

Department/School: Criminal Justice/College of Liberal Arts
Vision: To be developed
Mission: The mission of the Department of Criminal Justice at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley is to develop and disseminate knowledge about crime, criminal justice, deviance, and social organization through research, teaching, and service to the community. Grounded in the social sciences, the department respects liberal values, encourages open-mindedness, and pursues in its programs both demographic and curricular diversity. At the undergraduate level, the department's mission is to equip students to think critically about the causes and consequences of crime and deviance; about evolving issues in the field of criminal justice; about the potential of empirical research to help guide policy development; and about the role social organization plays in the development of knowledge. Students are introduced to both established and contemporary theory, to research skills, and to the requirements of practice in the field. It is the department's mission to properly prepare students to join the ranks of professionals working for the criminal justice system or in the social services. In addition, it is the mission of the department to prepare those who plan to obtain advanced degrees to gain admission to prominent social science and professional graduate programs around the country. Concerning students at the master's level, the department's mission is development of research skills and the expansion of conceptual and practical knowledge critical to fulfillment of leadership roles in criminal justice or in the social services. Master's degree students planning to proceed to Ph.D. programs can expect from the department thorough training in the theories, methodologies, and empirical findings that promote understanding of deviance, crime, criminal justice, and social organization.

PROFILE

Majors: Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and Master of Science in Criminal Justice
Graduate Programs: Master of Science in Criminal Justice
Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Students: 1700 (Undergraduate) 36 (Graduate) • Characteristics: (e.g., graduate, undergraduate)
Faculty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Faculty: 26 (16 tenured/tenure-track faculty and 10 lecturers) • Ranks: Professors <u> 6 </u> Associate Prof. <u> 6 </u> Assistant Prof. <u> 4 </u> Lecturers <u> 10 </u>
Campus Program Offering 100% of program/courses are available at both campuses (<i>face-to-face, online, hybrid, or ITV</i>) 100% of program/courses in the first 2 years of study per major map are available at both campuses (<i>face-to-face, online, hybrid, ITV</i>) 100% of program/courses in the upper division are available at both campuses (<i>face-to-face, online, hybrid, ITV</i>) 0% of graduate program/courses are available at both campuses (<i>face-to-face, online, hybrid, ITV</i>) [program only at Edinburg campus] <i>Note: You may include details of availability by campus and any other related information that would be helpful.</i>
Stats & Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The department hosts at least 2 international scholars each academic year • We have 3 extremely active student groups (Alpha Phi Sigma, American Criminal Justice Association, and Criminal Justice Association) • Almost all lecturers in the department are participating and presenting research at regional conferences • Almost all lecturers in the department are full COLTT QM trained and teaching online • Most faculty are serving on major college and university committees

- The department has several lecturers with extensive law enforcement experience which they share with our students

Success Stories/"Bragging": (Since Fall 2015)

- Dr. Gordon A. Crews received 2 of the largest federal grant ever in the Department of Criminal Justice (\$75K and \$340K), published 3 books, 3 chapters, and 1 journal article, and often serves as an expert witness/commentator in the area of K-12 school violence
- Dr. Michael Sanchez has published a research monograph, revitalized the Brownsville chapter of the American Criminal Justice Association student group, and often serves as an expert witness in the area of law enforcement policy
- Ms. Elizabeth Deven-Hernandez has created a Special Topics Course (Art Crime), there are only 3 Art Crime courses in the US
- Dr. Hyojong Song has five publications in five peer-reviewed journals, four presentations at local and national conferences, and developed five online and in-person courses.

Traditions: To be developed

Mantra/Slogan: To be developed