



Ph.D. in International Crime and Justice Handbook

The Ph.D. in International Crime and Justice prepares graduates to assume leadership roles in public criminal justice agencies, academia, and private sector criminal justice companies in the United States and around the world. Its curriculum is sensitive to the importance of analytical skills, balanced with theoretically informed policy analysis, so that graduates of the program can more effectively address the challenges faced by criminal justice organizations in Florida, nationally, and internationally. Students gain the knowledge to apply advanced research methodologies to undertake studies related to crime, law, public policy, and the administration of the criminal justice system at home and abroad.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

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

1. Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.
2. 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) scores taken within the last five years.
4. Two letters of recommendation from professors or employers familiar with your academic and professional qualifications.
5. 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. Required for all foreign graduates (550 paper-based, 80 internet-based or 6.5 on IELTS exam).

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Ph.D. in International Crime and Justice requires a minimum of 78 credits hours of graduate course work beyond the bachelor's degree (with a C or better in each course), including a comprehensive exam and dissertation based on the student's original research. A maximum of 36 credits are transferable from a completed master's degree program with the approval of the graduate program director. A minimum of 30 credit hours must be earned in academic courses that are part of the doctoral program (excludes, comprehensive exam, dissertation proposal 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.

Residency requirement: Ph.D. students must also establish residency as defined as the completion of a minimum of 18 graduate credit hours within any consecutive 12-month period.

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 credit hours)

- 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 CJ (3)
- CCJ 6079 Geospatial Crime Analysis (3)
- CCJ 6485 Criminal Justice Policy Analysis (3)
- CCJ 6040 Comparative Crime & CJ Systems (3)
- CCJ 6675 Applied Research in Human Rights & Rule of Law (3)
- CCJ 6676 Transnational Crime (3)
- CCJ 6926 Teaching Practicum in Criminal Justice (3)

International Crime and Justice Electives (9 credit hours)

Students must complete a minimum of nine credits from the following list:

- CCJ 6620 Immigration and Crime (3)
 - CCJ 6696 Human Trafficking (3)
 - CCJ 6935 Special Topics: Relevant to ICJ (3)
 - CJE 6025 Law Enforcement Administration (3)
 - DSC 6020 Terrorism & Homeland Security (3)
 - INR 6089 International Relations and Human Rights (3)
 - LAW 6103 International Criminal Law (3)
 - LAW 6253 Comparative Criminal Law (3)
 - LAW 6260 Public International Law (3)
 - LAW 6263 International Human Rights Law (3)
 - LAW 6280 European Union Law (3)
 - LAW 6506 Foreign Relations and National Security Law (3)
 - LAW 6936 Seminars: Relevant to ICJ (3)
 - PAD 6836 International Public Administration (3)
- Other courses approved by graduate program director.*

General Electives (9 credit hours)

Students may complete nine credits of general electives outside the department. Students are encouraged to enroll in research classes, such as quantitative analysis, legal research, grant writing, qualitative research methods, program evaluation and performance measures, survey research and design, and secondary analysis.

Comprehensive Exam and Dissertation (30 credit hours)

Dissertation requirements and student forms are available online at <http://gradschool.fiu.edu/students/>

*CCJ 7960 Comprehensive Exam (3).

* CCJ 7926 Dissertation Proposal (3).

CCJ 7980 Ph.D. Dissertation (24).

* Effective Fall 18 students can add up to 9 credits if needed. Before Fall 18, students can enroll in CCJ 6915 Supervised Research if more than 3 credits are needed.

TRANSFER OF CREDITS

A maximum of 36 credits are transferable from a completed master's degree program with the approval of the graduate program director. The following conditions apply:

- Students must successfully complete one semester's coursework in the ICJ program with a 3.0 GPA or higher before being eligible to request the transfer of credits. Potential applicants who would like to determine which courses are transferable should speak with the program assistant to review previous coursework.
- Students must submit a request to the program assistant to transfer the credits.
- The transferred courses must be 5000 level or above with a B or better earned.
- The transferred courses must be relevant to the ICJ curriculum.
- When credit transfers are requested to replace ICJ core courses, the comparability of the material covered in the respective courses must be established (this is usually achieved through the submission of course syllabi).

TEACHING UNDERGRADUATE CLASSES

Teaching undergraduate classes requires (1) a master's degree with a minimum of 18 graduate credits in criminology or criminal justice, and (2) completion of CCJ 6926 Teaching Practicum in Criminal Justice with a B or better. Students can earn internship credit for teaching (CCJ 5946). Funded students on an assistantship cannot be paid for teaching classes.

CCJ 7960 COMPREHENSIVE EXAM

The comprehensive exam requires the completion of an independent research study suitable for publication in a peer-reviewed journal, including an oral presentation and defense. Students are encouraged to review articles published in peer-reviewed journals, such as Criminology, Justice Quarterly, and Journal of Criminal Justice (including their paper submission guidelines), as a reference tool for structuring and formatting their own paper.

This paper is graded on a pass/fail basis. To enroll in the course, a student must meet a minimum of the following criteria:

- earned a cumulative graduate GPA ≥ 3.0 ;
- completed the program's residency requirement—a minimum of 18 graduate credit hours within any consecutive 12-month period—or must be enrolled in the coursework that will constitute such completion; and
- completed all required course work for the degree or must be enrolled in the coursework that will constitute such completion.

Students must register for the comprehensive exam within their second year of study. The exam course must be completed in one semester. Otherwise an incomplete grade will be assigned. *Students are strongly encouraged to enroll in CCJ 6915 Supervised Research with their major professor the semester before enrolling in the exam course.*

Committee Composition and Grading Procedures

The exam paper is guided and graded by a committee consisting of a minimum of three faculty members in the Criminal Justice Department. Passing the course requires an agreement by a majority of the committee members. An exam may not be passed conditionally or contingent upon other factors such as the completion of additional coursework or research projects. Students must be informed of the results of the exam at their scheduled oral defense. Passing the exam is required to continue in the doctoral program. If the student fails the exam, the committee, at its discretion, may provide for reexamination at a mutually satisfactory time but no more than one year from the original date of the exam. Students have the option to change the members of their committee for the second exam. Students who fail the second exam will be dismissed from the doctoral program.

Manuscript Preparation, Presentation, and Oral Defense

The steps that should be taken in completing the comprehensive exam are as follows:

1. Select a major professor to chair your committee. Meet with that professor to identify a topic, a timeline of tasks, and to identify two other faculty members to serve on the committee.
2. Work under the direction of the committee to develop and complete the research paper.
3. Successfully present and defend your paper to the committee.

DISSERTATION

After the comprehensive exam, students focus primarily on their dissertation. The dissertation and its successful oral defense is the final requirement of the doctoral program. The major professor and committee assume major roles in helping students define an acceptable project and follow through to its completion. Students must register for the dissertation within the third year of the program.

Selection of Committee

The dissertation committee is comprised of at least four members of the Graduate Faculty. The major professor must be a member of the Graduate Faculty who holds Dissertation Advisor Status (DAS) and must be an expert in the subject of the dissertation. A faculty member with DAS who is not tenured or tenure-earning cannot be sole major professor of a dissertation committee but may serve as co-major professor. Therefore, the other co-major professor must be tenured or tenure-earning with DAS. At least two members of the committee must be from the Criminal Justice Department and one must be from outside of the department but within FIU. Additional members may be appointed.

See D-1 Form Appointment of Dissertation Committee

See D-1r Form Appointment of Revised Dissertation Committee

CCJ 7926 Dissertation Proposal

The department requires that doctoral candidates prepare, present and defend a dissertation proposal that will enable the committee to determine if the project is acceptable. The proposal shall be of the length and organization as determined by the dissertation committee, and should be sufficient to communicate an understanding of the literature, theoretical and empirical issues, and present an appropriate methodology for the project. Students must also submit an abbreviated 5-page version of the full proposal as delineated by the Graduate School (see <http://gradschool.fiu.edu/thesis-dissertation/>). Sample proposals from other departments are also available on this website. To enroll in the course, students must have completed the comprehensive exam or must be enrolled in the comprehensive exam during the same semester. The proposal is graded on a pass/fail basis.

Admission to Candidacy

Students who pass the comprehensive exam and dissertation proposal are eligible to advance to candidacy and proceed with dissertation research. After a doctoral student is admitted to candidacy, continuous registration for at least three dissertation credit hours each term (including the summer term) is required until the dissertation requirement is fulfilled. During the academic year, international students must maintain full-time enrollment.

See D-2 Form Candidacy Exam Results

See D-3 Form Doctoral Dissertation Proposal

See Dissertation Proposal Guidelines and Sample Proposals

<http://gradschool.fiu.edu/thesis-dissertation/>

CCJ 7980 PhD Dissertation

The department requires that doctoral candidates prepare, present and defend a dissertation. To enroll in the course, students must have completed the comprehensive exam and dissertation proposal. The dissertation is graded on a pass/fail basis. The [ETD GUIDE](#) and [ETD PREPARATION MANUAL](#) (PDF) complement each other and both should be utilized. The guide contains video tutorials, downloadable templates, important information on research standards and copyright, while the Manual explains the dissertation and thesis process and formatting requirements in more depth.

See D-5 Form Preliminary Approval of Dissertation and Request for Oral Defense

See Dissertation Defense Announcement Sample

<http://gradschool.fiu.edu/thesis-dissertation/>

See Final ETD Approval Form