

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

Policies, Curriculum, and Expectations

Effective July 2025

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Introduction

Since 1994, Loyola University Chicago has offered a Master of Arts (M.A.) Degree in Criminal Justice and Criminology (CJC). The goal of the Loyola CJC M.A. program 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, Loyola's M.A. 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, an appreciation for diverse perspectives and the diversity of human experience. This handbook describes the Department of CJC's Graduate Program curriculum, policies and requirements for graduation.

Source of Graduate Program Policies

General policies regarding graduate education at Loyola University Chicago are set by Loyola's Graduate School. Students are required to familiarize themselves with all of the policies governing graduate studies at Loyola, and should pay particular attention to the description of Academic Integrity (https://www.luc.edu/gradschool/academics_policies.shtml) adopted by the Graduate School. Furthermore, students should consult their luc.edu email accounts on a regular basis for notifications from the Graduate School for updates and announcements.

Additionally, the Department of CJC determines policies specific to its own program. These policies do not conflict with the general policies of the Graduate School but are in addition to them. They are set forth in this handbook. Students are advised to check their luc.edu emails for messages from the CJC Department. Students will be held responsible for all information appearing in these venues. The CJC graduate program is administered by the Graduate Program Director (GPD), Dr. Maribeth Rezey (mrezey@luc.edu), and the Department Chair, Dr. Chris Donner (cdonner@luc.edu). Consult the CJC Department website (<https://www.luc.edu/criminaljustice/about/faculty/>) for up-to-date information about any changes to faculty members serving as GPD and Chair.

Maintaining Good Standing in the CJC M.A. Program and with The Graduate School

To make continuous progress toward their degree and remain in good standing in the CJC graduate program, graduate students must meet the following Graduate School requirements:

- Maintain a grade-point average (GPA) of 3.00 (B) or higher. If the GPA falls below 3.0, students are placed on academic probation and cannot register without the assistance and approval of the GPD. **Students cannot graduate with less than a 3.0 GPA, and students who are placed on academic probation will be dismissed from their graduate program by the Graduate School if they fail to bring their overall GPA up to at least a 3.0 during the next two consecutive terms in which they register.**
- For both M.A. and B.S./M.A. students, students must take graduate-level courses (400-level and above) for them to count for M.A. credit.

- No more than two courses for which a student receives a final grade of C+ or C may count toward satisfying degree requirements, and no course for which a student receives a grade of C- or less counts towards the degree requirements. All grades, however, are used to calculate a student's GPA.
- Students must earn a B or better in CJC 403 (Research Methods and Program Evaluation), CJC 404 (Applied Data Analysis and Interpretation), and CJC 408 (Applied Research in Criminal Justice & Criminology) to graduate. Thus, these classes must be repeated if a B- or below is earned. All grades, however, are used to calculate a student's GPA.
- The M.A. degree must be completed within five years. A student unable to meet this deadline must submit a petition to the CJC Department through the GPD for an extension. To petition for an extension, students must complete the Extension of Time form located in the Graduate Student Progress System (GSPS) available at <https://gsps.luc.edu/>.
- The quality and pace of students' academic progress will be reviewed by the GPD and Graduate Program Committee in the Spring of each academic year. Students who are not making sufficient progress toward their degree will be notified by the GPD by the end of each academic year. Any student insufficiently making progress toward the degree will be 1) placed on academic probation, and 2) required to formalize an academic plan documenting how they plan to obtain satisfactory academic standing. All other Graduate School policies regarding students' academic standing can be found here: <https://catalog.luc.edu/academic-standards-regulations/graduate-professional/graduate-school/>.
- Continuous registration is required during the fall and spring semesters. Students are not required to be registered during the summer session. Students who fail to register for a course and do not receive an approved leave of absence from the Graduate School will be considered "in poor standing with the graduate school" and may be dismissed. The Leave of Absence form is accessible through the GSPS at <https://gsps.luc.edu/>.
- Students are required to take either CJC 408 (Applied Research in Criminal Justice and Criminology) or CJC 501 (Thesis Research). Students who have completed coursework, already enrolled in their culminating experience (either the 408 paper or thesis), but did not successfully complete their culminating experience in the semester in which they were registered, must subsequently register for CJC 595 (Thesis Supervision) or CJC 605 (Master's Study) to ensure continuous enrollment until their culminating experience is complete.
- If an "I" grade in CJC 501 (Thesis Research) is given, students must register for CJC 595 (Thesis Supervision) the next semester. If an "I" grade in CJC 408 (Applied Research in Criminal Justice and Criminology), CJC 595 (Thesis Supervision), or CJC 502 (Practicum) is given, students must register for CJC 605 (Master's Study) the next semester. CJC 595 and CJC 605 are zero-hour courses carrying a fee. Students are not permitted to register more than twice for either of these two courses. If a student does not successfully complete CJC 501 or CJC 408 during these future semesters, they will receive an "F" in place of the "I" and be required to reenroll in CJC 501 or CJC 408 for a second time.

Specific Requirements for B.S./M.A. Students

- The Graduate School at Loyola University Chicago requires B.S./M.A. students to be full-time and complete both degrees within five years (time clock begins when student first enrolled as a B.S. student at Loyola).
- B.S./M.A. students should take four graduate classes as seniors (two in each of their two senior semesters for a total of 12 or 13 credit hours). Students will be allowed to count no more than 15 graduate credit hours towards their master's degree taken as an undergraduate. These credit hours may count as electives within their CJC major or as general electives towards their overall baccalaureate degree.
- B.S./M.A. students matriculate into The Graduate School after graduating with their B.S. in CJC (during year five). Unless a leave of absence is otherwise approved by the GPD and The Graduate School, B.S./M.A. students must be registered for graduate courses in the semester following their undergraduate graduation.

Program Learning Outcomes

The CJC graduate curriculum incorporates six student learning outcomes:

1. To provide students with a broad liberal arts background, with stimulating and challenging courses pertinent to the study of criminal justice and criminology.
2. To give students the awareness and appreciation of group similarities and differences, especially those relating to culture and race, and to ethics, norms, and values.
3. To help students develop theoretical and practical knowledge of the structures, processes, and functions of the criminal justice system, always stressing its links and interdependence with other institutions in the social system.
4. To provide students with an understanding of criminological theory and how these apply to criminal justice policy and practice.
5. To help prepare students for professional service in a wide range of careers in criminal justice.
6. To enable talented students to enter confidently into graduate or professional school programs in criminal justice, law, social work, or any of the social sciences.

Degree Requirements

The M.A. degree in CJC consists of 30 credit hours, which are fulfilled through five required courses (CJC 401, 402, 403, 404, and 408 or 501) and five electives. Descriptions of these courses are included at the end of this handbook. Electives can/should be taken in the CJC Department, including those for internship credit (CJC 502). No more than two graduate electives in fields/departments outside of the CJC Department can be taken towards the M.A. degree, unless

otherwise approved by the GPD. Moreover, students are permitted to enroll in (no more than) one online graduate elective as part of their degree. Both CJC 408 and 501 are two credit hour courses and should be taken only after the student has completed CJC 401, 402, 403, and 404. CJC 502 can only be taken after a student has completed CJC 401, 402, 403, and 404, and is in at least their third semester in the program.

Table 1 provides an outline of the required courses in the CJC M.A. degree, including the semesters during which the required courses are typically offered. In addition to the required coursework, all graduate students at Loyola must demonstrate cumulative proficiency in their area of study either by completing a major research paper or a traditional M.A. thesis. During their culminating experience, students should be registered for CJC 408 or CJC 501 (if approved), not both.

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 431: Criminal Victimization	3
CJC 432: Firearm Violence	3
CJC 433: Wrongful Convictions and the Law	3
CJC 499: Independent Study	3
CJC 502: Practicum in Criminal Justice (i.e., Internship)	3
CJC 595: Thesis Supervision	Fee based course
CJC 605: Master's Study	Fee based course

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

Demonstrating Cumulative Proficiency through CJC 408 or CJC 501

To demonstrate cumulative proficiency, students are required to pass either CJC 408 or CJC 501 (complete either a major research paper or a thesis). By default, all students are placed in the non-thesis option unless they select and are approved for the thesis option (described on page 7).

CJC 408: Applied Research in Criminal Justice & Criminology

Students are expected to take CJC 408 as their culminating experience unless otherwise approved to complete a thesis. This is a student-initiated research course, supervised by a full-time CJC faculty member. It is administered in the same way as an Independent Study. Prior to registering for CJC 408, students should contact a full-time CJC faculty member that they would like to have to serve as their primary advisor and submit an idea of interest (i.e., a formalized concept proposal/abstract) to them. Faculty have the right to decline advising a student's CJC 408 project. In those situations, students should contact another full-time faculty member of interest and/or the GPD. Students must find and secure a main faculty advisor before course registration begins for the semester in which the student plans to take CJC 408. If a student does not have an advisor before course registration, the GPD will not allow the student to register for CJC 408 in the next semester. To register for CJC 408, students must have had their faculty advisor approve their general concept/topic. Faculty advisors will need to email the GPD and confirm their willingness to work with the student.

In these beginning stages, the student and their main advisor should also formally recommend to the GPD another full-time faculty member to serve as the second advisor on the student's CJC 408 project for the initial stages of project development. The second advisor's role is to read the concept paper/abstract and provide early assistance in formulating the CJC 408 study (e.g., during the initial proposal stages as well as during the beginning of the enrolled CJC 408 term). The student and their main advisor should recommend a second advisor to the GPD no later than the first week of the semester in which the student is registered in CJC 408. While a second advisor recommendation(s) will be considered, the final selection of a student's second advisor will be made by the GPD.

Once a student has established their faculty advisors and the semester in which the student is registered for CJC 408 has begun, a student should work with their advisors to produce an action plan and move forward on conducting their CJC 408 project. Students will work independently on their research project while also receiving guidance and mentoring from their faculty advisors. During the beginning of the enrolled semester, both faculty advisors will supervise the student's efforts, answer the student's questions, as well as provide methodological and analytical guidance/assistance when needed. As the semester progresses and a student makes progress on their project, the main faculty advisor should also provide feedback on early draft(s) of the final paper.

To receive a passing grade in CJC 408 (i.e., an A or B), a student should independently develop and address a research question by conducting research on a topic within the field of criminal justice and criminology. The student's culminating CJC 408 project should be a well written, theoretically framed, methodologically sound, policy relevant, and data-driven research paper. A student's paper is due to their main faculty advisor by the end of the semester (e.g., 5:00pm on Friday in the 14th week of the semester—earlier deadlines may be set at the discretion of the main faculty advisor). Students should approach the multifaceted problem of research as a set of interrelated issues ranging from tasks of concept formation and theoretically framing an issue through research design, data collection, and data analysis. As such, CJC 408 projects can take many forms. However, each of the four major areas of criminological research (i.e., policy, theory, methods, & data) must be thoroughly attempted and directly addressed in students' final CJC 408 papers.

Course Objectives

Through the CJC 408 course, students will 1) demonstrate an understanding of the various

components of a research proposal and apply this understanding to a topic in criminal justice and criminology; 2) access relevant data to assess their research question(s); 3) evaluate data sources critically and incorporate selected information into the paper; 4) conduct novel quantitative and/or qualitative research on chosen topic—including data analysis, as well as effectively document and communicate acquired information; and 5) prepare an academic-style paper/manuscript and/or agency technical report/brief based on the completed research, including but not limited to: abstract, a statement of the problem, theoretical framework, hypotheses, methodology, data analysis plan, project findings, theoretical and policy implications, project strengths and weaknesses, as well as directions for future research.

Students who plan to collect and analyze qualitative data as part of their CJC 408 project will be required to show that they have sufficient knowledge in how to collect and analyze qualitative data prior to being able to register for CJC 408. Sufficient knowledge can be demonstrated via successfully completing at least one qualitative research methods course as part of their degree.

Grading

Students' CJC 408 projects will be formally reviewed and assessed by their main faculty advisor. During the beginning of the semester, both faculty advisors will provide guidance and constructive feedback on the student's overall research question and project specifics. As the semester progresses and progress is made on the project, the main faculty advisor will provide comments and suggested edits on the student's drafts of their paper. Faculty advisor assessments 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 their advisor's recommended revisions of previous drafts. The student's project will be evaluated based on their mastery of theory and research methods; implications for theory, policy, and practice; overall writing ability; and integration of these components into a well-crafted data-driven research paper. The main faculty advisor should provide the GPD with their student's final CJC 408 grade by the end of finals week (i.e., 5pm CST on the Saturday of Finals Week/16th week). If the student receives a grade other than an 'A' or 'B', they can request an incomplete. Students who do not address their advisor's required edits by the end of the semester—or by the end of the incomplete period—will be required to register for CJC 605 in the next semester. Students can register for CJC 605 no more than twice following the semester in which they registered for CJC 408. If a student does not successfully complete CJC 408 during these future semesters, they will receive an "F" in place of the "I" and be required to reenroll in CJC 408 for a second time. 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 with 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 605.

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 CJC 403 during the fall semester of their first year in the graduate program (for B.S./M.A. students this would be their senior year). To be approved for the thesis option, students must receive permission from the Department of CJC's Graduate Committee. To be approved to complete a thesis, the following requirements must be met:

- Completion of CJC 403 (Research Methods and Program Evaluation) with an A- or better (no exceptions will be made);
- Submission of a class paper to demonstrate writing skills that are acceptable to the Department of CJC's Graduate Committee; and,
- Submission of a thesis approval form that provides a brief description of the proposed research question, the proposed methodology, and a detailed timeline.

Before submitting a thesis approval form, students are strongly encouraged to discuss their interest in completing a thesis with the GPD and members of the Department of CJC faculty. Faculty will provide students with some guidance and assistance in refining and thinking through their proposed thesis. Faculty direction at this stage of the process is intended to help ensure that the proposed research is feasible, realistic given the students' commitments and available time, and is sufficiently substantive in scope to warrant thesis research.

Once these requirements have been met, the Department of CJC's Graduate Committee will convene and consider the request within three weeks of the submission of materials. If not approved for the thesis track, students will be required to do 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 CJC's Graduate Committee approves a student for the thesis track, the student must then formally identify a thesis committee chairperson and, in consultation with the thesis chairperson, two additional committee members (readers) 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 in GSPS (<https://gsps.luc.edu>). Students will also sign up for CJC 501, thesis research, for two credit hours during the semester they expect to complete their thesis. Students writing a thesis are also required to complete the UNIV 370: Responsible Conduct in Research and Scholarship (RCRS) workshop offered by the Graduate School (this is a non-credit, free course for Loyola graduate students). See <http://www.luc.edu/ors/RCRHome.shtml> for a description of course and schedule of dates offered.

Expectations about Student and Faculty Member Roles for a Thesis

Thesis research requires a close, supportive, and respectful working relationship between the student and the thesis chairperson. However, the thesis is ultimately the student's project. Thus, the student is expected to develop the research question(s), design the research, and perform the required analyses. The thesis chairperson and committee will provide guidance and mentoring in the process,

as the thesis is a process of learning as well as demonstrating sufficient skills. The thesis chairperson will also provide students with clear expectations regarding how quickly feedback will be given on drafts and availability for face-to-face meetings. Students should expect to rewrite sections of their thesis several times after receiving feedback from their chairperson, and, even after the chairperson's approval, students may be requested to rewrite certain parts of their thesis at the request of their thesis committee.

Expectations about Completion of the Formal Thesis Proposal

Although students are required to submit a thesis approval form that provides a *brief* description of the proposed research question, methodology, and a detailed timeline and dates of milestones, it is required that before thesis research can begin, that a more detailed, formal thesis proposal be submitted and approved by the thesis committee. In terms of the development and approval of the formal thesis proposal, the following expectations and steps are to be followed:

- Students will work with their thesis chairperson to complete an acceptable draft of their thesis proposal. The thesis proposal draft will consist of a detailed literature review, research questions or hypotheses, research design, analysis plan, and a discussion of the strengths and limitations of the proposed research.
- Students are encouraged to consult with committee members, but the thesis chairperson is primarily responsible for guiding the student's thesis research, and all issues should be discussed with the thesis chairperson.
- The formal thesis proposal must be approved by the chairperson 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 chairperson. Committee members will have *two weeks* to read the thesis proposal.
- Committee members and the chairperson 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 their committee to reconsider a change, which will be discussed by all committee members. When the committee is satisfied with the thesis proposal, each member will sign the Thesis Proposal Form. The student will submit this form for signature to the GPD who will submit the signed form, with an abstract, in the Graduate Student Progress System (<https://gsps.luc.edu>). An email will be sent to the student once approved.
- If data collection involves human participants, students must follow all requirements established by Loyola's Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the Protection of Human Subjects. Students cannot submit an IRB application until their thesis proposal is officially approved.

Expectations about Thesis Research

Once the formal thesis proposal has been approved, students will then work towards the completion of the thesis, keeping in mind the following points regarding the process.

- Students are responsible for knowing and meeting all graduate school deadlines published in the Graduate School's Academic Policies handbook (available at https://www.luc.edu/gradschool/academics_policies.shtml).

- Any proposed major deviations from the proposed research will be communicated in writing for approval to the thesis chairperson and committee members. The thesis chairperson will communicate the committee's decision to the student.
- The thesis chairperson will make individual arrangements with students about the expected amount of time it will take to review a thesis draft, how subsequent revisions will be made, and the expected dates for completion of sections.
- Students should be aware that delays in submitting drafts to their chairperson may delay graduation dates. Thus, students should make the completion of their thesis a priority to ensure graduation on their expected date.
- Once the thesis chairperson approves a final draft of the thesis research, it is then ready for committee review. Committee members will have *two weeks* to read and provide comments. Students, thus, should manage their time and priorities to allow committee members adequate time to review and provide constructive feedback.
- Committee members will provide feedback to both the student and chairperson, and it is the chairperson's responsibility to guide the student in making necessary changes. Committee members will receive a revised draft that highlights the changes made in response to their feedback so that they may decide whether to approve the thesis. Because the revision process may take a couple of weeks, students should plan their timeline accordingly.
- Students who do exceptionally well on their thesis, based on a unanimous vote of the thesis committee, will have the word "distinction" added to their transcript.
- Once a student has received feedback on the final draft of the thesis from the thesis committee, and made the recommended changes, he or she 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.

Extracurricular Activities

The Graduate Student Criminal Justice and Criminology Organization

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

Alpha Phi Sigma, The National Criminal Justice Honor Society

Membership is open to CJC Graduate Students with a GPA of 3.4 or better. Applications to join this society may be obtained from the CJC Alpha Phi Sigma faculty coordinator, Dr. Damon Petrich (dpetrich@luc.edu). The Bylaws state, "Graduate students shall be enrolled in a graduate 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

Symposia and Seminars

Various symposia and seminars, featuring leading professionals in the field, are sponsored by the Department and/or University. Students are urged to attend these important events as well as related symposia held off campus. Loyola University's 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 form or as part of 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 CJC's website calendar (<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 *part* of their expenses reimbursed by the Graduate School. The Midwest Criminal Justice Association (MCJA) 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 status 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 an in-depth discussion of quasi-experimental and experimental designs, types of program evaluations, and strategies to address impediments to, and stakeholders' concerns about, field research and evaluations.

CJC 404 – Applied Data Analysis and Interpretation (Offered in Spring Semester)

Students learn the skills and knowledge necessary to be critical consumers of statistical information often present in everyday criminal justice practice. Students learn which statistical tools are appropriate for specific measures and research questions, as well as how to generate and interpret statistical output using a statistical software package.

CJC 408 – Applied Research in Criminal Justice and Criminology (Offered Fall and Spring Semesters) (Prerequisites CJC 401, CJC 402, CJC 403, and CJC 404)

In their final semester of the CJC graduate program, students complete a semester-long research project. This culminating experience is student-initiated and supervised by a member of the graduate faculty. This project encourages advanced students to approach the multifaceted problem of research as a set of interrelated issues ranging from tasks of concept formation and theory construction through research design and data collection to the assessment and analysis of the generated data.

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

Variable topics on theories or contemporary issues concerning criminal and victim behavior.

CJC 411 – Advanced Topics in Policing (Semesters Offered Vary)

Variable topics on contemporary issues in policing.

CJC 412 – Advanced Topics in Courts (Semesters Offered Vary)

Variable topics on contemporary issues in courts.

CJC 413 – Advanced Topics in Corrections (Semesters Offered Vary)

Variable topics on contemporary issues in corrections.

CJC 414 – General Special Topics (Semesters Offered Vary)

Special topic course titles will vary and will cover issues that do not fit within the four advanced topics areas of criminology, policing, courts, and corrections.

CJC 415 – Mental Health and Crime (Semesters Offered Vary)

This course explores the relationship of mental illness to crime and violence, as well as the policies and programs concerning the treatment of individuals with mental illness in the criminal justice system. The course focuses on the nature, prevalence and consequences of mental disorder among criminal offenders, the mediating effect of substance use on the relationship between mental illness and violence, the assessment of violence risk in mental health and criminal justice systems, the evolving concept of legal competence, and the institutional and community-based treatments of the mentally ill offender.

CJC 416 – International Criminal Justice (Semesters Offered Vary)

This course is an introduction to the nature and scope of international and transnational crime, the emerging legal framework for its prevention and control, and its impact on the U.S. criminal justice system. Emphasis will be placed on international aspects of the work of different criminal justice agencies, such as formal and informal police cooperation and the use of mutual assistance and extradition agreements, and on the bilateral, regional and international structures created for crime prevention, punishment and control.

CJC 431 – Criminal Victimization (Semesters Offered Vary)

This course critically explores the physical, emotional, and financial harm people suffer because of illegal criminal activities. The focus of the course is on the nature and extent of victimization, the estimation of risk, theories about the causes of victimization, and the consequences of victimization experiences. In addition, students will also study the emergence of special victims' groups, the implications of a victim-orientated perspective for the administration of justice, and system alternatives such as restitution and restorative justice.

CJC 432 – Firearm Violence (Semesters Offered Vary)

This course will provide a comprehensive overview of the extent and nature of firearm violence, existing laws related to the acquisition, ownership and use of firearms, patterns and reasons for firearm ownership and acquisition, the various attempts to control access to firearms, and the effectiveness of such efforts. This course will explore both criminal justice and public health perspectives and approaches to reducing firearm violence. Each discipline's framework, strategies, and challenges will be examined, with a focus on the opportunities and challenges of implementing interdisciplinary approaches in a "real world" setting. The class will emphasize the application of objective and rigorous scientific methods and research to understanding the extent and nature of

firearm violence and evaluating interventions within the context of what is oftentimes a politically and emotionally charged debate.

CJC 433 – Wrongful Convictions and the Law (Semesters Offered Vary)

Wrongful convictions often include two types of errors, an innocent person is punished, and a guilty person escapes justice. In this class, we will explore how such errors occur by focusing on both investigation and adjudication practices. We will then apply what we have learned about criminal procedure to analyze individual wrongful conviction cases. This is an interactive course. Students will review case intake documents from a cooperating legal organization and help inform their case decisions. We will also work with the National Registry of Exonerations to draft case profiles for people who have already been exonerated. Ultimately, we will weigh the challenges of upholding defendants' rights without compromising public safety or producing additional errors.

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, and 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 should 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.

Graduate Program Director

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