

# CRIMINOLOGY, LAW AND SOCIETY, PHD

**Banner Code:** LA-PHD-CLS

## Academic Advising

354 Enterprise Hall  
Fairfax Campus

Email: [clsgrad@gmu.edu](mailto:clsgrad@gmu.edu)

Website: [cls.gmu.edu/programs/la-phd-cls](http://cls.gmu.edu/programs/la-phd-cls)

The PhD in Criminology, Law and Society is designed to produce top academic scholars and leaders in policy and applied settings. Students coming to this program seek to make a difference in the development and evaluation of policy using cutting edge social science methods. The program provides a rigorous course of study that will prepare students to do research, teach, develop and test policies, and administer agencies and programs designed to administer law, deliver justice, reduce crime, and enhance domestic security.

For a related program, see Criminology, Law and Society, MA (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/criminology-law-society/criminology-law-society-ma/>)

## Admissions & Policies

### Admissions

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in Graduate Admissions (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/>). For information specific to the PhD degree in Criminology, Law and Society, see Application Requirements and Deadlines (<http://cls.gmu.edu/programs/application/LA-PHD-CLS/>) on the departmental website.

### Policies

For policies governing all graduate degrees, see Graduate Policies (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/>).

### Master's Degree

Students admitted to the doctoral program without a master's degree need to earn the MA in Criminology, Law and Society as a component of the doctoral degree. The requirements for the MA degree are included in the requirements for the PhD. When beginning the doctoral program students should add the master's degree as a secondary program using the Secondary Program Application (<https://registrar.gmu.edu/wp-content/uploads/GSMA-Graduate-Secondary-Masters-Application-032020.pdf>) and then apply online (<http://registrar.gmu.edu/students/graduation/process/>) to graduate the semester prior to meeting all requirements for the master's degree.

## Requirements

### Degree Requirements

Total credits: 72

Students should be aware of the specific policies associated with this program, located on the Admissions & Policies tab.

### Core Courses

Code	Title	Credits
CRIM 700	Values, Ethics, and Criminal Justice Policy	3
CRIM 710	Criminological Theory	3
CRIM 720	Law and Social Science	3
CRIM 740	Justice Organizations	3
CRIM 760	Evidence-Based Crime Policy	3

Total Credits 15

### Analytical Methods Courses

Code	Title	Credits
CRIM 780	Research Methods	3
CRIM 782	Statistics I	3
CRIM 783	Statistics II	3

Select one course from the following: 3

CRIM 781	Justice Program Evaluation	
CRIM 784	Experimental Criminology	
CRIM 795	Special Topics	
CRIM 796	Directed Reading	
EDRS 812	Qualitative Methods in Educational Research	
GG5 650	Introduction to GIS Algorithms and Programming	
GG5 754	Earth Science Data and Advanced Data Analysis	
PSYC 633	Evaluative Research in Psychology	
PSYC 640	Techniques in Industrial/Organizational Psychology	
PSYC 646	Longitudinal Data Analysis	
PSYC 652	Quantitative Methods II: Analysis of Variance	
PSYC 892	Special Topics in Psychology	
PUBP 754	Geographic Information Systems and Spatial Analysis for Public Policy	
SOCI 631	Survey Research	
SOCI 632	Evaluation Research for Social Programs	
SOCI 634	Qualitative Research Methods	
SOCI 655	Ethnography	
WMST 610	Feminist Research Methods	

Total Credits 12

### Electives

Code	Title	Credits
Select 21-30 credits of electives from criminology, law and society courses offered by the department. ( <a href="http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/crim/">http://catalog.gmu.edu/courses/crim/</a> ) <sup>1</sup>		21-30

1

Students who take fewer than 30 elective credits will have accordingly more dissertation credits. Students may substitute 3-6 credits of non-CRIM courses with prior written approval of the director of the graduate program.

### One Professionalization Course

Code	Title	Credits
CRIM 797	Professionalization Seminar	0
Total Credits		0

### Major Area Paper

Students must write and have approved a major area paper.

Students are not eligible to submit a major area paper until they have successfully completed 36 credits.

### Advancement to Candidacy

To advance to candidacy, students must complete all coursework required on their approved program of study. Students must also successfully write and have approved a major area paper. In addition, students must have a dissertation committee appointed by the Dean's Office and have defended their dissertation proposal.

### Dissertation

#### Dissertation Committee

Criminology, Law and Society (CLS) doctoral dissertation committees must have one Chair and three other members (Member #1, Member #2, Member #3). The Chair and Members #1 and #2 must be full-time, graduate faculty in the CLS department. Member #3 must be graduate faculty in another program at Mason or from outside the university. Committee members are approved by the CLS chair or director of the academic unit or program, or designee, after consultation with the student's adviser and the student.

#### Dissertation Research

Once enrolled in CRIM 998 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal, students in this degree program must maintain continuous registration in CRIM 998 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal or CRIM 999 Doctoral Dissertation Research each semester (excluding summers) until the dissertation is submitted to and accepted by the University Libraries. Once enrolled in CRIM 999 Doctoral Dissertation Research, students must follow the university's continuous registration policy as specified in AP.6.10.6 Dissertation Registration (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-10-6>). Students who defend in the summer must be registered for at least 1 credit of CRIM 999 Doctoral Dissertation Research.

Students may apply to this degree a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 6 credits of CRIM 998 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal and a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 21 credits of CRIM 999 Doctoral Dissertation Research. They may apply a maximum of 24 dissertation credits (CRIM 998 Doctoral Dissertation Proposal and CRIM 999 Doctoral Dissertation Research combined) to the degree. Because of the continuous registration policy, students may be required to register for additional credits of these courses. Students who take fewer than 24 dissertation credits will have accordingly more elective credits.

Code	Title	Credits
Select 15-24 credits from the following:		15-24
CRIM 998	Doctoral Dissertation Proposal	
CRIM 999	Doctoral Dissertation Research	
Total Credits		15-24

The final requirement is a dissertation of original research representing a significant contribution to the field, which should be publishable in a referred journal or a quality press.

## Program Outcomes

### Program Outcomes

- Students will demonstrate the ability to plan, execute, and communicate research in the field of criminology, law and society.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to understand and apply advanced methods and analysis in the field of criminology, law and society.
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of criminological theory, criminal justice policy, justice organizations, and the interplay between law and social science.
- Students will produce a dissertation of original research representing a significant contribution to the field, which should be publishable in a referred journal or a quality press.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate scientific ideas and findings effectively in both oral presentations and writing to a wide range of audiences.