

Handbook of the Master of Arts Degree Program  
Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology  
Loyola University Chicago

Policies, Curriculum, and Expectations

Effective July 2024

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## Introduction

Since 1994, Loyola University has offered a Master of (M.A.) Degree in Criminal Justice and Criminology (CJC). The goal of the M.A. program in CJC at Loyola is to provide students with the necessary substantive and ethical competencies to excel as leaders in the field of criminal justice as practitioners, policy analysts, and researchers. Criminal justice practice is increasingly influenced by evidence-based programming and policies, and through the integration of theoretical, empirical, and practical knowledge, the R.O.D. Program in CJC effectively prepares students for successful careers in the field as well as more advanced programs of study. The CJC program embraces the Jesuit principles of justice and fairness, care and service to others, freedom of inquiry and the pursuit of truth, and appreciation for diverse perspectives and the diversity of human experience. This



## Program Learning Outcomes

The CJC graduate curriculum incorporates several

Table 1: Structure of the Curriculum

Required Courses	Credit Hours
CJC 401: Politics and Policies in the CJS (Fall Semester)	3
CJC 402: Theories of Criminal Behavior (Spring Semester)	3
CJC 403: Research Methods and Program Evaluation (Fall Semester)	3
CJC 404: Applied Data Analysis and Interpretation (Spring Semester)	4
CJC 408: Applied Research in Criminal Justice and Criminology	2
CJC 501: Thesis Research	2
Elective Courses	
CJC 410: Advanced Topics in Criminology	3
CJC 411: Advanced Topics in Policing	3
CJC 412: Advanced Topics in Courts	3
CJC 413: Advanced Topics in Corrections	3
CJC 414: General Special Topics	3
CJC 415: Mental Health and Crime	3
CJC 416: International Criminal Justice	3
CJC 499: Independent Study	3
CJC 502: Practicum in Criminal Justice (i, nternship)	3
CJC 595: Thesis Supervision	Fee based course
CJC 600 DVWHU↑V 6WXG\	Fee based course

\*Students must take and complete the requirements for CJC 408 or 501 to satisfy their M.A. Culminating Experience

Demonstrated Learning Outcomes

paper/abstract and provide early assistance in formulating the CJC 408 study (e.g., during the

may be assigned traditional peer review scores (i.e., accept, revise & resubmit, minor revisions, revise & resubmit, major revisions, as well as reject) along with feedback on necessary areas for student revision (i.e., expectations & requirements set forth for CJC 408). Edits (i.e., both major & minor) by the student should be made to the paper throughout the semester, creating a polished project by the end of the semester. Throughout the semester, a student may need to submit multiple drafts depending on the implications for theory, policy, and practice; overall writing ability; and integration of these components into a well-drafted data-driven research paper. The main faculty advisor should provide the GPD with their week (i.e., 5pm CST on the Saturday of Finals Week/16<sup>th</sup> week). If the student receives a grade of R or W, they can request to be placed into an incomplete period by the end of the semester. Students who do not address their incomplete by the end of the semester should receive an official failing grade of F. A student will have only one additional opportunity after a failure to complete an acceptable project. CJC 408 is offered exclusively during both spring and fall semesters. CJC 408 will only be offered during the summer at the approval of the GPD. Faculty are not expected to supervise CJC 408 projects during the summer and may decline to do so. Students who fail CJC 408 or who receive an incomplete in CJC 408 in the spring semester will generally have to wait until the fall semester to take CJC 408 again or finish their CJC 408 paper during the Incomplete period. Any student not enrolled in CJC 408 during a semester that they are working on a 408 project should be registered for CJC 505.

#### CJC 501: Thesis Research

Students who aspire to pursue research in their career or pursue a Ph.D. degree should consider the thesis track. Optimally, students should complete (3( 408)] TJ ET Q atio76 Tm 00 6 61sent)-4 ET



approved for the thesis track, students will be required to write a 408 paper. If approved, the student will sign a written statement that he or she wishes to switch to the thesis track and will acknowledge that they cannot switch back if the thesis becomes too difficult or takes longer than they anticipated.

If the Department of & - & Graduate Committee approves a student for the thesis track, the student must then formally identify a thesis chairperson and, in consultation with the thesis chairperson, two additional committee members to serve on the thesis committee. The thesis chairperson and at least one of the additional committee members must be from the Department of CJC. Once the thesis committee members have been selected, the Thesis Committee Recommendation Form must be completed by the student at GSPS (<https://gsp.s.luc.edu>). Students will also sign up for CC 501, thesis research, for two credit hours during the semester they expect to complete their thesis.

- x The formal thesis proposal must be approved by the chair of the committee before it is sent to committee members. Committee members are only required to read a draft of the proposal once it has been reviewed by the thesis chair. Committee members will have two weeks to read the thesis proposal.
- x Committee members and the chair will discuss any necessary changes to the proposed research. When the committee agrees about the required changes, the student will be informed of the necessary changes by their thesis chair. Students may petition person

- x Students who do exceptionally well on their thesis, based on a unanimous vote of the thesis committee, will be given an opportunity to make a formal presentation of the thesis. Given the significance of this accomplishment, students are encouraged to present their completed research to faculty and interested students in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology. Student presentations are generally expected to last approximately 20 minutes.

### Extra curricular Activities

#### The Graduate Student Criminal Justice and Criminology Organization

Students are encouraged to join the Graduate Student Organization as officers and members. This is an official university student organization that represents the students and sponsors academic, volunteer, and social activities.

#### Alpha Phi Sigma, The National Criminal Justice Honor Society

Membership is open to CJ Graduate Students with a GPA of 3.0 or better. Applications to join this society may be obtained from the Alpha Phi Sigma faculty coordinator Dr. Damon Petrich (dpetrich@luc.edu). The Bylaws state: "U D G X D W H V W X G H Q W V V K D O O E H program in criminal justice or related field; have completed four courses; have a minimum GPA of 3.4 on a 4.0 scale or rank in the upper 25% of their class." Applications can be found at [www.alphaphisigma.org](http://www.alphaphisigma.org)

#### Symposia and Seminars

Various symposia and seminars, featuring leading professionals in the field, are sponsored by the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Loyola University. Students are urged to attend these important events as well as related symposia held off campus. Loyola University Graduate School also hosts a graduate student research conference each spring where graduate students from all departments are invited to submit a proposal to present their research in either poster format or as a panel of speakers. Announcements about important events held at Loyola University or elsewhere are sent out via email and posted on the Department of Criminal Justice website (<http://www.luc.edu/criminaljustice/>).

#### Professional Conferences

There are several professional conferences held around the country each year. Students who wish to present papers at these conferences may at times have their expenses reimbursed by the Graduate School. The Midwest Criminal Justice Association holds its annual conference in Chicago in September each year; this conference is a good forum for students to present their research, to listen to the latest research on a variety of topics, and to network with other graduate students from area universities. Students are urged to submit an abstract, which, depending upon contribution of the work and intellectual ideas, may be co-authored with a faculty member.

Prescribed Timeline to Degree

Traditional

	Academic Year I		Academic Year II		Academic Year III
	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Fall Semester
Fall B.S./M.A. Admit	CJC 401 CJC 403	CJC 402 CJC 404	Elective Elective Elective	Elective Elective CJC 408 or CJC 501	
Spring B.S./M.A. Admit		CJC 402 Elective	CJC 401 CJC 403 Elective	CJC 404 Elective Elective	Elective CJC 408 or CJC 501
Fall M.A. Admit	CJC 401 CJC 403 Elective	CJC 402 CJC 404 Elective	Elective Elective	Elective CJC 408 or CJC 501	
Spring M.A. Admit		CJC 402 Elective Elective	CJC 401 CJC 403 Elective	CJC 404 Elective	Elective CJC 408 or CJC 501

Accelerated

	Academic Year I		Summer Semester	Academic Year II	
	Fall Semester	Spring Semester		Fall Semester	Spring Semester
Fall M.A. Admit	CJC 401 CJC 403 Elective	CJC 402 CJC 404 Elective	Elective	Elective Elective CJC 408 or CJC 501	

Note: Students graduate following a successful completion of their courses during the shaded semester.

## Course Descriptions

### CJC 401 ±Politics and Policies in the Criminal Justice System (Offered in Fall Semester)

This course examines the interactional processes within and among the criminal justice system's components and their relationships to other social, political, public and private institutions. Current issues and examples are used to discuss and analyze the public policy making process, the role that politics play in justice policy and practice, and the ultimate impact public policy can have on crime and justice system operations.

### CJC 402 ±Theories of Criminal Behavior (Offered in Spring Semester)

This is a comparative review of dominant contemporary theories and research on the causes of crime and delinquency, including theories based on biological, psychological, and social factors. The course also examines social system theories, social disorganization and strain theories, and ecological characteristics of population distribution across geographic areas. It emphasizes the competing theories that seek to explain the causes of crime, the state of research on these theories, and differences in their implications for crime control.

### CJC 403 ±Research Methods and Program Evaluation (Offered in Fall Semester)

This course provides students with the substantive knowledge to be critical consumers of research studies and program evaluations. Students learn how to critique the internal, construct, and external validity of program evaluations and data collection efforts that seek to understand criminal behavior or the operation of the criminal justice system. The course provides depth in discussion of quasi-experimental and experimental designs, types of program evaluations, and strategies to address impediments to field research and program evaluations.

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CJC 410 ±Advanced Topics in Criminology(Semesters Offered Vary)

CJC 501 ±Thesis Research(Offered Fall and Spring Semesters)

This course is designed specifically for students with a special interest in research or who intend to work toward a doctorate. A thesis committee, comprised of two or three faculty members, will work with the student in the development and completion of the research project.

CJC 502 ±Practicum in Criminal Justice (Offered Summer, Fall, and Spring Semesters)  
(Prerequisites CJC 401, CJC 402, CJC 403, and CJC 404)

The field practicum enables the student to apply their knowledge (conceptual, theoretical, methodological) in a practical setting. Placements are typically made with police, prosecution, judicial, probation, corrections and research agencies in and around Chicago. Students are supervised by the practicum coordinator and an agency administrator. Students are expected to work a minimum of 200 hours and write a log of activities as well as a descriptive paper. Because the paper is the major scholarly component of the practicum, it must be analytical in content and correct in all technical details. Questions about the field practicum should be directed to the Graduate Program Director or Criminal Justice Internship Coordinator

CJC 595 ±Thesis Supervision(Offered Summer, Fall, and Spring Semesters)

This is a non-credit course. Students who are working on approved master's thesis research (after having been registered for CJC 501) and are not registered for any course are required to register for thesis supervision.

CJC 605 ±Master's Study(Offered Summer, Fall, and Spring Semesters)

This course is a non-credit means of permitting students to be formally enrolled at Loyola while completing their culminating experience (i.e., 408 project or thesis).

For more information, please contact the Graduate Program Director or Administrative Assistant.

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