**Criminology**

**Master of Arts (M.A.) Degree**

**DEGREE INFORMATION**

**Priority Admission Application Deadlines:**

**Fall:** March 1

**Spring:** September 30

International applicant deadlines:

<http://www.grad.usf.edu/majors>

**Minimum Total Hours:** 33

**Level:** Masters

**CIP Code:** 45.0401

**Dept Code:** CJP

**Major/College Codes:** CCJ BC

**Approved** 1974

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**College:** Behavioral & Community Sciences

**Department:** Criminology (CJP)

**Contact Information:** [www.grad.usf.edu](http://www.grad.usf.edu)

**MAJOR INFORMATION**

The M.A. in Criminology is a two-year major designed to provide the student with an in depth understanding of the major ideas, issues, theories, and research comprising the field of Criminology and Criminal Justice.

**ADMISSION INFORMATION**

Must meet University requirements (see Graduate Admissions) as well as requirements for admission to the major, listed below.

* A bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited university or college
* An upper division GPA of 3.00 and preferred minimum scores of 153V (53rd percentile), 144Q (18th percentile) or higher on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). All applicants must submit GRE scores taken within the preceding five years.
* A statement of purpose detailing: (a) reasons for seeking a MA degree in criminology, (b) research interests, and (c) future career plans.
* A professional or academic writing sample providing evidence of the candidate’s academic capabilities.
* Three letters of reference speaking to the applicant’s academic capabilities

**CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS**

**Total Minimum Hours - 33 credit hours**

Core requirements - 18 hours

Electives – Non-thesis option -15 hours

Electives – Thesis option - 9 hours

Thesis (optional) - 6 hours

**CORE REQUIREMENTS – 18 hours**

CCJ 6118 (4) Introduction to Criminological Theory

CCJ6485 (3) Criminal Justice and Public Policy

CCJ 6705 (3) Research Methods in Criminology

CCJ 6706 (4) Quantitative Analysis I

CCJ 6707 (3) Quantitative Analysis II

CCJ 6937 (1) ProSeminar in Criminology

**Thesis Option**

Core requirements plus the following:

Electives – 9 hours

Options include:

CCJ6638 (3) Seminar in Nature and Causes of Crime

CCJ 6624 (3) Seminar in Violence

CCJ6669 (3) Seminar in Social Inequality and Crime

CCJ 6654 (3 ) Seminar in Drugs and Crime

A maximum of three hours may be directed independent study. Up to three graduate hours may be taken in an area outside the department with the approval from the Graduate Director

Thesis – 6 hours

CCJ 6971 (6) Thesis: Master’s

The thesis will consist of research that makes an original contribution to the scholarly literature and may be of either a quantitative or qualitative nature.

**Non-Thesis Option**

Core requirements plus the following:

Electives 15 hours

Options include:

CCJ 6638 (3) Seminar in Nature and Causes of Crime

CCJ 6624 (3) Seminar in Violence

CCJ 6669 (3) Seminar in Social Inequality and Crime

CCJ 6654 (3) Seminar in Drugs and Crime

A maximum of three hours may be directed Independent Study. Up to six graduate hours may be taken in the area outside the Department with approval from the Graduate Director.

**Comprehensive Exam**

For students pursing the thesis option, an oral defense of a written thesis is required after the final draft of the thesis has been accepted by the candidate's supervisory committee.

For students pursing the non-thesis option students must pass a comprehsive exam or complete a project. The comprehensive exam is designed to test the students’ knowledge of the three core ares of the Master’s program; criminological theory, current issues in criminal justice and research methodology. A project is typically a research proposal, but can be other types of research activities including an internship focused on understanding a criminal justice problem along with a literature review on that problem. Approval for the proposed project must be received from the Major Professor and one other Criminology faculty member.

**COURSES**

See <http://www.ugs.usf.edu/course-inventory/>

See <http://criminology.cbcs.usf.edu/masterCriminology/>