

# MASTER OF ARTS IN THE FIELD OF CRIMINOLOGY

The master of arts in criminology is a joint program between GW's sociology and forensic sciences departments in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences. The program combines training in traditional criminology, criminal justice, and forensic sciences. Requirements include courses in research methods, statistics, criminology, criminal law, and forensic sciences.

The program looks at the historical development of criminal justice and its evolution into modern legal systems, ongoing problems and reforms in policing, the courts, and corrections. Students develop an understanding of the causes of criminal behavior and the social conditions that contribute to crime, and they analyze how the criminal justice system operates.

Program graduates might secure a position in a research organization, government agency, or related occupation in the criminal justice field, while others may wish to continue their studies in a PhD program.

Visit the program website (<https://sociology.columbian.gwu.edu/ma-criminology/>) for additional information.

## ADMISSIONS

Admission deadlines: Fall - April 1 (February 1 for applicants applying for assistantships/fellowships)

Spring - October 1

Applications received after the above dates will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Standardized test scores: GRE general test (institutional code 5246). Waived for applicants who hold a JD, MD, or PhD.

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or the PTE Academic is required of all applicants except those who hold a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree from a college or university in the United States or from an institution located in a country in which English is the official language, provided English was the language of instruction.

Minimum scores for the program are:

- Academic IELTS: an overall band score of 6.0 with no individual score below 5.0; or

- TOEFL: 550 on paper-based or 80 on Internet-based; or

- PTE Academic: 53

Applicants who do not meet minimum English language requirements may be eligible for our full-time Applied English Language program.

Recommendations (3) academic letters of recommendation required:

**Prior academic records:** Transcripts are required from all colleges and universities attended, whether or not credit was earned, the program was completed, or the credit appears as transfer credit on another transcript. Unofficial transcripts from all colleges and universities attended must be uploaded to your online application. Official transcripts are required only of applicants who are offered admission. If transcripts are in a language other than English, English language translations must be provided. The English translation alone should be uploaded into your application.

**Statement of purpose:** In an essay of 250 - 500 words, state your purpose in undertaking graduate study in your chosen field. Include your academic objectives, research interests, and career plans. Also discuss your related qualifications, including collegiate, professional, and community activities, and any other substantial accomplishments not already mentioned on the application. If you are applying for an assistantship or fellowship, you should also describe any teaching or research experience you have had.

**Writing Sample:** A recent writing sample is required. Please review the department website prior to applying.

**International applicants:** Please review International Applicant Information (<https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants>) (<https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants/>) carefully for details on required documents, earlier deadlines for applicants requiring an I-20 or DS-2019 from GW, and English language requirements.

**For more information on the admission process**, please visit the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Frequently Asked Questions (<http://columbian.gwu.edu/graduate/admissions/faqs/>) page.

### Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences - Graduate Admissions Office  
The George Washington University  
801 22nd Street NW, Phillips Hall 215  
Washington DC 20052

### Contact for questions:

askccas@gwu.edu ~ 202-994-6210 (phone) ~ 202-994-6213 (fax)  
8:30 am - 5:30 pm, Monday through Friday

# REQUIREMENTS

This program is a joint offering of the Department of Sociology and the Department of Forensic Sciences.

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Graduate Programs (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#degreeregulationstext>).

Non-thesis option—36 credits, including 21 credits in required courses, 15 credits in elective courses, and successful completion of the master's comprehensive examination; thesis option—36 credits, including 21 credits in required courses, 9 credits in elective courses, and 6 credits in thesis.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required</b>		
SOC 6230	Sociological Research Methods	
SOC 6231	Data Analysis	
SOC 6232	Qualitative Methodology: Doing Field Research	
SOC 6238	Development of Sociological Theory	
or SOC 6239	Contemporary Sociological Theory	
SOC 6257	Criminal Law for Forensic Scientists	
SOC 6258	Deviance and Control	
SOC 6259	Criminology	

## Electives

Non-thesis students take five graduate-level elective courses (15 credits); thesis students take three graduate-level elective courses (9 credits). Electives should be chosen in substantive areas relevant to criminology and criminal justice. These courses might be in Sociology (SOC) (see elective courses, below), in other departments (e.g. Forensic Science) and schools (e.g. Elliott School), or through the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area. Students must have the permission of their advisor or the Director of Graduate Studies to take classes out of the department.

SOC 6260	Special Topics in Criminology	
SOC 6261	Sociology of Law	
SOC 6262	Punishment, Prison and Power	
SOC 6263	Race and Crime	
SOC 6264	Organized Crime	
SOC 6266	Gender and Criminal Justice	

## Required for non-thesis students

Successful completion of a master's comprehensive examination.

## Required for thesis students

SOC 6999      Thesis Research

Taken for 3 credits in each of the final two semesters for a total of 6 credits.