

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINOLOGY

**School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences
University of Texas at Dallas
AY 2023-2024 to Present**

Master of Science in Criminology

Professors:	Drs. Bruce Jacobs, Richard Scotch (Program Head), Lynne Vieraitis, and John Worrall (Director of Graduate Studies)
Associate Professors:	Drs. Tony Love and Tomislav Kovandzic
Assistant Professors:	Drs. Alexander Burton, Michelle Harris, Andrew Krajewski, and Yeungjeom Lee
Professors of Instruction:	Dr. Arthur Vasquez
Master's Advisors	Ms. Alejandra Gutierrez
Graduate Program Administrator	Ms. Rita Medford

Degree Requirements

Students seeking a Master of Science in Criminology degree must complete 36 semester hours of criminology coursework, including 12 hours of required core classes, 12 hours of criminology electives, 6 hours of other electives (can include criminology), and 6 hours of thesis. Students not wishing to continue to the Ph.D. may omit the writing requirement and substitute 6 hours of additional hours of electives (see Non-Writing Option section below).

Graduate Transfer Credit Policies

Students may be awarded up to 9 hours of transfer credit (no more than 9 of the 36 required hours), which will be applied toward their degree plan upon consultation with the Masters Advisor. However, students must earn a grade of B or above in a class for it to be considered eligible for transfer credit. All requests are subject to final approval of the Program Head and Graduate Dean. Final transfer credit determinations will be awarded in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in the University's General Academic Regulations after a review of official transcripts. These policies are subject to change and it will be the student's responsibility to verify compliance with current policy at the time of their transfer into the Program. See <http://policy.utdallas.edu/pdf/utdpp1052> for more information on the graduate transfer credit policy.

Independent Study

Independent study (CRIM 8V01) be repeated for elective credit up to a maximum of 9 hours for M.S. students. Student performance is assessed by instructor as pass/fail only.

Non-Writing Option

MS students on a terminal track who do not wish to be considered for admission into the doctoral program have the option of taking 6 hours of any EPPS graduate classes as electives in lieu of a writing requirement.

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Writing Option

Students who wish to track into a doctoral program or otherwise want to satisfy a writing requirement instead of taking 6 hours of electives may complete a thesis (detailed below).

There is no writing requirement for entrance into the UTD Criminology Ph.D. program.

A thesis is an original empirical research project that formally tests one or more specific research questions. Students who pursue this option must select a three-member faculty committee to supervise the project. The committee chair must be a tenured/tenure track faculty member in the Criminology program. At least one of the other committee members must be a clinical, tenure- track or tenured faculty member in the Criminology program. The committee helps the student guide the paper through to completion, at which point the student defends the paper before the committee. Students who pursue this option must enroll in 6 hours of CRIM 6V96. The student must adhere to the UTD policy memorandum, *Policy on Procedures for Completing a Graduate Degree* (<https://policy.utdallas.edu/utdpp1052>)—with the added requirement that the committee chair must be a tenured/tenure track faculty member in the Criminology program. The thesis option is typically reserved for students who either wish to complete a traditional thesis or who will pursue further graduate studies at another university that requires (or prefers) a traditional thesis. The procedures for writing a thesis, formatting it, selecting a committee, and defending the final product are made available through the graduate dean's office.

Students must adhere to all UT Dallas policies from the Office of Research Compliance, including all necessary approval/s from the UTD Institutional Review Board (IRB) prior to embarking on the project. More information about these policies can be found here:
<https://research.utdallas.edu/researchers/human-subjects-research/policies>.

Dual Master's Degrees

Per the Graduate Dean's office, students are encouraged to pursue additional master's degrees with The University of Texas at Dallas. To the extent that the requirements of some master's degrees overlap, especially within the school of EPPS, some of the credit hours taken in pursuit of previous or simultaneously earned master's degrees at UT Dallas may be counted toward an additional master's degree. The only limitation being that one-half of the credit hours for any master's degree earned at UT Dallas must be satisfied by new course work. Thus, any student wishing to obtain a M.S. in Criminology is required to take a minimum of 18 hours with new course work from this program. A student is required to develop an approved plan of study through the Criminology M.S. with the Masters Advisor, subject to the approval of the Program Head, prior to enrolling in a dual degree. Similarly, a student wishing to earn two master's degrees concurrently must develop an approved plan of studies through both relevant departments and programs and all coursework for all degrees must meet the academic standards of that degree.

Time Limits

Per the Graduate Dean's Office, all requirements for a graduate degree, including transfer credit, must be completed within the specified time period. Students exceeding the specified time limit

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will not be eligible for their degrees and will be dismissed from the graduate program. An approved leave of absence will not alter the time limits placed on graduate degrees.

All requirements for the master's degree must be completed within one six-year period. Work exceeding these limits, whether done at this university or elsewhere, will not count towards the degree. Exceptions to time limit specifications must be approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Catalog Policy

Provided the requisite courses continue to be offered, students are bound by the course work requirements of the catalog in force at the time of their admission, within a six-year limit for the completion of the master's degree. This regulation applies to specific course work and the number of credit hours for the academic degrees set forth in the catalog. All other requirements will change or be continued with the issuance of supplements to the graduate catalog and subsequent revisions to the handbook.

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Masters of Science in Criminology Degree Plan Details

12 Hours of Required Criminology Core Classes:

CRIM 6301: Research Design I
CRIM 6303: Etiology of Crime and Criminality
CRIM 6311: Crime and Justice Policy
EPPS 6313: Introduction to Quantitative Methods

18 Hours of Electives:

12 hours in Criminology graduate courses
6 hours graduate-level courses in any program or school, including Criminology

Plus: 6 hours of CRIM 6V96 or CRIM 6V98
OR 6 hours of EPPS graduate-level electives, including Criminology

Total Masters in Criminology Hours: 36

Suggested Curriculum Sequence for M.S. in Criminology

(with 9 hours of classes per semester)

	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
Year 1	CRIM 6303 CRIM 6301 Elective	CRIM 6311 EPPS 6313 Elective
Year 2	3 hours of CRIM 6V96/6V98 <u>or</u> Elective Elective Elective	3 hours of CRIM 6V96/6V98 <u>or</u> Elective Elective Elective

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Academic Standing

In order to qualify for graduation, students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average for all graduate courses (including those taken outside of criminology). Students must also earn a grade of B or better in each required core class.

Graduate Grading and Grade Point Average

The following grading scale is used in all Graduate coursework at the University:

GRADE	GRADE POINTS PER SEMESTER HOUR	DESCRIPTION
A	4.00	
A-	3.67	
B+	3.33	
B	3.00	
B-	2.67	
C+	2.33	
C	2.00	
F	0.00	Failure of either a Pass/Fail or Graded Course
I	Incomplete	Grades of F, X, P & W do not produce Grade points
P	Pass	Grades of F, X, P & W do not produce Grade points
W	Withdraw	Grades of F, X, P & W do not produce Grade points
NR	0.0	Non-recorded, used for ONLY grades that indicate the student grade awaits review from the Office of Judicial Affairs

Important: This handbook is subject to change in accordance with university and program amendments. *Students are responsible for remaining updated and in compliance with policies throughout their attendance in the program and prior to graduation applications being processed.* The policies set forth in this handbook default to new university policies that may be amended without notice. For additional information on UTD graduate student policies, see <https://policy.utdallas.edu/utdpp1052>.