

CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (CRIM)

Graduate Degree Program
College: Behavioral and Social Sciences

Abstract

The program of graduate study leading to a Traditional Master of Arts and Doctorate of Philosophy degrees in the area of Criminology and Criminal Justice is intended to prepare students for research, teaching and professional employment in operational agencies within the field of criminal justice. This program combines an intensive background in a social science discipline such as criminology, criminal justice, sociology, psychology and public policy with graduate-level study of selected aspects of crime and criminal justice.

In addition, the Department offers a joint J.D./M.A. degree with the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, located in Baltimore.

A recent study of Department M.A. and Ph.D. alumni reveals that master's degree graduates have found employment in both public and private institutions in virtually every kind of activity associated with the criminal justice system: research; teaching; federal, state and local law enforcement; courts; corrections; private security; and funded programs. Ph.D. graduates have found employment mostly in teaching, research, and government agency administration.

Financial Assistance

Graduate research assistantships, teaching assistantships, scholarships, and fellowships are available to select individuals applying to our doctoral program. In recent years many admitted doctoral students receive funding through assistantships, and some may be awarded supplemental scholarships or fellowships offered by the Department, the BSOS Dean's Office, or The Graduate School. Applications should be received by December 1st of the preceding Fall term for best consideration.

If you're interested in applying for the Fellowships in Support of Diversity and Inclusion (<https://ccjs.umd.edu/graduate/phd-program-application/>) in the Behavioral and Social Sciences, please be sure to upload your materials under "Supplementary Application" when submitting your online admissions application.

Contact

Graduate Program Coordinator
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Website: <https://ccjs.umd.edu/landing/Graduate> (<https://ccjs.umd.edu/landing/Graduate/>)

Courses: CCJS (<https://umd-curr.courseleaf.com/graduate/courses/ccjs/>)

ADMISSIONS

General Requirements

- Statement of Purpose
- Transcript(s)
- TOEFL/IELTS/PTE (international graduate students (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency-requirements/>))

Program-Specific Requirements

- Letters of Recommendation (3)
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
- CV/Resume
- Writing Sample (1 required, up to one more optional)
- Description of Research/Work Experience (optional)
- Supplementary Application (optional for Ph.D., not required for M.A.)

In addition to the general Graduate School rules, special admission requirements include a major in a social science discipline and nine hours of coursework in appropriate areas of criminal justice.

Application Deadlines

Type of Applicant	Fall Deadline
Domestic Applicants	
US Citizens and Permanent Residents	December 12, 2025
International Applicants	
F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A, E, G, H, I and L visas and immigrants	December 12, 2025

RESOURCES AND LINKS:

Program Website: <https://ccjs.umd.edu/landing/Graduate> (<https://ccjs.umd.edu/landing/Graduate/>)

Application Process: gradschool.umd.edu/admissions (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/>)

REQUIREMENTS

- Criminology and Criminal Justice, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/criminology-criminal-justice-crim/criminology-criminal-justice-phd/>)
- Criminology and Criminal Justice, Master of Arts (M.A.) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/criminology-criminal-justice-crim/criminology-criminal-justice-ma/>)

FACILITIES AND SPECIAL RESOURCES

The Department has various opportunities for graduate students to participate in current projects. Recent students have worked in research centers at the Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy, National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), and the National Institute of Justice. In addition, our faculty maintain an array of ongoing, funded research projects where students can assist. These resources provide numerous opportunities for students to engage in policy development, research, and professional activities.