

The University of Texas
Rio Grande ValleyTM

College of Liberal Arts

Department of Criminal Justice

CRIMINAL JUSTICE GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE
(MSCJ)**

2023-2024

Approved by the Department of Criminal Justice Faculty on September 19, 2023

DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK

Disclaimer: The Graduate College Catalog provides the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley's (UTRGV) official position on all matters regarding graduate studies. Therefore, if there are discrepancies between UTRGV's policies and this Handbook, please refer to the Graduate Catalog.

The Department of Criminal Justice reserves the right to update or alter policies described in this Handbook as deemed necessary, following discussions and agreement with the Graduate Faculty, Graduate Coordinators, Dean of Graduate Studies, Department Chair, and Faculty. Every effort will be made to keep Graduate Students abreast of all changes after they have been finalized and approved within a reasonable time frame.

In addition, only department faculty who are teaching graduate courses in a particular year can work with graduate students on research projects, thesis projects, or independent studies.

For further information on the MSCJ Traditional Track contact, Dr. Marika Dawkins (marika.dawkins@utrgv.edu)

For more information on the MSCJ AOP Track, contact, Dr. Gordon Crews (Gordon.crews@utrgv.edu)

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DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK

Introduction

Suppose you are interested in the Master of Science in Criminal Justice (MSCJ) Program. In that case, you may pursue your degree in either the Traditional Seated Program Format or the Accelerated Online Program Format. Although the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley is situated in Brownsville and Edinburg, the Traditional Seated Program, a two-year program with face-to-face classes scheduled for 16 week-long semesters, is only offered in Edinburg. The AOP format is 2 graduate courses offered fully online each 7-week module over a 12 month period.

Full-time master's students enroll in 9 credit hours per semester and can complete their degree in two years. On the other hand, the Accelerated Online Program is a one-year program with classes scheduled in 7 week-long modules, and students can complete their degree in 12 months. Full-time students in this track take two courses in each module and must take at least one course each module to remain in the program. The AOP format is generally not a research or theoretical program but focuses on the knowledge and skills needed to professionalize experience in the workforce within the criminal justice field.

The current Graduate College policy stipulates that a graduate student can permanently switch from one program format to another if necessary. Students must inform the Graduate College (gradcollege@utrgv.edu) and seek the program coordinators' approval before switching the program format.

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Department of Criminal Justice offers a Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice (MSCJ), which includes theoretical and practical content and components of a traditional Criminal Justice Master's Program. Therefore, our program stimulates deeper inquiry into the underlying causes of crime and how they may be addressed through social reform and changes within the criminal justice system. As a program grounded in the social sciences, we respect liberal values, encourage open-mindedness, and pursue demographic and curricular diversity in our programs. Part of our Department's mission is to help students develop research skills and expand conceptual and practical knowledge critical to fulfilling leadership roles in criminal justice and social services.

Our graduate students who plan to earn a Ph.D. can expect to be trained in theory, methodologies, and empirical findings that promote an understanding of crime, deviance, criminal justice, and social organization. To learn more about our Department, please visit

our website: <https://www.utrgv.edu/criminal-justice/>

Our faculty members are diverse, of interdisciplinary backgrounds, and are student-centered. Our faculty members are committed to student success, accessible to students, encourage students to take advantage of networking opportunities, and cultivate soft skills necessary for professional and personal success. To learn more about our current criminal justice faculty, please see the link: <https://www.utrgv.edu/criminal-justice/faculty-and-staff/index.htm>

Permission for Overload for MSCJ Students

On rare occasions, graduate students may be granted permission to take additional courses in a term as an overload. Generally, this is only considered for students in excellent standing in the MSCJ program (3.5 or better GPA), and the requested class has plenty of seat availability in other desired courses.

A request for this will be sent by email from the student to the appropriate graduate program coordinator (either AOP or Traditional), who will approve or deny the request. If approved, the right graduate program coordinator will send their approval and student information to Ms. Amanda Lerma, Associate Registrar for Graduate matters, and copy Dr. Sandra Hansmann, Associate Dean, UTRGV Graduate College.

Note: This Handbook is designed for current and prospective graduate students interested in the criminal justice program. The policies covered herein only apply to the Department of Criminal Justice and are subject to change at any time. To learn about other graduate programs, please visit the Graduate College website.

Admission Requirements and Deadlines

General Admission Requirements

To earn a master's degree, students must formally apply (traditional or AOP track) and be officially accepted by the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Graduate College and the Criminal Justice Program.

1. All applicants must have an undergraduate baccalaureate degree to be considered for admission.
2. We use a 4.0 scale, so a GPA of at least 3.0 is preferred (more information below)
3. A complete application must include an application, official transcripts, three letters of recommendation from your college professors or other appropriate

individuals who can attest to your academic potential and abilities to pursue graduate education, and a 500–1000-word statement describing your interest in our program.

4. If you cannot secure the letters of recommendation, please submit a resume/curricular vita highlighting your educational background, work experience, and other accomplishments.
5. Although there are standard requirements that students must meet, our review and admission process is holistic.
6. Admission requirements may be waived for those with a master's degree, indicating that applicants are prepared for graduate studies.

Clear Admission

In addition to the general admission requirements, applicants with baccalaureate degrees must have a 3.0 GPA over the last 60 completed hours of their undergraduate studies to be considered for clear admission.

Conditional Admission

In addition to the general admission requirements, applicants with GPAs between 2.75 and 2.99 may be conditionally admitted pending their GRE score (minimum scores of 146 Verbal, 150 Quantitative, and 3.5 Analytical).

What about International Applicants?

An international/international student is:

1. Not a U.S. citizen,
2. Not a U.S. Permanent resident,
3. One who has or plans to hold a temporary immigrant visa

Additional Requirements for International Applicants

1. International students whose primary or native language is not English must complete the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or IELTS Language Proficiency Test and attain minimum scores: 550 on paper-based, 213 on computer-based, or 79 on Internet-based for TOEFL; 6.5 for IELTS. TOEFL and IELTS scores are valid for two years.
2. Provide certified translation of educational records and transcripts
3. Provide financial statements/documents that show sufficient funds to cover the first year of academic and living expenses
4. Must have immigration documents (e.g., a valid passport)

Please visit UTRGV's website for more information: [International Admissions | UTRGV](#)

Additional Requirements for Domestic Applicants Who Obtained Their Degree at a Foreign/International Institution

1. International students whose primary or native language is not English must complete the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or IELTS Language Proficiency Test and attain minimum scores: 550 on paper-based, 213 on computer-based, or 79 on Internet-based for TOEFL; 6.5 for IELTS. TOEFL and IELTS scores are valid for two years.
2. Provide certified translation of educational records and transcripts.

Please visit UTRGV's website for more information: [International Admissions | UTRGV](#)
Applications can only be submitted online at utrgv.edu/graduate/onlineapplication.

For program application deadlines, please consult the Criminal Justice Master's Program link at the Graduate College website at utrgv.edu/graduate.

Deadline: Although applications are accepted year-round, we recommend completing and submitting your application early (e.g., three months before starting classes). You can explore and apply for potential funding opportunities and graduate assistantships with an early application.

Grading Policy

Our graduate program follows the Graduate College Grading System (information below came directly from the Graduate Catalog), based on the UTRGV 4.0 scale. As such, grades are designated as follows:

A	Excellent	(4 grade points per hour)
B	Good	(3 grade points per hour)
C	Satisfactory	(2 grade points per hour)
F	Failure	(0-grade points per hour)
P	Passing	(not considered in calculating grade points or attempted hours)
N.P.	No Pass	(not considered in calculating grade points or attempted hours)
S	Satisfactory	(not considered in calculating grade points or attempted hours)

U	Unsatisfactory	(not considered in calculating grade points or attempted hours)
I.P.	In Progress	(not considered in calculating grade points or attempted hours)
I	Incomplete	(not considered in calculating grade points or attempted hours)
C.R.	Credit	(not considered in calculating grade points or attempted hours)
N.C.	No Credit	(not considered in calculating grade points or attempted hours)
D.R.	Course Dropped	(not considered in calculating grade points or attempted hours)
W	Withdrawal	(not considered in calculating grade points or attempted hours)

Incomplete Grades (Typically given only for medical emergencies and military service)

An incomplete (I) grade is a temporary grade given only during the last one-fourth of a term/semester and only if:

1. The student is passing the course to date;
2. The student will not have completed the required coursework within the allotted time of a regular semester or summer session, and
3. The instructor determines that the reason for the work being incomplete is valid and that the grade of "I" is justified.

A written agreement between the student and the instructor specifying the work to be made up and the deadline for its accomplishment must be filed in the office of the Department Chair and appropriate Graduate Program Coordinator when the "I" is submitted. The work agreed upon must be satisfactorily completed, and the "I" must be changed no later than the end of the next regular (Fall or Spring) semester from the date the "I" was received (unless the instructor requests an extension) or the grade will automatically be recorded as the grade alternatively assigned by the faculty at the time of submitting the written agreement.

The Office of the Registrar must receive the complete Request for Grade of Incomplete Form with all required signatures by the published deadline for faculty to enter grades, or an N.R. grade will be entered.

Academic Integrity

As stated by the Office of the Dean of Students, Student Rights, and Responsibilities, UTRGV students are expected to exercise independent thought and expression as they strive for academic achievement. In the quest for intellectual growth, there are expectations of originality in a written and oral presentation, honesty, respect for the exchange of ideas, and acknowledgment and recognition of the abilities and contributions of others. Therefore, academic integrity is highly valued at UTRGV and the Department of Criminal Justice.

Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give an unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations, STU 02-100, and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All violations of Academic Integrity will be reported to Student Rights and Responsibilities through **[Vaqueros Report It](#)**.

Please see <https://www.utrgv.edu/srr/students/academic-integrity/index.htm> for more information.

Grievances

As outlined by the Office of the Dean, Student Rights, and Responsibilities website, Filing a Grievance, UTRGV provides fair and objective procedures for hearing students' complaints and endorses the spirit of non-discrimination regulation. For more information, please see <https://www.utrgv.edu/srr/students/filing-a-grievance/index.htm>.

This policy aims to provide students with procedures for resolving complaints against The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) faculty and staff related to matters other than discrimination or grade appeals.

Library Resources

All students have access to UTRGV's libraries, the chief information center during their studies (Ms. Raquel Estrada, Acquisition and Collection Development Librarian, prepared the information below).

UTRGV students have access to a robust print and digital collection. They are provided a breadth of library and learning resources services, including instruction in using these

resources and access to expert librarians to assist with research and other scholarly activities. The [UTRGV Library Website](#) is the gateway to all library resources and services and allows students to search or browse for books, online journals, select articles, and online databases. Students can also submit interlibrary loan requests, find library policies and procedures, current events, research guides, library request forms, and more.

Essential library services for graduate students:

1. [Ask A Librarian](#) – Contact a librarian for assistance.
2. [Research Consultations](#) – Schedule a research consultation with a Research and Instruction librarian.
3. [Interlibrary Loan](#) – Request materials not available at the University Library.
4. [Poster Printing](#) – Print posters for educational use, such as presenting at a conference, symposium, or research/course presentation.
5. [Study Rooms](#) Reserve a study room online.
6. Graduate Lounge – The Graduate Lounge, located on the 3rd floor of the Edinburg library, is available for individual study and research.
7. ORCID Registration – Contact scholarlycommunications@utrgv.edu to get help signing up for an ORCID ID.
8. [Databases](#) – The library has access to over 200 databases. Search by subject to find databases that support criminal justice.
9. [Research Guides](#) – Research guides are a one-stop shop for students to find resources on a specific topic. Guides of interest to criminal justice students are:
10. [Criminal Justice Research Guide](#)
11. [Graduate Thesis Support Guide](#)
12. [Copyright Guide](#)
13. [Recommend a Purchase](#) – Recommend books and other resources for purchase by the library.
14. Course Materials – Submit a [purchase request](#) to determine if the library can obtain your textbook as an eBook.
15. <https://scholarworks.utrgv.edu/librarydisplayposters/19/>
16. [Essential Library Resources For Graduate Students](#) By Raquel Estrada, Published on 07/01/22 scholarworks.utrgv.edu

Requirements for the Master of Science in Criminal Justice

Graduate students are expected to be familiar with all the requirements for the Master of Science in Criminal Justice Degree (36 credit hours). Students in our program must maintain a GPA of at least 3.0 or a “B” average.

Core Requirements

All master's students must complete all 12 core credit hours (4 courses).

1. CRIJ 6301: Theories of Criminal Justice
2. CRIJ 6302: Advanced Criminology
3. CRIJ 6308: Criminal Justice Research Methods (Prerequisite for CRIJ 6309)
4. CRIJ 6309: Criminal Justice Research Methods and Statistics

CRIJ 6301 and CRIJ 6308 are typically offered in the Fall Semester of each academic year, so all master's students are expected to complete these required core classes.

CRIJ 6302 and CRIJ 6309 are typically offered in the Spring Semester of each academic year, so all master's students are expected to complete these required core classes.

Note: The four (4) core classes will be covered in the comprehensive examination.

Other Core Requirements. All master's students must complete at least six additional core credit hours (2 courses).

1. CRIJ 6303: Policing in a Democracy
2. CRIJ 6304: Criminal Procedure
3. CRIJ 6305: Correctional Theories and Issues
4. CRIJ 6306: Criminal Justice Policy Analysis
5. CRIJ 6307: Criminal Justice Organizations: Theory and Behavior

Other core classes are typically offered during the Fall and Spring Semesters, so students are encouraged to complete at least one per semester when such courses are scheduled.

Electives. Master's students may complete up to 18 Criminal Justice elective credit hours (6 courses)

1. CRIJ 6310: Theories of Juvenile Delinquency and Justice
2. CRIJ 6311: World Criminal Justice Systems and International Crimes
3. CRIJ 6314: Courts and Correctional Issues
4. CRIJ 6315: Victimology
5. CRIJ 6316: Environmental Crime and Justice
6. CRIJ 6318: Law in Culture and Society
7. CRIJ 6319: Women, Law and Justice
8. CRIJ 6322: Terrorism

9. CRIJ 6323: Advanced Restorative and Community Justice
10. CRIJ 6325: Social Justice and Human Rights

Note: The Master of Science in Criminal Justice Degree Plan allows students to take up to two (2) external graduate electives from any discipline at UTRGV, which will be counted toward the elective credit hours, so if a student exercises this option, then the student will take a maximum of four criminal justice electives. The elective hours may also vary depending on the student's exit option (more information below). Regardless of the chosen option, all students must have 36 credit hours.

Suppose students want to pursue an independent study course, which will count towards their electives. In that case, they are encouraged to review the course description and be familiar with the requirements below.

CRIJ 6331: Independent Study (May be repeated once if topic and course description are different)

Description:

In conjunction with formal coursework, graduate students may request to complete an independent study course (CRIJ 6331) under the supervision of a graduate faculty and mentor and approved by the graduate coordinator and department chair. Independent study may not be used for any course already in the catalog (e.g., students may not ask to take CRIJ 63xx as an independent study course). The independent study should be student-initiated and related to the criminal justice discipline. An independent and advanced study aims to allow students to focus on a specialized topic to help them gain self-directed learning proficiency. Before considering an independent study course, students should have at least completed all the core requirements in the degree plan and discussed the independent study requirements with the faculty member of interest and the graduate coordinator. Students may repeat an independent study only once if it is a new topic.

The purpose of the following guidelines is to help standardize the way independent studies are conducted in the Department of Criminal Justice.

Guidelines:

Ideally, an independent study should be taken if there are no available electives offered during a particular semester, if a student is in their final semester and has a unique research interest and possible access that is not available through any other graduate

course, or rarely an exception can be made in the case of an emergency.

The graduate program coordinator and the department chair must approve an independent study course.

1. The graduate faculty who has agreed to mentor students in an independent study course must submit a syllabus outlining readings to be completed, assignments, and due dates at least seven days before the term start date, as with all syllabi as required by UTRGV.
2. Mid-term reports from the student must be submitted to the graduate coordinator by the faculty mentor, documenting work before the end of the eighth week of the term during long semesters (Fall and Spring). A copy of the research/work completed must be submitted with the final grade request to the graduate coordinator and department chair at least two days before the official date for grade submission to UTRGV. The due dates for the semester must submit Independent study course reports the study is being done. Fall Semester—Mid-term report by October 31; Final report must be submitted at least two days before the official date for grade submission to UTRGV; Spring Semester—Spring Break must submit mid-term report; Final report must be submitted at least two days before the official date for grade submission to UTRGV. Summer I- Mid-term report by the third week in June, and a final report must be submitted at least two days before the official date for grade submission to UTRGV; Summer
3. II—Mid-term report by the third week in July, and a final report must be submitted at least two days before the official date for grade submission to UTRGV.
4. Following the graduate coordinator's review of the reports, the department chair will review and sign said reports.

Instructions for completing the Independent Study Course Request Form:

Independent Study Department of Criminal Justice courses require approval before student registration. The student and the faculty mentor should arrange independent study courses and expectations to facilitate the process.

Students must be accepted and enrolled in the MSCJ program to be eligible for an independent study course. An independent study course is worth three credit hours. It is possible to repeat an independent study course if it is a new topic, but up to two courses can be taken (a maximum of 6 credit hours).

Instructions:

1. Obtain and complete the Independent Study Course Request Form.
2. Obtain the signatures of the instructor/faculty mentor, graduate program coordinator, and department chair.
3. Submit the signed form to the Administrative Assistant, who will confer with the department chair and, upon approval, create the course.
4. The student is responsible for signing up for the class before the posted add/drop deadline (see UTRGV's Academic Calendar <https://www.utrgv.edu/files/documents/admissions/utrgv-academic-calendar.pdf> for published deadlines).
5. A copy of the independent study request form will be placed in the student's file.

To Students:

You are responsible for requesting an independent course study before the start of the semester. Given that approval is needed and your instructor must plan for said course, requesting an independent study course during the early registration period is advisable.

CRIJ 6333: Special Topics Course (May be repeated once if topic and course description are different)

Prerequisite: Graduate Status and Good Academic Standing

Course Description:

Special topics courses are developed and taught by faculty that may address a current or timely issue in the criminal justice field or a topic not offered in the regular MSCJ curriculum based on that faculty member's expertise. Course content or subject matter will vary based on that course title and description. Students can repeat Special topics courses once if the course title and description differ.

Transfer of Course Credits

Customarily, all work for the master's degree must be done at UTRGV. However, under some circumstances, up to nine (9) credit hours of graduate work can be transferred to the Program of Study if:

1. Credits earned (equivalent to A or B) must have been from an accredited regional or international institution.
2. Credit must be appropriately documented (course description from institution's

catalog, official transcript, the official explanation of institution numbering and grading system)

3. The student is in a current graduate program and good standing.
4. The course is equivalent to a graduate-level system at UTRGV and is appropriate for an elective.
5. Transfer of graduate credits is optional. Please see for more information: <https://www.utrgv.edu/graduate/for-new-and-current-students/transfer-of-graduate-credit/index.htm>.

Program Exit Options

Graduate students earning a Master of Science in Criminal Justice can complete one of three program exit options: a comprehensive examination, a thesis, or an applied research project.

Typically, full-time students declare their exit option at the end of their first year or after completing 18 credit hours toward the degree. Part-time students taking two courses per semester may do so by their third year (sixth semester).

Students interested in completing the comprehensive examination should find the information below helpful.

Comprehensive Examination. The written comprehensive examinations focus on information and materials the criminal justice program covers. Specifically, the examinations will cover the four core subjects: Theories of Criminal Justice (CRIJ 6301), Advanced Criminology (CRIJ 6302), Criminal Justice Research Methods (CRIJ 6308), and Criminal Justice Research Methods and Statistics (CRIJ 6309). Please see pp. 41-46 for more comprehensive examination and grading criteria information.

Students in the traditional program must inform the Criminal Justice Graduate Program Coordinator of their plans to complete the comprehensive examination by their second year. Students in the AOP track should notify the Graduate Program Coordinator after completing all required core courses of their plans to complete the comprehensive examination. In addition to completing the comprehensive examination, students must complete 36 credit hours of coursework. Students must complete and pass the examination during their final semester or module of the program. The Criminal Justice Graduate Program Coordinator usually schedules the comprehensive examination during the Fall and Spring Semesters, and AOP has two each Fall and Spring Semesters.

To better assist students with their degree plan, please review the requirements below for

those who choose the comprehensive examination as their program exit option.

(36 Hours) Comprehensive Examination Option Required Core Courses (12 Hours)

CRIJ 6301: Theories of Criminal Justice
CRIJ 6302: Advanced Criminology
CRIJ 6308: C.J. Research Methods [Pre-req for 6309]
CRIJ 6309: C.J. Research Methods and Statistics

OTHER CORE REQUIREMENTS (6 Hours)

CRIJ 6303: Policing in a Democracy
CRIJ 6304: Criminal Procedure
CRIJ 6305: Correctional Theories and Issues
CRIJ 6306: Criminal Justice Policy Analysis
CRIJ 6307: C.J. Organizations: Theory and Behavior

Electives (Choose 6 Courses/18 Hours)

CRIJ 6310: Theories of Juvenile Delinquency & Justice
CRIJ 6311: World C.J. Systems & International Crimes
CRIJ 6314: Courts & Correctional Issues
CRIJ 6315: Victimology
CRIJ 6316: Environmental Crime & Justice
CRIJ 6318: Law in Culture & Society
CRIJ 6319: Women, Law, and Justice
CRIJ 6322: Terrorism
CRIJ 6323: Advanced Restorative and Comm. Justice
CRIJ 6325: Social Justice and Human Rights
CRIJ 6331: Independent Study
CRIJ 6333: Special Topics

Sit for and pass the MSCJ Comprehensive Exam (the minimum passing mark is 70% in at least 3 out of 4 subject areas)

For the thesis option (see the thesis guide), detailed instructions on creating a thesis committee, the writing process, and the required forms are found below.

To better assist students with their degree plan, please review the requirements below for those who choose the Thesis Project as their program exit option. This exit option is not

available for the AOP delivery format.

(36 Hours) Thesis Project Option

Required Core Courses (12 Hours)

CRIJ 6301: Theories of Criminal Justice
CRIJ 6302: Advanced Criminology
CRIJ 6308: C.J. Research Methods [Pre-req for 6309]
CRIJ 6309: C.J. Research Methods and Statistics

Other Core Requirements (6 Hours)

CRIJ 6303: Policing in a Democracy
CRIJ 6304: Criminal Procedure
CRIJ 6305: Correctional Theories and Issues
CRIJ 6306: Criminal Justice Policy Analysis
CRIJ 6307: C.J. Organizations: Theory and Behavior

Electives (Choose 4 Courses/12 Hours)

CRIJ 6310: Theories of Juvenile Delinquency & Justice
CRIJ 6311: World C.J. Systems & International Crimes
CRIJ 6314: Courts & Correctional Issues
CRIJ 6315: Victimology
CRIJ 6316: Environmental Crime & Justice
CRIJ 6318: Law in Culture & Society
CRIJ 6319: Women, Law, and Justice
CRIJ 6322: Terrorism
CRIJ 6323: Advanced Restorative and Comm. Justice
CRIJ 6325: Social Justice and Human Rights
CRIJ 6331: Independent Study
CRIJ 6333: Special Topics

Thesis Project (6 Hrs.)

CRIJ 7300: Master's Thesis I
CRIJ 7301: Master's Thesis II – Defense
CRIJ 7100: MSCJ Thesis Completion/Extension
(1 hour only if needed and after completing CRIJ 7300 and 7301. This one-hour option

benefits students who must pay for only ONE hour rather than THREE if they need more time.)

Submit and successfully defend a Thesis project.

Applied Research Project

If students choose an applied research project, they should have a basic understanding of applied research and the requirements for completing such a project. This option is not available to those in the AOP delivery format.

The applied research project also requires a committee and functions similarly to a thesis. The Applied Research Project option may be ideal for students interested in being practitioners or continuing in their chosen position. An applied research project addresses a "real-world" criminal justice policy and practice issue, and in short, it focuses on problems and is solution-driven instead of trends and concepts. The final project must be presented similarly to the Thesis process (e.g., register for 7303 during the final semester, apply to IRB, collect and analyze data, and write a manuscript).

What is applied research in criminal justice?

Applied research is the production of valuable and new knowledge, devices, systems, materials, or methods that have the potential for positive and practical application in criminal justice settings and can guide criminal justice policy and practice. Applied research has been at, and continues to be, the center of the fields of criminal justice and criminology since its foundations were developed.

Applied research is usually contrasted with pure or basic research. Basic research aims to develop new theories and methods that help explain how the organization of physical or human environments evolves. Primary research is also used to create knowledge (e.g., professors typically engage in basic/pure research—a professor may examine the impact of drug use on academic performance).

In contrast, applied research uses current techniques or theories to understand better and solve specific policy problems. Applied research provides (e.g., practitioners—a practitioner may examine how to reduce recidivism rates among drug offenders) the opportunity to use theories and methods in the ultimate proving ground of the natural world, as well as allowing researchers to contribute to the resolution of real-world problems. More generally, a theory is crucial in applied research at two levels. First, it provides the framework for asking questions about the substantive relationships embodied in a problem. Second, social theory provides a normative standard against

which current and future social conditions may be judged regarding defined goals.

While pure and applied research use similar data collection methods (e.g., interviews, surveys, observations), the end goals differ. In addition to being more specific and practical, applied research offers several advantages, including testing empirical evidence, finding practical solutions, and discovering new information.

Applied Research Project consists of three (3) faculty members, with at least two Department of Criminal Justice graduate faculty (a committee chairperson and two committee members). Candidates may request the addition of a fourth committee member if needed.

The chair of this committee is your applied project advisor and will direct the applied project planning and subsequent activities. The committee chair will assist with the following:

- Formation of plans for the applied project activity
- Supervision of applied project activity and subsequent writing
- Preparation of research protocol material for the UTRGV Institutional Review Board (IRB)
- Completing program and university procedures for completing and defending the applied project.

To better assist students with their degree plan, please review the requirements below for those who choose the applied research project as their program exit option.

(36 Hours) Applied Research Project Option

Required Core Courses (12 Hours)

CRIJ 6301: Theories of Criminal Justice
CRIJ 6302: Advanced Criminology
CRIJ 6308: C.J. Research Methods [Pre-req for 6309]
CRIJ 6309: C.J. Research Methods and Statistics

Other Core Requirements (6 Hours)

CRIJ 6303: Policing in a Democracy
CRIJ 6304: Criminal Procedure
CRIJ 6305: Correctional Theories and Issues

CRIJ 6306: Criminal Justice Policy Analysis
CRIJ 6307: C.J. Organizations: Theory and Behavior

Electives (Choose 4 Courses/12 Hours)

CRIJ 6310: Theories of Juvenile Delinquency & Justice
CRIJ 6311: World C.J. Systems & International Crimes
CRIJ 6314: Courts & Correctional Issues
CRIJ 6315: Victimology
CRIJ 6316: Environmental Crime & Justice
CRIJ 6318: Law in Culture & Society
CRIJ 6319: Women, Law, and Justice
CRIJ 6322: Terrorism
CRIJ 6323: Advanced Restorative and Comm. Justice
CRIJ 6325: Social Justice and Human Rights
CRIJ 6331: Independent Study
CRIJ 6333: Special Topics

Applied Research Project (6 Hrs.)

CRIJ 7302: Applied Research Project I
CRIJ 7303: Applied Research Project – Defense

Submit and successfully defend an Applied Research Project.

*Faculty who do not teach in the graduate program and serve as graduate faculty may not serve on any of the above committees, teach independent study courses, or teach special topics classes.

Graduate Assistantship Opportunities

Pending funding availability, the Department of Criminal Justice offers Graduate Assistantships to qualifying current and prospective graduate students. The Department follows the guidelines provided by the Graduate College.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTS (GAs) IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Minimum qualifications include:

- Admissions to the Master of Criminal Justice (MSCJ) program
- Must be enrolled full-time (nine (9) credit hours during fall/spring; three (3) credit hours during summer) unless the student is in the final semester of the program (expected graduation)
- Minimum cumulative GPA of at least 3.0

In addition to the minimum qualifications above, excellent interpersonal, organizational, and leadership skills are recommended.

Note: Not Eligible for Non-Resident Tuition Waiver

Guidelines: Roles and Responsibilities

- G.A.s may assist the Department of Criminal Justice and its faculty by performing administrative/clerk duties (for example, organizing events, office procedures – answering the phone, filing, etc.)
- G.A.s may help plan, schedule, and organize undergraduate recruitment events.
- G.A.s may help prepare reports when appropriate.
- G.A.s may work on projects, when appropriate, with an assigned supervisor.
- G.A.'s duties do not include teaching and conducting research.
- G.A.s may help locate information (e.g., finding information in the library).
- G.A.'s tasks should be related to the criminal justice field.

*G.A.s cannot exceed 20 hours per week.

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTS (GTAs) IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Minimum qualifications include:

- Admissions to the Master of Criminal Justice (MSCJ) program
- Must be enrolled full-time (nine (9) credit hours during fall/spring; three (3) credit hours during summer) unless the student is in the final semester of the program (expected graduation)
- Minimum cumulative GPA of at least 3.0

Note: Eligible for Non-Resident Tuition Waiver

Guidelines: Roles and Responsibilities

1. Faculty Members and GTAs should meet before classes start to review and discuss expectations and address any questions or concerns GTAs may have.
2. At the initial meeting, the GTAs should be encouraged to take advantage of the university and any departmental program(s) that enrich pedagogy competencies and practices.
3. GTAs will be provided with a copy of the course syllabus (or syllabi) to help review course expectations and prepare for their role as GTAs.
4. Faculty members (s) should provide free copies of support and learning materials to GTAs when appropriate or possible to help them understand their role.
5. To help the GTAs be effective in their role, it is critical to provide meaningful feedback via meetings to discuss areas of concern, progress, and best practices that are consistent and fair.
6. The GTAs should be allowed to observe other instructors at different levels (for example, lecturer, assistant professor, professor) to see how they cover the content and general teaching /delivery style ideas.

7. Based on GTAs' preparation and ability, they should be given opportunities to guest lecture on a course topic of interest covered that semester. The GTAs can deliver part or all of the lecture as deemed appropriate.
8. Faculty members should provide clear instructions and feedback to GTAs about how the opportunity to teach (guest lecture) will contribute to their professional development and the Department of Criminal Justice's curriculum, so learning objectives should be clear, and any assignments given should align with the learning objectives.
9. Besides observing GTAs' teaching and offering constructive feedback, the faculty member should also meet with the GTA before their teaching to address questions and concerns so that suggestions can be provided.
10. In cases where GTAs assist with grading assignment(s) or even giving lessons, faculty member(s) must review the grades and assignments periodically to ensure accuracy and appropriateness.
11. Given that GTAs are also students completing their studies, workload expectations should be reasonable and be within 20 hours per week, so GTAs must document their hours and activities.
12. Faculty member(s) should meet toward or at the end of the semester to review grades (and submission of grades where appropriate), offer constructive feedback, and allow GTAs to share their experience for future improvement.

*GTAs cannot exceed 20 hours per week.

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS (GRAs) IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Minimum qualifications include:

- Admissions to the Master of Criminal Justice (MSCJ) program
- Must be enrolled full-time (nine credit (9) hours during fall/spring; three (3) credit hours during summer) unless the student is in the final semester of the program (expected graduation)
- Minimum cumulative GPA of at least 3.0

Note: Eligible for Non-Resident Tuition Waiver

GUIDELINES: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All Graduate Research Assistants' (GRAs) responsibilities in the Department of Criminal Justice must involve research. A Criminal Justice faculty member must supervise a GRA. As expected, the GRA may provide relevant research support to the faculty member(s) that contributes to the mission of the Department and the broader UTRGV research goals. GRA support may include drafting literature reviews, collecting and analyzing data, attending project/grant meetings, searching for and communicating with funding agencies, preparing presentations, and other activities linked to research.

Examples of other responsibilities may include but are not limited to:

- Developing research ideas that align with research objectives.
- Supervising undergraduate student researchers.
- Conducting independent and relevant research on student retention, program success, etc., that aligns with the Department's mission.

Required abilities and skills:

- Must know basic research principles and ethical guidelines.
- Must know critical criminal justice issues and issues related to the assignment.

- Must have knowledge and research skills to locate resources and funding agencies.
- Must have access to a computer, basic computer skills, and an understanding of standard software applications.
- Must have good interpersonal and communication skills (verbal and written)
- Must be able to plan, coordinate, and organize relevant research activities.
- Must be disciplined and punctual.

*GRAs cannot exceed 20 hours per week.

APPENDICES

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Master of Science in Criminal Justice

Traditional Degree Plan

Name	
Address	
Email	
Contact Number	
Student Identification Number	
Semester Admitted to Program	

Degree Program Option	Thesis Track	Applied Research Project Track	Comprehensive Exam Track

REQUIRED COURSES (12 Hrs.)				
COURSE #	COURSE TITLE	HRS.	GRADE	TERM
CRIJ 6301	Theories of Criminal Justice	3		
CRIJ 6302	Advanced Criminology	3		
CRIJ 6308	CJ Research Methods [Pre-req for 6309]	3		
CRIJ 6309	CJ Research Methods and Statistics	3		

OTHER CORE REQUIREMENTS (AT LEAST 6 Hrs.)				
COURSE #	COURSE TITLE	HRS.	GRADE	TERM
CRIJ 6303	Policing in a Democracy	3		
CRIJ 6304	Criminal Procedure	3		
CRIJ 6305	Correctional Theories and Issues	3		
CRIJ 6306	Criminal Justice Policy Analysis	3		
CRIJ 6307	CJ Organizations: Theory and Behavior	3		

ELECTIVES: 6-18 HRS (AT LEAST 6 Hrs.)				
COURSE #	COURSE TITLE	HRS.	GRADE	TERM
CRIJ 6310	Theories of Juvenile Delinquency & Justice	3		
CRIJ 6311	World C.J. Systems & International Crimes	3		

CRIJ 6314	Courts & Correctional Issues	3		
CRIJ 6315	Victimology	3		
CRIJ 6316	Environmental Crime & Justice	3		
CRIJ 6318	Law in Culture & Society	3		
CRIJ 6319	Women, Law, and Justice	3		
CRIJ 6322	Terrorism	3		
CRIJ 6323	Advanced Restorative and Comm. Justice	3		
CRIJ 6325	Social Justice and Human Rights	3		
CRIJ 6331	Independent Study (Repeated once if new topic)	3		
CRIJ 6333	Special Topics (Repeated once if new topic)	3		

THESIS OR APPLIED RESEARCH PROJECT (6 Hrs.)				
COURSE #	COURSE TITLE	HRS.	GRADE	TERM
CRIJ 7300	Master's Thesis I	3		
CRIJ 7301	Master's Thesis II – Defense	3		
CRIJ 7100	MSCJ Thesis Completion/Extension	1		
CRIJ 7302	Applied Research Project I	3		
CRIJ 7303	Applied Research Project – Defense	3		

TITLES AND DATES		
OPTION	TITLE	DATE OF DEFENSE/COMPLETION
Thesis		
Applied Research Project		
Comprehensive Examination	MSCJ COMPREHENSIVE EXAM	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS		
COMMITTEE	NAME	CHAIR OR MEMBER
Thesis (3)		

Applied Research Project (3)			
Comprehensive Examination (4)			
CRIJ 6301			
CRIJ 6302			
CRIJ 6308			
CRIJ 6309			
SIGNATURES			
TITLE	TYPED NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
Name of Thesis/Applied Master's Research Project Committee Chair			
Graduate Program Coordinator (Traditional)	Dr. Marika Dawkins		
Chair, Department of Criminal Justice	Dr. Gordon Crews		
Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, College of Liberal Arts	Dr. Pamela Anderson-Mejias		

*Thesis Committees require a Chair and at least two additional faculty members as approved by the Graduate Program Coordinator

* Because summer classes are optional for faculty members, they may not be available to cover thesis courses during the summer sessions, so you may need to register during the Fall or Spring Semester to complete your thesis.

*Applied Research Project Committees require a Chair and two additional faculty members as approved by the Graduate Program Coordinator

*Comprehensive Examination Committees will consist of four faculty members who have most recently taught the four required core courses and submitted essay questions for the exam. These individuals will also be the double-blind evaluators of the submissions

*Faculty who do not teach in the graduate program and serve as graduate faculty may not serve on any of the above committees, teach independent study courses, or teach special topics classes.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

**Master of Science in Criminal Justice
AOP Degree Plan**

Name				
Address				
Email				
Contact Number				
Student Identification Number				
Semester Admitted to Program				
Degree Track	Accelerated Online Program			
Degree Program Option	Comprehensive Examination	Date Taken	Passed/Failed	
REQUIRED COURSES (12 Hrs.)				
COURSE #	COURSE TITLE	HRS.	GRADE	TERM
CRIJ 6301	Theories of Criminal Justice	3		
CRIJ 6302	Advanced Criminology	3		
CRIJ 6308	CJ Research Methods [Pre-req for 6309]	3		
CRIJ 6309	CJ Research Methods and Statistics	3		
OTHER CORE REQUIREMENTS (AT LEAST 6 Hrs.)				
COURSE #	COURSE TITLE	HRS.	GRADE	TERM
CRIJ 6303	Policing in a Democracy	3		
CRIJ 6304	Criminal Procedure	3		
CRIJ 6305	Correctional Theories and Issues	3		
CRIJ 6306	Criminal Justice Policy Analysis	3		
CRIJ 6307	CJ Organizations: Theory and Behavior	3		
ELECTIVES: 6-18 HRS (AT LEAST 6 Hrs.)				
COURSE #	COURSE TITLE	HRS.	GRADE	TERM
CRIJ 6310	Theories of Juvenile Delinquency & Justice	3		
CRIJ 6311	World C.J. Systems & International Crimes	3		
CRIJ 6314	Courts & Correctional Issues	3		
CRIJ 6315	Victimology	3		
CRIJ 6316	Environmental Crime & Justice	3		
CRIJ 6318	Law in Culture & Society	3		

CRIJ 6319	Women, Law, and Justice	3		
CRIJ 6322	Terrorism	3		
CRIJ 6323	Advanced Restorative and Comm. Justice	3		
CRIJ 6325	Social Justice and Human Rights	3		
CRIJ 6331	Independent Study (Repeated once if new topic)	3		
CRIJ 6333	Special Topics (Repeated once if new topic)	3		
APPROVED OUTSIDE ELECTIVES (6 Hrs.)				
COURSE #	COURSE TITLE	HRS.	GRADE	TERM
		3		
		3		
SIGNATURES				
TITLE	TYPED NAME	SIGNATURE		DATE
Graduate Program Coordinator (AOP)	Dr. Gordon A. Crews			
Chair, Department of Criminal Justice	Dr. Gordon A. Crews			
Senior Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, College of Liberal Arts	Dr. Pamela Anderson- Mejias			

*Students in the AOP track can only take the Comprehensive Examination option in this program.

*Comprehensive Examination developers/evaluators will consist of four faculty members who have most recently taught the four required core courses and submitted essay questions for the exam. These individuals will also be the double-blind evaluators of the submissions

INDEPENDENT STUDY COURSE REQUEST FORM

Must be completed by students requesting an independent study course approval.

Please type or print to complete the form.

Student Name:	Student UTRGV ID Number:	Date:
Topic:		

UTRGV Email Address:	Term (please mark one) Year: Fall Spring Summer I Summer II
3-Semester Credit Hours	Faculty Mentor Name:
Independent Study Course: CRIJ 6331	

<p>Independent Study Course Descriptive Topic:</p> <p>Please include a brief description of the Independent study course immediately below. For example, please provide an overview of learning objectives, required textbooks or assigned readings, time commitment, specific skills to be addressed, and expectations for evaluation and final grade (if the space below is inadequate, please add another sheet).</p>

Required Approvals:	
Instructor/Faculty Mentor for Course Name Signature	Date
Graduate Program Coordinator Name Signature	Date

Department of Criminal Justice Chair Name Signature	Date
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Department of Criminal Justice Chair Name Signature	Date
--	------

Department of Criminal Justice Chair Name Signature	Date
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APPLICATION FOR THE APPLIED RESEARCH PROJECT

Student name:

Date:

Student ID:

Degree sought: Master of Science in Criminal Justice in the Department of Criminal Justice.

Applied Research Project title:

TO BE APPROVED BY THE STUDENT'S ADVISOR, THE DEAN OF THE COLLEGE, AND THE DEAN OF THE GRADUATE COLLEGE

Name of Committee Chair

Name of Committee Member

Name of Committee Member

Type a brief statement of the proposed thesis topic:

I agree to supervise this student in preparing the applied research project described above.

Signature of the Committee Chair

APPROVAL OF THE COMMITTEE AS NOTED

Student's Graduate Advisor Date

Department Chair Date Associate Dean of Graduate Studies in CLA Date

Dean of the Graduate College Date

Edinburg Campus: 1201 West University Drive. MASS 1.158 Edinburg, Texas, 78541.

PHONE (956) 665-3661 FAX (956) 665-2242 Brownsville Campus: One West University Blvd.

Sabal Hall 1.202 Brownsville, Texas, 78520. PHONE (956) 882-6552 FAX (956)882-7279

MSCJ COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

What is an MSCJ Comprehensive Examination?

This essay exam is an evaluation that measures a student's competency and mastery of the primary concepts in the Master of Science in Criminal Justice (MSCJ) at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and is academically housed in the Department of Criminal Justice. Through administering the MSCJ Comprehensive Exam, graduate faculty verify that students grasp the key elements of the academic program and meet the student learning outcomes of the MSCJ program.

What does the MSCJ Comprehensive Exam Involve?

The MSCJ Comprehensive Exam consists of four (4) essay questions. All questions will focus on each of the required Core Courses that all MSCJ students must take during their degree program:

CRIJ 6301: Theories of Criminal Justice CRIJ 6302: Advanced Criminology

CRIJ 6308: Criminal Justice Research Methods

CRIJ 6309: Criminal Justice Research Methods and Statistics

These questions are developed and graded each term by graduate faculty in the Department who specialize and teach the courses. These faculty members will also prepare a review sheet/information and disseminate it before each exam to serve as a study aid for those qualifying. Students are encouraged to meet with/contact each listed faculty member to discuss their expectations and guidance.

The required courses are as follows:

CRIJ 6301 Theories of Criminal Justice: Historical overview of the philosophies and theories of justice that have impacted the American mind, the Constitution, and criminal law; federal and state criminal justice systems, and the processing of the accused and the convicted leading to correctional placement and punishment; critical examination of the criminal justice system in the context of justice needs and reforms.

CRIJ 6302 Advanced Criminology: A comprehensive overview of the classical and contemporary theories in criminology; theory construction and testing; the nature of criminological research; the impact of ideology, politics, and social structure on criminological thought; extent, volume, distribution, types and trends of crime in America.

CRIJ 6308 Criminal Justice Research Methods: Basic qualitative and quantitative research methods and techniques; research ethics; identifying variables; research design, structuring criminal justice inquiry; participant observation/ethnography; overview of basic statistics; introduction to SPSS; writing the research paper. It should be taken in sequence before CRIJ 6309.

CRIJ 6309 Criminal Justice Research Methods and Statistics: Advanced criminal justice research and statistics; probability sampling and hypothesis testing; parametric and non-parametric statistical techniques; multivariate statistics; experiment and quasi-experiment; survey research; survey research project and paper involving data collections, entry, and analysis using SPSS; use of data from documentary and historical records; evaluative and predictive research. Prerequisite CRIJ 6308.

How is the MSCJ Comprehensive Exam administered?

The exam consists of four (4) comprehensive essay questions based on each core required class in the MSCJ program. Each term, the assigned graduate faculty will generate new questions for each course, and the same faculty will grade the questions they developed. A second graduate faculty member will also evaluate each response. The date and location of the exam will be announced within the first two weeks of each term.

The examination will be conducted in two (2) sessions: a morning session from 8:00 to 1:00 p.m. and an afternoon session from 1:30 to 6:30 p.m. Students will have two (2) hours to complete each essay question. The proctor will collect responses at the end of each exam period, or if online, the system will force the end completion and submission of a reply.

Activity	Start	End	Format	Comments
Overview of Exam Day and Process	8:00 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	Appropriate Graduate Coordinator's Zoom Group Meeting with all exam students	This is to discuss the activities of the day and answer any questions.
Question 1 CRIJ 6301	8:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	Online/Blackboard	Core Required Class
Break	10:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	Your choice	Be back before 10:45

				a.m.
Question 2 CRIJ 6302	11:00 a.m.	1:00 p.m.	Online/ Blackboard	Core Required Class
Lunch Break	1:00 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	Your choice	Be back before 12:45 p.m.
Question 3 CRIJ 6308	1:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	Online/ Blackboard	Core Required Class
Break	3:30 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	Your choice	Be back before 3:45 p.m.
Question 4 CRIJ 6309	4:00 p.m.	6:00 p.m.	Online/ Blackboard	Core Required Class
Wrap-up and Next Steps	6:00 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	Appropriate Graduate Coordinator's Zoom Group Meeting with all exam students	This will discuss the grading process, student notification, and next steps.

How is the MSCJ Comprehensive Exam graded?

Each exam question is scored by at least two (2) graduate faculty members who have offered one or more of the covered courses in the preceding two (2) years.

For a question to be "passed," it needs to earn at least 2 "passes" (i.e., P or P/E).

For an exam to be "passed," 3 of the four questions must be "passed" by grading graduate faculty. See the "Comprehensive Exam Grading Rubric" below for more details.

The Appropriate Graduate Coordinator (AGC) (i.e., traditional or AOP) compares and calculates the scores. If there are any discrepancies or profound differences, the appropriate Graduate Coordinator will score the exam for the final decision (i.e., serve as a "tiebreaker"). This will occur within seven (7) days of the exam.

F = Failed

P = Passed
P/E = Pass Exceeds

Question 1 (CRIJ 6301)

Reader 1:	F	P	P/E
Reader 2:	F	P	P/E
AGC:	F	P	P/E (if needed)

Question 2 (CRIJ 6302)

Reader 1:	F	P	P/E
Reader 2:	F	P	P/E
AGC:	F	P	P/E (if needed)

Question 3 (CRIJ 6308)

Reader 1:	F	P	P/E
Reader 2:	F	P	P/E
AGC:	F	P	P/E (if needed)

Question 4 (CRIJ 6309)

Reader 1:	F	P	P/E
Reader 2:	F	P	P/E
AGC:	F	P	P/E (if needed)

These exam results are expected to be completed by the grading graduate faculty within seven (7) days of their occurrence. If a student does not "pass" the exam, they will have one more attempt allowed, and this second attempt will occur at the next scheduled MSCJ Comprehensive Exam. The second attempt will feature similar questions.

Grading Rubric for MSCJ Comprehensive Exam Questions

The graduate faculty evaluators use the following in grading each question:

Master of Science in Criminal Justice (MSCJ) Comprehensive Exam Grading Rubric			
Criteria	Pass/Exceeds = 90 minimum (range 90-100 points)	Pass = 70 total points minimum (range 70-89 points)	Fail = less than or equal to 69 points
Content and Support P/E = 63-70 points Pass = 49-62 points Fail = less than or equal to 48	63-70 points The response comprehensively addresses each part of the question, including specific supporting details and insight to demonstrate learning.	49-62 points The response addresses each part of the question and includes general supporting statements and observations to demonstrate learning.	Less than or equal to 48 points The response does not address each part of the question; the claims in the response include inaccuracies or are not supported by current criminal justice theory and practice.
Organization and Mechanics P/E = 18-20 points Pass = 14-17 points Fail = less than or equal to 13 points	18-20 points The response is well organized with the prompt in mind to ensure a clear message; ideas flow well, and transitions do not detract from the message; virtually no errors (less than 6 distinct errors) in	14-17 points The response is organized and uses transitions to create a logical flow; minor grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors (6-10 distinct errors) may be present. The safe assignment/originality	Less than or equal to 13 points The ideas in the response could be more organized and may detract from the overall message. Significant grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors (11 or more distinct errors)

Formatting requirements for CRIJ 6301 and CRIJ 6302:

Your response should:

- be at least three complete pages long (or 750 words)
- be double-spaced

- include 1-inch margins
- use Times New Roman 12-point font

Formatting requirements for CRIJ 6308:

Your response should:

- be at least two complete pages long (or 500 words)
- be double-spaced
- include 1-inch margins
- use Times New Roman 12-point font

Formatting requirements for CRIJ 6309:

Your response should:

- be 1-2 pages long
- be double-spaced
- include 1-inch margins
- use Times New Roman 12-point font

When can one sit for the MSCJ Comprehensive Exam?

Technically, students can sit for the exam after they have completed the following:

CRIJ 6301
CRIJ 6302
CRIJ 6308
CRIJ 6309

Although the above is possible, it is highly recommended that students plan to take the MSCJ Comprehensive Exam during the final semester of their academic program to be fully prepared. Students should discuss this with their Graduate Coordinator before taking the exam.

Note: Please log in to our testing site and review the Technology Used page for more information on technology requirements for comprehensive examinations. To ensure academic integrity, we use SafeAssign to check for plagiarism.