

School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences

Master of Science in Criminology



Program Description

The Master of Science in Criminology is an interdisciplinary, research-oriented degree program that equips students with the knowledge and expertise needed to understand why people engage in criminal behavior, discern appropriate punishments for various offenses and learn how to work with lawmakers to prevent criminal activity, incarceration and recidivism.

Developed by internationally recognized faculty at the University of Texas at Dallas, the curriculum introduces students to the field of criminology, providing advanced training in crime and criminality, justice policy, research design, and both quantitative and qualitative methodologies.

The Criminology master's program draws on the strength of its faculty—including criminologists with industry experience—to help students take advantage of the program's many partnerships with law enforcement and criminal justice agencies and prepare them for professional careers in a wide variety of public and private sector organizations.

Benefits

The Criminology master's program ensures that students gain a broad understanding of their discipline, apply their knowledge and analytical skills to create effective and novel solutions to practical problems and communicate and work effectively in collaborative environments.

Other benefits include:

- **World-Class Faculty:** The program is led by faculty of the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences who are widely cited experts in their respective fields.
- **Comprehensive Curriculum:** Courses in the Criminology master's program will introduce students to new ideas, technologies and competencies while preparing them to succeed in both public and private sectors.
- **Facilities:** Students have full access to four state-of-the-art computer laboratories housed in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences. All computers are network linked and hold full suites of leading survey, qualitative, spatial and statistical analysis software, including Qualtrics, NVivo, ArcGis, ENVI, EVIEWS, R, STATA, and SAS.
- **Location:** Situated in the greater Dallas region—recently rated by *Forbes* magazine as the #1 “Best City for Jobs”—UT Dallas provides students with easy access to employers and internship opportunities, not to mention a large and supportive alumni population.

Career Opportunities

In addition to law schools and PhD programs, graduates of the Criminology master's program are a natural fit for federal, state and local criminal justice agencies, including high-level careers in law enforcement, courts, corrections, child protective services, juvenile justice and victim services. In addition to these opportunities, alumni have also built successful careers as lawyers, researchers, professors and teachers.

Marketable Skills

The Master of Science in Criminology program will deliver high-quality education to a diverse body of students regarding the etiology, control, and variation of law-breaking across space and time and



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advance the understanding of criminology through a multidisciplinary mix of theoretical and applied research.

- Students will demonstrate the ability to apply criminological theories and concepts to the explanation of crime and criminal behavior.
- Students will develop competency in research design relevant to criminological research.
- Students will examine the role of theory and empirical research in the prevention of crime.

Application Deadlines and Requirements

Please take note of all application deadlines and visit the Apply Now webpage to begin the application process. See the Criminology program website for additional information.

Applicants to the Criminology master's degree program should have:

- A baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an accredited institution of higher education with an emphasis in Criminology, Sociology, or a relevant discipline.
- A grade point average (GPA) of 3.2 out of a 4.0 scale.
- Test Scores: A combined verbal and quantitative score of 300 on the GRE is advisable.
- Letters of Recommendation: Applicants must submit three letters of recommendation, preferably academic, from individuals who can judge the candidate's potential for success in the master's degree program.
- Admissions Essay: Applicants must submit a one-page essay outlining personal background, education and professional objectives.
- International applicants must submit a TOEFL score of at least 80 on the internet-based test. Scores must be less than two years old. See the Graduate Catalog for additional information regarding English proficiency requirements for international applicants.

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