prepare the next generation of teachers/scholars and policy analysts in the field. The cutting edge knowledge enriches the undergraduate education, supports the profession, and provides important information about issues of crime and law to the community.

Curriculum. The goals for the graduate program can be ascertained from their requirements (see website: <http://soccrim.clas.ufl.edu/graduate/criminology/> ). Theory and research is emphasized; the goal is to prepare students academically in one of two areas: crime & justice or law & society. Because the two areas overlap, graduate students are exposed to both to some degree. Students take an introductory Pro-seminar, Criminology seminar (theory), a Law & Society seminar, a Methods course, and a Statistics course.

Department Support. The department maintains computing hardware and software in a centralized workspace for students to complete quantitative and qualitative research programs. The department provides funds, to each graduate student who requests it, for travel to professional conferences. We actively support graduate student applications for travel monies through various mechanisms at UF.

## D. Assessment Timeline

Use this Assessment Timeline template for your plan. Add or delete rows and columns to accommodate your SLOs and assessments.

Program M.A. in Criminology, Law, and Society

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Assessment	Assessment 1	Assessment 2	Assessment 3
<b>SLOs</b>			
<b>Knowledge</b>			
SLO 1	Thesis or MA project proposal defense	Thesis or MA project defense	
<b>Skills</b>			
SLO 2	Thesis or MA project proposal defense	Thesis or MA project defense	
SLO 3	Complete assigned project in substantive seminar in semester of seminar		
<b>Professional Behavior</b>			
SLO 5	Complete sexual harassment training in 1 <sup>st</sup> semester	Complete training module in FERPA basics in 1 <sup>st</sup> semester	Complete IRB training in social science in 1 <sup>st</sup> semester
SLO 6	Complete training experience before graduation	Complete a research proposal in CCJ 6936 Seminar in Crime Law and Justice	

## E. Assessment Cycle

Assessment Cycle for:

Program M.A. in Criminology, Law, and Society College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Analysis and Interpretation:

May-June

Program Modifications:

Completed by July 1

Dissemination:

Completed by August 1

Year	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16
<b>SLOs</b>						
<b>Content Knowledge</b>						
			X	X	X	X
<b>Skills</b>						
Apply specialty knowledge			X	X	X	X

Conduct empirical research			X	X	X	X
<b>Professional Behavior</b>						
Produce documents professionally			X	X	X	X
Practice role of criminologist			X	X	X	X

## F. Measurement Tools

Content knowledge and skills SLOs are measured with successful completion of the thesis or nonthesis project. Professional behavior SLOs are measured by the successful completion of on-line training programs at UF. Students are required to print out the certificates of completion and the certificates are placed in their files. Students prepare a research proposal and cv in professional development seminars, each of which is graded with an assignment-specific rubric.

## G. Assessment Oversight

Name	Department Affiliation	Email Address	Phone Number
Barbara Zsembik, Assoc. Prof., Assoc. Chair, and Graduate Coordinator	Sociology and Criminology & Law	<a href="mailto:zsembik@ufl.edu">zsembik@ufl.edu</a>	294-7190
Sheryl McIntosh, Program Assistant	Sociology and Criminology & Law	<a href="mailto:smcint@ufl.edu">smcint@ufl.edu</a>	294-7193

## Figure 1. University of Florida Graduate/Professional Program Assessment Plan Review Rubric

CCJ 6936/SYA 7933 Proseminar—Fall 2012--Lane

### Grading Rubric—Proposal Methodology and Grid Draft

Finalized Methodology = 10 points + Finalized Grid = 5 points: Total 15 points

**Please note:** This rubric indicates how the points will be scored for your finalized submission, to give you guidance as you revise. For the draft, this sheet tells you where you are deficient or ok. The draft grading will simply indicate where you need to improve for your final submission.

Substantive Sections	Total Points Possible for Final Submission (15)	Total Points Earned (For draft will note where deficient)
<b>Methodology</b>	<b>7</b>	
<b>How will data be collected? (All must be DETAILED!)</b>	-----	-----
Context (Description and why it's a good choice)	1.5	
Sample/Participants (Who included, how sampled, why?)	1.5	
Data collection procedures	1.5	
Variables of interest (IV/DV) or constructs of interest	2	
<b>How will the data be analyzed?</b>	.5	
<b>Grid</b>	<b>5</b>	
Research questions logically follow from literature review	1	
Methodological options logically follow from research questions	1	
Explanations make logical sense from questions/options	1	



Research questions list is comprehensive	2	
<b>Format/Structure</b>	<b>3</b>	
Headings and subheadings	1	
Polished, proofread (grammar, mistakes, sentence structure, misspellings, page numbers) (easy to read)	1	
Picked a reference style and consistently followed it (and include references list)	1	
	<b>Total Points on Final Submission:</b>	