

Ph.D. in Criminology, Law, and Society Academic Assessment Plan

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
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Office of the Provost

*University of
Florida*

*Institutional
Assessment*

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Academic Assessment Plan for Ph.D. in Criminology, Law, and Society

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

A. Mission

Graduate Program

The department offers an interdisciplinary Ph.D. 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 Ph.D. 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 research methods	Students will pass the “tool” comprehensive exam (covering theory and research methods) within four years of matriculation into the Ph.D. program.	Campus
Knowledge	2. Identify, define and describe their primary track of interest (either Crime & Justice or Law & Society)	Students will pass a comprehensive exam in their specialty track (either Crime & Justice or Law & Society) within four years of entry into the Ph.D. program.	Campus
Professional Behavior	3. 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		Students will successfully complete a teaching assistantship, research assistantship, or other graduate training experience before graduation	Campus

Professional Behavior	4. Practice the role of the professional criminologist	Students will successfully complete a research proposal in (CCJ 6936 Seminar in Crime Law and Justice) in their first semester	Campus
Professional Behavior		Students will complete a cv in the required course CCJ 7921 Professional Development in Criminology, Law and Society within 2 years of matriculation into the Ph.D. program	Campus
Professional Behavior		Graduates will express their level of satisfaction with the program on exit survey.	Campus
Skills	5. Conduct independent empirical research with scientific integrity	Students will complete and successfully defend a dissertation within five years of entry into the program.	Campus
Skills		Students will annually present empirical research at a professional conference.	
Skills	6. Apply substantive criminological and law and society knowledge in critical thinking, analysis, and communication	Students will complete and successfully defend a dissertation within five years of entry into the program.	Campus

C. Research

The Ph.D. 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. The Ph.D. requires more seminar work (including either a Criminal Justice Process seminar or a Law and Social Science seminar depending on whether the student is emphasizing crime & justice or law & society), two more methods/statistics courses, and a professional development seminar. Ph.D. students must pass two comprehensive examinations—one in the tool areas of methods and theory and the other in either the crime & justice or law & society substantive area. Ph.D. students are admitted into candidacy after passing the departmentally graded examinations. They must then complete their dissertations.

Dissertation research projects provide research experience for our graduate students to prepare them for academic positions and research jobs. That research experience is supplemented by work they conduct with faculty members. Ph.D. students will be expected to obtain teaching experience before graduation so they are prepared for teaching.

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

Program Ph.D. in Criminology, Law, and Society

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Assessment	Assessment 1	Assessment 2	Assessment 3	Assessment 4
SLOs				
Knowledge				
SLO 1	Pass “tool” exam			
SLO 2	Pass “specialty” comprehensive exam			
Professional Behavior				
SLO 3	Complete sexual harassment training in 1 st semester	Complete training module in FERPA basics in 1 st semester	Complete IRB training in social science in 1 st semester	Complete a training experience before

				graduation
SLO 4	Complete a research proposal in CCJ 6936 Seminar in Crime Law and Justice	Complete a cv in CCJ 7921 Professional Development in Criminology Law and Society	Graduates will express their level of satisfaction with the program on exit survey.	
Skills				
SLO 5	Dissertation defense			
SLO 6	Dissertation defense			

E. Assessment Cycle

Assessment Cycle for:

Program Ph.D. 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

SLOs	Year	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16
Content Knowledge							
Theory				X	X	X	X
Methods				X	X	X	X
Specialty track				X	X	X	X
Professional Behavior							
Applying professional ethics				X	X	X	X
Practicing the role of professional criminologist				X	X	X	X
Skills							
Conducting independent empirical research				X	X	X	X
Applying substantive knowledge				X	X	X	X

F. Measurement Tools

Content knowledge and skills SLOs are measured with successful completion of the comprehensive exams and the dissertation. All students are required to take two comprehensive examinations. The exams can be taken during the same semester or in successive semesters but the written qualifying exam process must be successfully completed within one academic year (within three examination events). Waivers of this rule will be considered only in extraordinary circumstances. Failure to meet the timing requirements may be judged as failure to make adequate progress in the program and may affect funding status and/or ability to continue as a student in the program. One exam is a tool exam in

methods, statistics and theory. This exam will require the student to demonstrate proficiency in the application of methodological/statistical techniques and theories relevant to the study of criminology, law and society. The other exam is an area exam in the students chosen area of specialization. Depending on the area of specialization, students will be required to possess a mastery of knowledge within either the (1) Crime and Justice or (2) Law and Society area. Both exams are administered and graded by appointed committees comprising CLS graduate faculty members.

Grading and Oral Hearing on Comprehensive Exams: The student will be notified of the outcome within three weeks of each exam completion by the exam committee chair. Each appointed committee member submits a “pass,” or “fail” written grade for each exam question along with comments to the committee chair who compiles the grades and comments to be provided to the students’ supervisory committee chair. In addition, each grader submits an indication of whether or not an oral exam should be required to address concerns about the strength of the student’s answers on that particular exam. A majority of graders must issue a pass on each question for a student to pass the exam. There are four grading results for the written comprehensive exams:

- **Pass:** The student passes all questions and the grading committee considers the answers to be strong. The student earns a passing grade on the exam and can continue to study for the next exam (if not already completed) or write the dissertation proposal.
- **Conditional Pass with Remediation:** The student fails only one question (the majority of graders fails a student on one question). The student receives a conditional pass on the exam and will be given an opportunity for remediation. The remediation will consist of writing a seminar-style paper that address areas of weakness identified from the failing answer; the paper’s topic will be assigned by the comprehensive exam committee. The paper will be due no later than six weeks from the date that the exam results are delivered to the student and will be graded by the exam committee members within two weeks of its receipt. If the student fails this remediation, the student will fail the overall exam and will have only one other opportunity to retake the overall exam. If the student passes the remediation, and the committee has not indicated that an oral exam is necessary, then the student passes the exam.
- **Conditional Pass with Oral Hearing:** The student writes acceptable answers but the exam committee requires an oral examination. If the student writes answers that the grading committee considers to be weak or borderline, the grading committee may require an oral examination on the comprehensive exam answers to allow the student to elaborate on the answers given on the written exam. In order to pass the exam, the student will need to successfully complete the oral hearing conducted by the exam grading committee. If the oral hearing is not successful, the student will fail the exam and will have only one other opportunity to take the exam. The hearing will be scheduled within 30 days from the date that the exam results are delivered to the student. The grading committee and the student’s supervisory committee chair will conduct the exam, although other faculty members are welcome to attend.
- **Fail:** The student fails more than one question (the majority of graders fails a student on more than one question on the written exam or the student fails the oral hearing), the student fails the exam and must retake it. To allow for additional preparation, re-examination will occur the next time that the exam is officially offered by the department .

Only one re-examination is permitted. Each student should be notified of the results through email. The supervisory committee chair, graduate coordinator, and graduate program assistant must also be

notified. In addition, a record of the results of each comprehensive exam should be placed in the student's file by the comprehensive exam committee chair.

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	zsembik@ufl.edu	294-7190
Sheryl McIntosh, Program Assistant	Sociology and Criminology & Law	smcint@ufl.edu	294-7193

Appendix A. Rubric for Criminology Graduate Student Annual Report.

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)
Methodology	7	
How will data be collected? (All must be DETAILED!)	-----	-----
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	
How will the data be analyzed?	.5	
Grid	5	
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	
Format/Structure	3	
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	
	Total Points on Final Submission:	