

Criminology and Justice Policy, PhD

The doctoral program in criminology and justice policy at the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Northeastern University seeks to prepare students for professional and research careers in criminal justice, criminology, and related fields by applying multidisciplinary and comparative social science to understand, predict, and explain crime and contribute to the development of public policy within urban communities. Using an active-learning approach, the school seeks to develop its students intellectually and ethically, while providing them with a keen appreciation for the complexities of crime and public and private efforts to make communities safer and to ensure justice.

The program is full time and is small and student centered. Students may enter the program with either a bachelor's degree or a master's degree. It is expected that students will be able to complete the program in four to five years, and students entering with a master's degree will be able to complete the program in three to five years.

Year one in the doctoral program offers students an opportunity to obtain a broad foundational knowledge in the discipline: one semester on theories of criminal justice process, two semesters of criminological theory, two semesters of statistics, and one semester of advanced research methods. To ensure that all students have mastered the foundational material emphasized across the required courses for the PhD program and can successfully integrate theory, research, and policy, all PhD students take a "foundations" qualifying examination at the end of their first year in the doctoral program.

After demonstrating mastery of the foundational knowledge in year one, students devote themselves to a more specific area of research in years two and three. Students demonstrate this commitment through the second and third qualifying examinations: an area exam and a publishable paper.

Following successful completion of the three qualifying examinations, and required and elective course work, the students proceed to a formal dissertation proposal defense.

Doctoral Degree Candidacy

A student achieves candidacy when they have successfully completed all course work (54 semester hours for students entering with a bachelor's degree or 42 semester hours for students entering with advanced standing), passed all three qualifying examinations, and deposited the final version of their dissertation proposal (approved by their full committee) with the school's graduate program office. Candidacy is certified, in writing, by the college.

Program Requirements

Bachelor's Degree Entrance

Complete all courses and requirements listed below unless otherwise indicated.

Milestones

Annual review
 Three qualifying examinations—foundations exam, area exam, and publishable paper
 Dissertation committee
 Dissertation proposal
 PhD candidacy
 Dissertation defense

Core Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Pro-Seminar		
CRIM 7001	PhD Pro-Seminar in Criminology and Justice Policy 1	0
CRIM 7002	PhD Pro-Seminar in Criminology and Justice Policy 2	0
Criminal Justice Process		
CRIM 7203	Theories of Criminal Justice Process	4
Criminological Theory		
CRIM 7710	Criminology and Public Policy 1	4
CRIM 7711	Criminology and Public Policy 2	4
Analysis & Methods		
CRIM 7713	Advanced Research and Evaluation Methods	4
INSH 7400	Quantitative Analysis	4
INSH 7500	Advanced Quantitative Analysis	4
Practicum		
CRIM 7706	Practicum in Writing and Publishing	2
CRIM 7700	Practicum in Teaching	0

Electives

Code	Title	Hours
Complete 28 semester hours in the following ranges. Courses in additional disciplines with PhD program director approval.		28
CRIM 6000 to CRIM 7999		
INSH 6000 to INSH 7999		
POLS 6000 to POLS 7999		
PPUA 6000 to PPUA 7999		
SOCL 6000 to SOCL 7999		

Dissertation

Code	Title	Hours
Exam Preparation		
Students register for CRIM 8960 when they have completed required coursework but are still taking qualifying exams, and for CRIM 8986 when they have passed qualifying exams and are working on proposals.		
CRIM 8960	Exam Preparation—Doctoral	
CRIM 8986	Research	

Dissertation

CRIM 9990	Dissertation Term 1	
CRIM 9991	Dissertation Term 2	

Dissertation Continuation

Following completion of CRIM 9990 and CRIM 9991, registration in the following class is required in each subsequent semester (including the summer if the dissertation is submitted in summer) until the dissertation is completed:

CRIM 9996	Dissertation Continuation	
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Program Credit/GPA Requirements

54 total semester hours required

Minimum 3.500 GPA required

Advanced Entry Program Requirements**Advanced Degree Entrance**

Complete all courses and requirements listed below unless otherwise indicated.

Milestones

Annual review

Three qualifying examinations—foundations exam, area exam, and publishable paper

Dissertation committee

Dissertation proposal

Candidacy achieved

Dissertation defense

Core Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Pro-Seminar		
CRIM 7001	PhD Pro-Seminar in Criminology and Justice Policy 1	0
CRIM 7002	PhD Pro-Seminar in Criminology and Justice Policy 2	0
Criminal Justice Process		
CRIM 7203	Theories of Criminal Justice Process	4
Criminological Theory		
CRIM 7710	Criminology and Public Policy 1	4
CRIM 7711	Criminology and Public Policy 2	4
Analysis & Methods		
CRIM 7713	Advanced Research and Evaluation Methods	4
INSH 7400	Quantitative Analysis	4
INSH 7500	Advanced Quantitative Analysis	4
Practicum		

CRIM 7706	Practicum in Writing and Publishing	2
CRIM 7700	Practicum in Teaching	0

Electives

Code	Title	Hours
Complete 16 semester hours in the following range.		16
CRIM 6000 to CRIM 7999		
INSH 6000 to INSH 7999		
POLS 6000 to POLS 7999		
PPUA 6000 to PPUA 7999		
SOCL 6000 to SOCL 7999		

Dissertation

Code	Title	Hours
Exam Preparation		
Students register for CRIM 8960 when they have completed required coursework but are still taking qualifying exams, and for CRIM 8986 when they have passed qualifying exams and are working on proposals.		
CRIM 8960	Exam Preparation—Doctoral	
CRIM 8986	Research (Exam Preparation)	

Dissertation

CRIM 9990	Dissertation Term 1	
CRIM 9991	Dissertation Term 2	

Dissertation Continuation

Following completion of CRIM 9990 and CRIM 9991, registration in the following class is required in each semester (including the summer if the dissertation is submitted in summer) until the dissertation is completed:

CRIM 9996	Dissertation Continuation	
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Program Credit/GPA Requirements

42 total semester hours required
 Minimum 3.500 GPA required