

COMBINED DEGREE PROGRAM: BA CRIMINAL JUSTICE / MA CRIMINOLOGY

Program Overview

The Department of Sociology offers a Combined Degree Program for undergraduate criminal justice majors who would like to continue their education in the field. The program enables students to earn both a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and Master's degree in Criminology within five to five and a half years by counting some coursework toward both degrees. Students who are admitted to the program are able to take graduate courses during their senior year, and nine credits will count toward both the BA and MA degrees. This allows for a considerable cost and time saving, and also helps our department retain and further our engagement with our best students. When available, GW students who transition from a GW undergraduate to graduate degree are eligible for the Grad2Grad program which allows for reduced tuition. (See <http://graduate.admissions.gwu.edu/grad2grad-program> .)

Program Requirements

Students interested in matriculating into the Combined Degree Program need:

- An overall GPA of 3.40 or better at the time of application;
- A GPA of 3.50 or better in the major at the time of application;
- To apply to the graduate portion of the program ideally no later than the spring term of the junior year and after completing 75 undergraduate credits;
- To complete both an application form for the Combined Degree Program and the formal application for graduate admission;
 - The application must include the applicant's statement-of-interest in the program, a writing sample, three confidential letters of recommendation*, a resume, full transcripts of all undergraduate coursework, and a CCAS application form available at <https://columbian.gwu.edu/sites/columbian.gwu.edu/files/downloads/Combined%20Degree%20Application.pdf>
 - *The three confidential letters of recommendation must be from faculty members, at least two of which must come from faculty in the Sociology Department at GW. (Letters from Graduate Assistants are not acceptable.) The confidential letters may be e-mailed directly to the Director of Graduate Studies (preferred) or provided to the candidate in a sealed, signed envelope.
 - Students should submit all application materials to the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Sociology, not to CCAS, nor GW's online application system.
 - Applicants are not required to submit GRE scores.
 - Students need not pay the application fee for the MA.

Applicants will be informed of acceptance into the program in late spring of their junior year.

For the graduate program, students:

- Must earn a “B” or better in all graduate courses.
- Must complete a thesis or comprehensive exam as required of all MA students in Criminology.

Students interested in applying for the Combined Degree Program BA in Criminal Justice/MA in Criminology should see Professor Fran Buntman, Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) in Sociology, for more details (fbuntman@gwu.edu; Phillips Hall 409G).

Program Curriculum: BA

In addition to the **general curriculum requirements** of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Criminal Justice majors must satisfy the following requirements (39 credits total):

- Sociology pre-requisite – Either SOC 1001 or SOC 1002
 - Required Courses in Criminal Justice:
 - SOC 1003 – Introduction to Criminal Justice
 - SOC 2101—Social Research Methods
 - SOC 2102—Techniques of Data Analysis
 - SOC 2135—Youth and Delinquency
 - SOC 2136—Criminology
 - SOC 2145—Criminal Law
 - SOC 4192—Advanced Seminar in Criminal Justice (6 credits)
 - Five Electives out of the following classes (at least one of which must be from the Sociology Department and at least of which must be from another department):
 - SOC 2137 – Transnational Crime
 - SOC 2146 – The Bill of Rights and Criminal Justice
 - SOC 2167—Sociology of Law
 - SOC 2177—Sociology of the Sex Industry
 - SOC 2178—Deviance and Control
 - SOC 2184—Violence and the Family
 - SOC 2189—Special Topics in Criminal Justice: varies
 - PSYC 2011—Abnormal Psychology
 - PSYC 3154—Psychology of Crime and Violence
 - FORS 2104—Introduction to Forensic Science (Requires two lab sciences)
 - ANTH 3513—Human Rights and Ethics
 - HIST 2175—U.S. Constitutional History
 - PSC 2213—Judicial Politics (PSC 1002 is prerequisite)
 - PSC 2215—U.S. Constitutional Law (PSC 1002 is prerequisite)
 - PSC 2217 or PPPA 2217—Executive Branch Politics
 - ECON 2167—Economics of Crime (ECON 1011 & 1012 prerequisites)
 - Exceptions as permitted by a Criminal Justice advisor.
- ECON 2167 Economics of Crime (ECON 1011 & 1012 prerequisites)

Program Curriculum: MA

Criminology MA degree candidates must satisfy the following requirements (36 credits total):

- Three Methods courses: SOC 6230, SOC 6231, and either SOC 6232 or SOC 6240/MGT 6383.
- Two Criminology courses: SOC 6258 and SOC 6259.
- One Theory course: SOC 6238 or SOC 6239.
- One Criminal Law course: SOC 6257 or FORS 6224.
- Five additional electives from the list, including at least one offered by the Sociology Department in the area of Criminology and at least two offered by Forensic Science (one of which is Criminal Law for Forensic Scientists or Criminal Law as provided by the Department of Sociology).
 - Exceptions – e.g. classes from the Consortium or from other Departments at GWU – may be approved by the student’s advisor or the DGS.
- A Comprehensive Examination or a Thesis is required:
 - Comprehensive Examination: Written examination covering required coursework.
 - Master’s Thesis: Substitute SOC 6998 & 6999 (Thesis Research) for two elective courses. At least two Forensic Science and one Criminology elective must still be taken.