

Student Orientation Materials



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Division of Social Sciences
Bailey Hall
Delta State University
Cleveland, Mississippi 38733

Spring 2008

MASTERS OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM
AT
DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Welcome to the Criminal Justice Program at Delta State University. It is the goal of this graduate degree program to engage students in a course of study that will be both thought-provoking and academically challenging. Through this endeavor students will develop critical thinking, writing, and analytical skills that will prepare them for a vast assortment of future careers. Students will be provided a diverse curriculum composed of 36 hours of rigorous course work designed to provide them with an opportunity to specialize in a variety of areas of criminal justice. Graduates are prepared for professional careers in law enforcement, corrections, the legal system, and academia.

The faculty of the Criminal Justice Program and the Division of Social Sciences are excited about your participation in this program. The information included in this manual is intended to assist you as you take part in the graduate program here at Delta State University. Ultimately, however, the responsibility for success rests with you the student, as it is your responsibility to take full advantage of all opportunities available for you here at Delta State University. Members of the faculty are always available to assist you with any questions or problems you may encounter. Once again, welcome to the Online Masters of Criminal Justice Program and we look forward to your participation in the program.

Sincerely,

Albert B. Nylander III, Ph.D.
Chair, Social Sciences
Graduate Coordinator, CRJ
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Division of Social Sciences
Delta State University
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FACULTY TEACHING IN THE DIVISION OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND THE MASTER OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM

Alan Barton, Ph.D. Cornell University. Assistant Professor of Sociology and Community Development.

Mark Bonta, Ph.D. Louisiana State University. Assistant Professor of Geography.

John Green, Ph.D. University of Missouri-Columbia. Assistant Professor of Sociology and Community Development.

Tiffany Guidry, Ph.D. University of Arizona. Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice and Sociology.

Garry Jennings, Ph.D. University of Maryland. Professor of Political Science.

Page Logan Delta State University. Instructor of Criminal Justice.

Paulette Meikle, Ph.D. Mississippi State University. Assistant Professor of Sociology and Community Development.

Debarashmi Mitra, Ph.D. University of Connecticut. Assistant Professor of Sociology and Community Development.

Bobby Moore, Ph.D. The University of Southern Mississippi. Adjunct Instructor of Criminal Justice.

Albert Nylander, III, Ph.D. Mississippi State University. Chair, Professor of Sociology and Community Development.

Amy Owen, Ph.D. University of Idaho. Assistant Professor of Social Science Education and Geography.

Mark Routman, Ph.D. Louisiana State University. Professor of Sociology.

Arlene Story Sanders, M.Ed., MSCD. Delta State University. Instructor of Political Science.

Leslie Fadiga-Stewart, Ph.D. Texas Tech University. Assistant Professor of Political Science.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CAMPUS AND ONLINE MASTERS OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Students must complete a total of 36 graduate semester hours, as described below.

The required 21 hours of Criminal Justice core courses required for all tracks of study are as follows:

- CRJ 630 Theories of Criminal Behavior
- CRJ 635 Research Methods in Criminal Justice
- SSC 669 Statistics
- CRJ 650 Organization and Philosophy of Criminal Justice
- CRJ 655 Professional and Institutional Ethics
- CRJ 670 Historical Analysis of the Criminal Justice System
- CRJ 675 Seminar in Criminal Justice

15 Hours of Electives

The electives offered will vary from semester to semester but will include any Criminal Justice, Political Science or Sociology electives at the 500 or 600 level. You must have the approval of the Graduate Coordinator in Criminal Justice before taking these courses.

*Only criminal justice electives will be listed in this material; the rest can be found in the 2006-2007 Graduate Bulletin.

- CRJ 504 Criminal Law
- CRJ 505 Introduction to Criminal Justice Theory
- CRJ 506 Criminal Procedure
- CRJ 510 Applied Criminal Investigations
- CRJ 512 Legal Liabilities for Criminal Justice Personnel
- CRJ 515 Drug Identification and Enforcement
- CRJ 520 Seminar in Correctional Criminology
- CRJ 525 Juvenile Justice
- CRJ 530 The Prison Community
- CRJ 535 Applied Criminalistics
- CRJ 540 Community-Based Corrections
- CRJ 545 Civil Liberties
- CRJ 550 Juvenile Corrections
- CRJ 560 Survey of Technology and Crime
- CRJ 575 Family Violence
- CRJ 590 Special Topics in Law Enforcement
- CRJ 591 Special Topics in Corrections
- CRJ 592 Special Topics in Criminal Justice
- PSC or SOC electives

Comprehensive Examination for Graduate Students

Graduate students in the Master of Criminal Justice Degree program will be expected to pass a comprehensive examination to be administered the last semester of course work. The examination will contain questions designed to test knowledge obtained from the Master of Criminal Justice courses. The comprehensive examination will require attendance at the Cleveland Campus of Delta State University or this exam can be proctored at a University closer to the student. The student should notify the graduate coordinator at least a semester in advance before sitting for the written comprehensive exam.

ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM

The following are the admission requirements for the Online Master's of Science in Criminal Justice:

- A Bachelor's degree from an accredited university
- An undergraduate GPA of 3.0.
- The student must make a satisfactory score on a nationally recognized writing examination such as the CAPPS writing exam or the GRE.

Students who do not meet the above admissions requirements may still be admitted to the program on a conditional basis under the following guidelines:

- The student must have an undergraduate GPA of 2.75.
- The student must provide 3 letters of recommendation that address the student's ability to complete a graduate degree.
- The student must submit a written sample/paper of his/her coursework in undergraduate studies.
- The student must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 on their first 18 hours of graduate study.
- The student must make a satisfactory score on a nationally recognized writing examination such as the CAPPS writing exam or the GRE.

FINANCIAL AID

Delta State University accepts the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* for all types of Title IV financial aid. This application packet is available through the Office of Student Financial Assistance on campus at (662) 846-4670 or via the World Wide Web at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Graduate students must list Delta State University (Code number 002403) on the application to insure that the DSU Financial Aid Office receives notification of their interest in attending.

SCHEDULE OF STUDY

Students wishing to enroll in the Online Master's of Science in Criminal Justice Program are encouraged to do so at any time as enrollment is allowed during the fall, spring, or summer semesters. The following is a proposed schedule of study. There are times that we deviate from this schedule for a variety of reasons.

Semester One (Fall) – 9 hours

SSC 669 Statistics
CRJ 635 Research Methods in Criminal Justice
CRJ 630 Theories of Criminal Behavior

Semester Two (Spring) – 9 hours

CRJ 655 Professional and Institutional Ethics
CRJ 670 Historical Analysis of the Criminal Justice System
CRJ 675 Seminar: Issues in Criminal Justice

Semester Three (Fall) – 9 hours

CRJ 650 Organization and Philosophy of Criminal Justice
CRJ, PSC or SOC Elective (Approved by Graduate Coordinator)
CRJ, PSC or SOC Elective (Approved by Graduate Coordinator)

Semester Four (Spring) – 9 hours

CRJ, PSC or SOC Elective (Approved by Graduate Coordinator)
CRJ, PSC or SOC Elective (Approved by Graduate Coordinator)
CRJ, PSC or SOC Elective (Approved by Graduate Coordinator)

Any questions concerning different forms or resources should be directed to Dr. Albert Nylander, Chair, Social Sciences. 662-846-4065 or nylander@deltastate.edu

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION GUIDELINES

The comprehensive examination is designed to test the graduate student on materials obtained from courses in the Online Masters of Science in Criminal Justice Degree program. The questions are designed in such a manner that any student successfully completing the course is capable of passing the examination. To ensure that both students and faculty have time to prepare for the administration of the examination, students desiring to sit for the exam and graduate must make arrangements with the Graduate Coordinator for the Master of Science in Criminal Justice program at least one semester prior to their taking the examination.

Questions on the examination will not be instructor-specific. Therefore students should not be concerned about passing a section merely because they did not have the instructor who is currently teaching the course. All questions from each section will be selected through the Criminal Justice graduate committee, and other faculty members in the Division of Social Sciences. The core areas tested will be:

- CRJ 630 Theories of Criminal Behavior
- CRJ 635 Research Methods in Criminal Justice
- SSC 669 Statistics
- CRJ 650 Organization and Philosophy of Criminal Justice
- CRJ 655 Professional and Institutional Ethics
- CRJ 670 Historical Analysis of the Criminal Justice System
- CRJ 675 Seminar in Criminal Justice
- CRJ/PSC/SOC Electives

The examination will take approximately 4 to 6 hours. Students who have questions concerning the administration of the comprehensive exam are asked to contact Dr. Albert Nylander at (662) 846-4065 or nylander@deltastate.edu.

The exam will be graded on a **Pass/Fail** basis. Members of the examination committee will meet and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each exam and determine whether it is a pass or fail.

The Criminal Justice Graduate Coordinator will provide students with a study guide for the comprehensive examination upon their registering for the exam. This study guide should not be misconstrued as being the exact questions that will be asked on the examination. However, the questions on the study guide are designed to be representative of the types of questions that will be asked on the examination. Therefore, a student who is capable of answering each question on the study guide should have no problem successfully completing the comprehensive examination when it is administered.

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY
A Proposed Program of Studies for the Master of Science in Criminal Justice

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____

CORE COURSES REQUIRED (21 Hrs)

| Course No. | TITLE | Date to be taken | Date completed | Grade | Credit hours |
|------------|---|------------------|----------------|-------|--------------|
| CRJ 630 | Theories of Criminal Behavior | | | | 3 |
| CRJ 635 | Research Methods | | | | 3 |
| SSC 669 | Statistics | | | | 3 |
| CRJ 650 | Organization and Philosophy of Criminal Justice | | | | 3 |
| CRJ 655 | Professional and Institutional Ethics | | | | 3 |
| CRJ 670 | Historical Analysis of the American Criminal Justice System | | | | 3 |
| CRJ 675 | Seminar: Issues in Criminal Justice | | | | 3 |

TOTAL _____

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|
| CRJ 680, 690, or 6 hours of electives | PRACTICUM IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE, THESIS, or 6 hours of CRJ, PSC, or SOC electives | | | | 6 |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|

TOTAL _____

APPROVED ELECTIVES (9 Hrs)

| Course No. | TITLE | Date to be taken | Date completed | Grade | Credit hours |
|------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|-------|--------------|
| | CRJ, PSC or SOC Elective | | | | 3 |
| | CRJ, PSC or SOC Elective | | | | 3 |
| | CRJ, PSC or SOC Elective | | | | 3 |

TOTAL _____

Have you applied for "Admission to Candidacy" for degree? _____ Yes _____ No

APPROVED: Student _____
Advisor _____ **Total hours in program** _____
Dean of Graduate Studies _____

(4/17/2008)