

CRIMINAL JUSTICE HANDBOOK **2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**Issued by the George Washington University
Department of Sociology**

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE CORE FACULTY

Prof. Fran Buntman

Phillips 409-G
fbuntman@gwu.edu

Prof. Carlos Bustamante

Phillips Hall 409-E
bustamante@gwu.edu

Kafafian, Matthew

Director of Graduate Studies
Office: 409 I
m.kafafian@gwu.edu

Prof. Kaitlyn DaVisio

k.davisio@gwu.edu

Prof. Heba Estafanous*

heba.estafanous@gwu.edu

Prof. Kevin Flynn*

kevin.flynn@gwu.edu

Prof. Terri Gale*

terriegale@gwu.edu

Prof. Andrea Johnson*

andreajohnson1@gwu.edu

Prof. Kevin Lopez*

kevin.lopez@gwu.edu

Prof. Laryssa Mykyta*

mykyta@gwu.edu

Prof. Alexandra Swanty*

alexandra.swanty@gwu.edu

Student Advising in Criminal Justice

In the academic year 2025-26, Professors Daina Eglitis, Fran Buntman, and Desmond Goss will be advising students in the Criminal Justice major. Please reach out to them for support with major and minor declarations, credit transfers, study abroad questions, and other advising issues. Advisors' office hours are available on the Department of Sociology website. Students seeking advising should contact the advisors at ugsoc@gwu.edu.

REQUIREMENTS: CRIMINAL JUSTICE MAJOR

1. Criminal Justice majors must complete the general requirements for Columbian School of Arts and Sciences majors (see the GWU Bulletin for Undergraduate Programs).

2. Required Core Courses (24 credits):

Prerequisites for upper-division Sociology courses:

SOC 1001 Introduction to Sociology

or SOC 1002 The Sociological Imagination

and 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 4195W: Senior Research Seminar*

or

SOC 4196 Criminal Justice in the Field*

3. Electives: FIVE courses selected from the following, including at least one Sociology (SOC) course and at least one non-Sociology course (15 credits):

AMST 1160 Race, Gender, and Law

ANTH 3513 OR 3512W Anthropology of Human Rights

ECON 2167 Economics of Crime

HIST 2341 History of FBI Counterintelligence

FORS 2107 Fundamentals of Forensic Science

HIST 3370 U.S. Constitutional History

PSC 2213 Judicial Politics

PSC 2215 U.S. Constitutional Law and Politics II

PSYC 2011 Abnormal Psychology

PSYC 2554 Psychology of Crime and Violence

SOC 2137 Transnational Crime

SOC 2138 Reentry

SOC 2139 Alternatives to Imprisonment

SOC 2143 Criminal Justice System Arrest through Appeal

SOC 2146 The Bill of Rights and Criminal Justice

SOC 2164 Sociology of the Holocaust and Genocide

SOC 2167 or SOC 2167W Sociology of Law

SOC 2178 Deviance and Control

SOC 2184 Violence and the Family

SOC 2185 Victims, Victimization, and the System

SOC 2189 Special Topics in Criminal Justice

+ Other relevant courses (e.g., new courses or special topics) will be considered subject to the program director's approval.

NOTE: Students should check prerequisites for non-Sociology electives.

Note: A student majoring in Sociology may not declare a second major or a minor in Criminal Justice, or vice versa.

* A Note on Senior Capstone Options

Students majoring in Criminal Justice must complete one of two senior capstone options. The options are as follows:

- **SOC 4195W:** Senior Research Seminar – This is a 3-credit course that is offered both Fall and Spring. Students in SOC 4195W will plan, research, and write a senior thesis. Students who earn a grade of A on the thesis are eligible for graduation with honors in the major if they meet other GPA requirements. Students planning to register for SOC 4195W must have completed SOC 2101: Social Research Methods and either SOC 2136: Criminology or SOC 2178: Deviance and Control.
- **SOC 4196:** Criminal Justice in the Field – This is a 3-credit course that is offered both Fall and Spring. Students registered for this course will meet once a week for a classroom seminar and must, in addition, hold a criminal justice-related internship for a minimum of 8 hours per week. See the Department of Sociology webpage for a list of recommended internship sites (others will also be considered – the list is for guidance). Students are responsible for finding their own internship, but are encouraged to consult CJ faculty and the Career Center for support. Students planning to register for SOC 4196 should have completed SOC 2136: Criminology and SOC 2145: Criminal Law.

A Note on SOC 4196 Internships

SOC 4196 requires every student **begin** the semester with an appropriate external professional experience (internship or job or volunteer position) in the criminal justice field, broadly defined.

- The minimum time requirement is eight hours a week and that eight hours must focus on criminal justice topics/activity.
- If students work for more than eight hours a week, the additional time may but does not need to focus on substantive criminal justice work.
- The name of the agency, organization, or employer is less important than the work you will be doing. For example, if you work for a police department but you are handling catering, your work would not be valid for this class. If you worked for a clothing retailer but you were focused on developing or implementing anti-shoplifting policies, that work is appropriate.
- Our department has a useful list of agencies and organizations where many of our students have completed previous internships, field assignments, and so on. Most of those entities focus on CJ issues, but you still need to check that YOUR work with them will involve at least eight hours a week on substantive CJ foci.
- You may work on topics or for organizations that are a part of the formal CJ system or are critical of that system, on policy or practice, and various substantive work (policing, punishment, victimization, courts, domestic or international, etc.)
- **Usually** working for law firms is not allowed because undergraduates are typically only assigned clerical work. If, however, students can confirm they are doing substantive work regarding criminal law or justice, a law firm position could work.
- Note that immigration law is mostly civil, not criminal law. However, the minority of immigration issues, such as work on U visas or detention conditions, may overlap with criminal justice and criminal law content.

A Note on Grades

Students seeking degrees granted by the Department of Sociology (Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Human Services & Social Justice) are required to earn a grade of C- or better in any course for the major or minor. If a student receives a grade of D+, D, or D-, the student may either option (1) repeat the course, in which case the grade in the repeated course must be no lower than a C- and grades for both the original and repeated courses would appear on the student's transcript; or option (2) take a 2100-level course in the same department, in addition to the minimum number of courses, and earn a grade no lower than C-. Option 1 must be approved by the department chair in writing before the student may register for a course a second time. Option 2 must be approved by Prof. Eglitis, Director of the Undergraduate Program for Sociology (ugsoc@gwu.edu).

REQUIREMENTS: CRIMINAL JUSTICE MINOR

Criminal Justice minors must complete the general requirements for Columbian School of Arts and Sciences minors (see the GWU Bulletin for Undergraduate Programs). For the minor, a total of **18 hours of coursework** must be completed, as follows:

1. **Required Courses** (12 credits):

Prerequisites for upper-division Sociology courses:
SOC 1001 Introduction to Sociology
or SOC 1002 The Sociological Imagination
and SOC 1003 Introduction to Criminal Justice
SOC 2136 Criminology
SOC 2145 Criminal Law

2. **Electives** (6 credits):

Any **TWO** of the following, with at least **ONE** Sociology course:

AMST 1160 Race, Gender, and Law
ANTH 3513 OR 3512W Anthropology of Human Rights
ECON 2167 Economics of Crime
FORS 2107 Fundamentals of Forensic Science
HIST 2341 History of FBI Counterintelligence
HIST 3370 U.S. Constitutional History
PSC 2213 Judicial Politics
PSC 2215 U.S. Constitutional Law and Politics II
PSYC 2011 Abnormal Psychology
PSYC 2554 Psychology of Crime and Violence
SOC 2135 Youth and Delinquency
SOC 2137 Transnational Crime
SOC 2138 Reentry (beginning in SP 24)
SOC 2139 Alternatives to Imprisonment
SOC 2143 Criminal Justice System Arrest Through Appeal
SOC 2146 The Bill of Rights and Criminal Justice
SOC 2164 Sociology of the Holocaust and Genocide
SOC 2167 or SOC 2167W Sociology of Law
SOC 2178 Deviance and Control
SOC 2184 Violence and the Family
SOC 2185 Victims, Victimization, and the System
SOC 2189 Special Topics in Criminal Justice
+ other relevant courses (e.g., new courses or special topics) will be considered subject to the program director's approval.

NOTE: Students should check prerequisites for non-Sociology electives.

A Note on Grades

Students seeking degrees granted by the Department of Sociology (Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Human Services & Social Justice) are required to earn a grade of C- or better in any course for the major or minor. If a student receives a grade of D+, D, or D-, the student may either option (1) repeat the course, in which case the grade in the repeated course must be no lower than a C- and grades for both the original and repeated courses would appear on the student's transcript; or option (2) take a 2100-level course in the same department, in addition to the minimum number of courses, and earn a grade no lower than C-. Option 1 must be approved by the department chair in writing before the student may register for a course a second time. Option 2 must be approved by Prof. Eglitis, Director of the Undergraduate Program for Sociology (dainas@gwu.edu).

LAW & SOCIETY MINOR

The interdisciplinary Law & Society minor is housed in the Department of Sociology and is open to all qualifying GWU undergraduates. The application form and instructions can be downloaded from the [Law & Society minor webpage](#). Admission to the minor requires a 3.3 min GPA, based on at least 30 credit hours at GW. (Transfer credits will also be considered.)

The Law and Society minor requires **18 credit hours** (excluding prerequisites) in total, structured as follows:

- **Two (2) required foundation courses** (6 credits):
- SOC 2167 Sociology of Law OR SOC 2167W Sociology of Law
- UW 2031W Equality and the Law: Introduction to Legal Research and Writing OR UW 2031 Equality and the Law

One (1) secondary foundation course selected from the following (3 credits):

- PHIL 3142 Philosophy of Law
- PSC 2214 U.S. Constitutional Law and Politics I
- PSC 2215 U.S. Constitutional Law and Politics II

Three (3) additional courses, which may be any of the two remaining courses listed immediately above and/or the courses listed below:

- ACCY 3601 Business Law: Contracts, Torts, and Property
- ACCY 4601 Business Law: Enterprise Organization
- BADM 4101 Business Ethics and the Legal Environment
- ECON 3190 Law and Economics
- GEOG 3193 Environmental Law and Policy
- HIST 3370 U.S. Constitutional History
- IAFF 2444 International Law
- IAFF 3183 Human Trafficking
- IAFF 3190 Humanitarian and International Development Law
- MAE 3171 Patent Law for Engineers
- PSC 2213 Judicial Politics
- PSC 2230 Law and Justice: The View from Hollywood
- PSC 2367 or PSC 2367W Human Rights
- PSC 2444 Public International Law (or IAFF 2444 International Law)
- PUBH 3115 Global Health and Human Rights
- PUBH 3136 Health Law
- SMPA 2173 Media Law
- SOC 2143 Criminal Justice System Arrest through Appeal
- SOC 2145 Criminal Law
- SOC 2146 Bill of Rights and Criminal Justice
- SOC 2988 Internship in Law and Society
- WGSS 3470 Sexuality and Law
- Other relevant courses (e.g., new or special topics) are subject to the L&S Director's approval

Note that:

- No more than two courses from any one department can be used to fulfill the requirements for the minor. The exception is when SOC 2988 is selected as an elective, a second SOC elective can be taken.

- No more than two courses may be counted for both the Law & Society minor and any other major or minor.
- We recommend that the two required foundation courses are taken before the other required and elective classes in the minor.

For further information on the minor, contact the Law & Society minor director(s) at lawandsociety@gwu.edu.

In Fall 2025, the director of L&S is Professor Carlos Bustamante.

Department of Sociology Annual Student Recognition Awards, 2025-26

The Department of Sociology seeks to recognize our excellent students with departmental awards. In addition to Special Honors, graduating majors are eligible for the following awards.

1) Outstanding Senior Awards:

- a. Outstanding Senior in Sociology Award
- b. William J. Chambliss Outstanding Senior in Criminal Justice Award
- c. Honey W. Nashman Outstanding Senior in Human Services Award

These three awards are conferred on the basis of faculty nominations, student achievement of a minimum GPA in the major of 3.7, and outstanding performance on an identified paper, project, assignment, or thesis or in a service or leadership activity. Student names are included in the CCAS Celebration program and students will be recognized at the Department of Sociology graduation reception.

2) Excellence in Research and Writing Awards:

- a. Sociology *or* Criminal Justice *or* Human Services major (undergraduate, one award)
- b. Graduate student in Sociology *and/or* Criminology (graduate, one award)
- c. Ruth A. Wallace Memorial Award for Excellence in Research and Writing (one undergraduate or graduate award for a paper focused on an issue related to gender)

These two awards are conferred on the basis of faculty nominations, recognizing student achievement in research and writing in either a class research paper assignment or a senior or graduate thesis. The *undergraduate* award is given for a paper completed between Fall 2025 and Spring 2026. Winners will be recognized at the Department of Sociology graduation reception.

SPECIAL HONORS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

In addition to meeting the general requirements stated under University Regulations, a candidate for graduation with Special Honors in Criminal Justice with a major GPA of at least 3.5 and a thesis. Please note the following additional conditions and information:

- A final overall GPA of 3.0 or higher (pending confirmation by the department).
- A final GPA in the major of 3.5 or higher (pending confirmation by the department).
- Register for and complete SOC 4195W: Senior Research Seminar in Fall or Spring of the senior year.
- Earn a grade of “A” on the SOC 4195W senior research thesis.
- Once the semester is completed, the department will complete the GPA information and submit it to the Registrar’s Office. It will take a few weeks for your Special Honors designation to appear on your University transcript.

ALPHA PHI SIGMA: CRIMINAL JUSTICE HONOR SOCIETY

Alpha Phi Sigma: The National Criminal Justice Honor Society
<http://www.alphaphisigma.org/>

Membership requirements:

- 3.0 GPA overall
- 3.2 GPA within the major
- At least four classes within the major completed

Application materials:

- Completed Alpha Phi Sigma Application Form – contact soc@gwu.edu for the form
- \$50.00 fee, processed through an online payment portal – contact soc@gwu.edu for the link
- Unofficial copy of your transcript

Submit the above application materials to: soc@gwu.edu

CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The Criminal Justice Student Association (CJSA) is a new organization on campus that allows students to come together who are seeking a better understanding of the criminal justice issues that our country is currently struggling with. CJSA strives to provide a platform to those who want to do more, but are not informed on how to do so, and will foster a community for students with similar interests.

CJSA welcomes anyone to join the club! This includes criminal justice and sociology, majors, minors, and concentrations, as well as people who are simply interested in criminal justice-related issues! The CJSA advisor for AY 25-26 is Professor Fran Buntman, who can be reached at fbuntman@gwu.edu.

If you are interested in joining CJSA, you can follow them on GW Engage, Instagram (@gw_cjsa), or fill out [this form!](#)

INDEPENDENT STUDY IN SOCIOLOGY or CRIMINAL JUSTICE **(SOC 3195)**

Information and Guidelines

General Information about the Independent Study

The Independent Study in Sociology (SOC 3195) provides Sociology or Criminal Justice majors with an opportunity to (a) explore in fuller depth or detail an area that a student has encountered in a previous Sociology or Criminal Justice course or (b) explore an area which is not part of the department's major curricula. The first step in doing an independent study is to identify a faculty member or faculty members who may be a good fit with the student's area of interest. The student should plan to meet with the faculty member to discuss the possibility of conducting an independent study under his or her direction. Faculty members are not obligated to supervise independent studies, though many are willing to do so in areas where they have a special interest or expertise. The second step is to prepare an independent study proposal and to submit that to the faculty member with whom the student would like to work. Guidelines for the required proposal may be found at the bottom of this sheet.

Students may take the independent study course for between 1 and 3 credits. All students doing the independent study must prepare a final research paper. Although individual faculty members may have their own requirements, as a general rule,

- a one-credit paper must be between 2500-3000 words, which is about 10 to 12 pages (not including charts, tables, pictures, appendices, the bibliography, or any other back matter).
- a two-credit paper must be between 3800-5000 words, which is about 15 to 20 pages (not including the items noted above).
- a three-credit paper must be between 6000-7500 words, which is about 25 to 30 finished pages (not including the items noted above).

Eligibility for SOC 3195: Independent Study in Sociology

The Independent Study in Sociology or Criminal Justice is available to junior and senior level Sociology and Criminal Justice students. It is strongly advised that students seeking to do the independent study have completed at least one semester of research methods (SOC 2101 or SOC 2102).

Independent Study Proposal Guidelines (continued on next page)

INDEPENDENT STUDY IN SOCIOLOGY (SOC 3195)

Information and Guidelines

Proposal Guidelines

In order to register for SOC 3195, students must prepare an independent study proposal in consultation with the prospective faculty member. Students are advised to submit both a hard copy and an electronic copy of the proposed independent study to the prospective project advisor at least 2 weeks before the student intends to register for SOC 3195. The independent study advisor's approval of the project proposal must be obtained before registration.

The independent study proposal should include the following:

1. A proposal cover sheet indicating your name, major, and year of graduation
2. Proposed title of thesis paper
3. Introduction
 - What is the key topic(s) of your thesis?
 - What brings you to this topic?
 - What are your research questions?
4. Preliminary literature review and theoretical underpinnings of your project
 - What sociological literature and/or other existing research is relevant to your project? What have other researchers written about this area of inquiry before you?
5. Proposal Conclusion
 - What do you hope to achieve in this independent research project?
 - What is the proposed timeline for the preparation and completion of your thesis? How often will you meet with your faculty advisor? What do you see as his/her role in your project?
6. Initial bibliography of literature and/or other works to be used in the project
 - This should include 5 to 8 scholarly publications, including books and articles from academic journals. Please avoid overreliance on internet source materials. Your bibliography should be composed primarily of appropriate academic publications.
 - The bibliography should be prepared using the American Sociological Association (ASA) style.

Please begin your proposal well in advance of the time you plan to submit it for consideration to the faculty member with whom you would like to work. Badly organized, poorly written, unclear or incomplete proposals are unlikely to be accepted.

COMBINED DEGREE PROGRAM: BA/MA CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CRIMINOLOGY

The Department of Sociology offers a Combined Degree Program for undergraduate 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 three relevant graduate courses (or nine credits) during their senior year; those nine credits will count toward both the BA and MA degrees. This allows for a considerable cost and time savings, and also helps our department retain and further our engagement with our best students.

Students interested in matriculating into the Combined Degree Program:

- must have an overall GPA of 3.40 or better at the time of application;
- must have a GPA of 3.50 or better in the major at the time of application;
- must apply to the graduate portion of the program no later than the spring term of the junior year and after completing 75 undergraduate credits;
- must complete both an application form for the Combined Degree Program and the formal application for graduate admission;
 - The application includes the applicant's statement-of-interest in the program, a writing sample, three letters of recommendation,* and transcripts of all undergraduate coursework. (Unofficial transcripts are acceptable.)
 - *Three letters of recommendation from faculty members are required. At least two of these letters must come from faculty in the Sociology Department at GW. Letters from Teaching Assistants are not acceptable.
 - Applicants are not required to submit GRE scores.
 - Students need not pay the application fee for the MA.
 - Students should submit all application materials to the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Sociology, not to CCAS.
- will be informed of acceptance into the program in late spring of their junior year.
- must earn a "B" or better in all graduate courses;
- must complete a thesis or write a comprehensive exam, as per the requirements of the MA in Criminology;

Students interested in applying for the Combined Degree Program in Criminal Justice/ Criminology should contact Professor Matthew Kafafian, Director of the Graduate Program in Sociology, for more details (gradsoc@gwu.edu).

REQUIREMENTS OF COMBINED BA/MA in CJ/CRIM

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):

- Prerequisite Courses: SOC 1003 and either SOC 1001 or SOC 1002
- Required Courses in 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 and SOC 4193 Advanced Seminar in Criminal Justice and associated internship (6 credits)
- Five Electives out of the following classes:
 - SOC 2137 Transnational Crime
 - SOC 2138 Reentry (beginning in SP 24)
 - SOC 2143 Criminal Justice System Arrest through Appeal
 - 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 2185 Victims, Victimization and the System
 - SOC 2189 Special Topics in Criminal Justice: varies
 - PSYC 2011 Abnormal Psychology
 - PSYC 2254 Psychology of Crime and Violence
 - FORS 2104 Introduction to Forensic Science (Requires two lab sciences)
 - ANTH 3513 Human Rights and Ethics
 - HIS 2175 U.S. Constitutional History
 - PSC 2213 Judicial Politics
 - PSC 2215 U.S. Constitutional Law and Politics II
 - ECON 2167 Economics of Crime

The MA in Criminology degree requirements include:

- Three Methods courses: SOC 6230, SOC 6231, and SOC 6232.
- 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. BA-CJ/MA-Crim students who have taken SOC 2145 are usually eligible to substitute another graduate class instead of SOC 6257 or FORS 6224. This option should be discussed with the DGS.
- Three or five additional electives, with relevant options from Forensic Sciences, Criminology, and, with permission, from other GW departments or the Consortium. Five electives are taken by students taking the comprehensive exam and three electives, plus SOC 6998 and SOC 6999, are taken by students taking the thesis.
- 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 Forensics and one Criminology elective must still be taken.

COMBINED DEGREE PROGRAM: BA in CJ/MPA
Bachelor of Arts (BA) with Criminal Justice (CJ) major
combined with a Master of Public Administration (MPA)

The Criminal Justice major in the Sociology Department and the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration (TSPPPA) currently allows qualified students the option of combining their BA in Criminal Justice (CJ) degree with the TSPPPA's Master of Public Administration to get both degrees within five and a half years. Twelve appropriate TSPPA credits received while completing the BA may be counted both toward the BA and MPA. Advantages of the combined degree include completing two degrees, including a graduate degree, in a lesser time with fewer credits, and benefiting from a challenging opportunity available to top GW students.

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences requires students to complete their BA requirements before their MPA. In other words, for planning purposes, students intending to pursue the MPA must select courses for their BA so as to complete their BA and begin earning credit for the MPA. They need to graduate with their BA before completing the MPA. (CCAS refers to this consecutive degree acquisition as a combined degree program rather than a joint degree program.) In order to retain undergraduate financial aid, students must maintain a minimum of 51% undergraduate classes.

Admission Timing and Requirements:

1. CJ bachelor's students should apply for the MPA during their junior year (i.e., once 75 hours of credit hours are completed, at least 45 of which must have been completed at GW). Students should apply by February of their junior year and will know if they are admitted to the MPA program by April of their junior year.
 2. The GRE is not required. Students should have a good GPA and will be assessed and accepted on the basis of their overall background and potential. Supporting documents include resumes, advisor assessments, letters of recommendation, etc.
 3. Students do not apply online. All application materials should be turned in, in person, to the Sociology Department. If approved, all materials should then be turned into TSPPPA by February 1.
1. The application deadline is February 1.

Combined Degree Program Requirements (continued on next page)

COMBINED DEGREE PROGRAM: BA in CJ/MPA

Combined Degree Program Requirements:

1. CJ major requirements listed above.
2. During the fourth year of the BA, it is highly recommended that the following PPPA classes be taken: PPPA 6001, 6002, 6003, and either 6005 or 6006. BA students taking PPPA graduate courses MUST work with a TSPPPA advisor in addition to their CJ advisor.
3. After completing the BA, combined degree students become MPA students and must finish their remaining requirements to obtain the MPA. These include: PPPA 6000, 6004, either 6005 or 6006 (whichever was not taken previously), 6016, 6009 (or 6008 if taken in the fall), three or four courses in one of the public administration fields, and two or three electives.
4. Criminal Justice BA students may count the following classes toward their BA: PPPA 6002 may count for SOC 2102, and FORS 6211 and 6212 count for FORS 2103 and 2104. (Note, however, that if one takes PPPA 6001, 6002, 6003 and either 6005 or 6006 as part of the BA, then FORS 6211 and 6212 are unlikely to be allowed to double count, because of the 12-credit double counting rule.) Please note further that CJ advisors will still need to put this permission in individual student's files.
5. The Sociology department strongly recommends that BA-CJ/MPA students take at least one graduate-level Criminology course in the Sociology department as one of their MPA electives.