Department of Sociology
and Criminal Justice
6000 Batten Arts and Letters Building
757-683-3809
Mona J.E. Danner, Chair

Master of Arts - Applied Sociology
Ingrid Whitaker, Graduate Program Director

This program has been recommended for closure to the State Council for Higher Education of Virginia. Pending their approval and SACSCOC approval, all degrees for the program must be earned by August 2025. Students will not be able to select the program as their major after August 28, 2020.

The Master of Arts degree in Applied Sociology emphasized research skills necessary in many professions. The M.A. degree served as professional training for students seeking employment in federal, state and local government agencies or in private-sector organizations. In addition, the M.A. program provided excellent training in the fundamentals of sociology for students who wished to pursue a Ph.D. in the social sciences.

Doctor of Philosophy – Criminology & Criminal Justice
Scott Maggard, Graduate Program Director

The Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice is a sociological criminology program that highlights social inequality and public policy in the study of crime and justice issues. The program produces scholars with strong backgrounds in the substantive areas of criminology, criminal justice, theory, inequality, and policy as well as in research methods and statistics. Designed primarily for students who are interested in pursuing careers in higher education, the course offerings also provide students the education and skills needed to be employed as researchers in public and private agencies. Graduates are prepared as scholars able to conduct research, teach college and university courses in their areas of specialization, and to provide service to the discipline and community.

Regular Admission Requirements
1. A completed master’s degree (or its equivalent) in criminology, criminal justice, or in an appropriate field (e.g., administration of justice, sociology, or political science) from a regionally accredited institution of higher education – a thesis is generally expected;
2. A minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.25 (on a 4.0 scale) overall for the master’s degree;
3. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required in all applicants;
4. Successful completion of prior coursework in research methods and statistics at least equivalent to that required by the ODU B.A. in sociology/criminal justice and M.A. degree in applied sociology (research methods, statistics, computer and data analysis);
5. Three letters of reference from sources capable of commenting on the applicant’s readiness for advanced graduate study in criminology & criminal justice;
6. A writing sample of at least 20 double-spaced pages on a topic related to the applicant’s expertise or area of interest;
7. A typed statement of approximately 1,000 words summarizing the individual’s motivation for applying to the program as well as the professional contributions s/he intends to make assuming successful completion of the degree;
8. If the applicant’s native language is not English, a current score for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) of at least 540 and/or an interview in which the applicant’s comprehension and fluency in English can be assessed.

Provisional Admission
Provisional admission may be granted on rare occasions when an applicant’s credentials suggest aptitude for doctoral study but do not meet the criteria outlined above. Admission under this standard requires a variable amount of preliminary coursework in addition to that which is normally required for the degree. The amount and content of additional coursework required for conditional admissions is determined by the Ph.D. Committee on a case-by-case basis.

Students who have an appropriate undergraduate degree and a law degree (J.D.) but lack graduate work in the social sciences will normally be required to complete 18 hours of graduate work as follows: 12 hours in theory, research methods, social statistics, computer statistical applications, and 6 hours of substantive courses.

International Students
Graduate international students on non-immigrant visas whose native language is not English or who have not lived in the U.S. ten years must provide evidence of English language proficiency through one of the following:
1. Submission of a minimum required TOEFL score or successful completion of Old Dominion University’s Graduate Bridge Program,
2. Possession of an American Bachelor’s or Master’s degree equivalent from an accredited institution located in a country where English is the native language;
3. GRE verbal score of 480.

Non-degree seeking students must secure permission from the GPD prior to registering for doctoral classes in the program.

Application Deadlines
January 15 – Students applying for funding (Graduate Assistantship) and fall admission; there is no spring admission. All students must submit all original application materials directly to Old Dominion University’s Graduate Admissions Office. Students requesting funding (Graduate Assistantship) must submit the Application for Graduate Financial Assistance to the Program Director.

Degree Requirements
The Ph.D. in Criminology & Criminal Justice requires a minimum of 48 credit hours at the post-master’s level (i.e., courses at the 700 to 800 level) as detailed below. Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25. In addition, each of the core courses must be completed with a grade of B or better. The core courses may be taken a maximum of two times. Students who receive two grades of B- or below in any course, or whose grade point average falls below a 3.25 will be dismissed from the program.

Coursework

Core Courses
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRIM 800</td>
<td>Proseminar in Criminology and Criminal Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRIM 801</td>
<td>Criminology and Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRIM 802</td>
<td>Advanced Criminological Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRIM 803</td>
<td>Inequality, Crime and Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRIM 890</td>
<td>Professional Development and Dissertation Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
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Research Skills

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<tr>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>CRIM 805</td>
<td>Multivariate Statistics in Criminological Research</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRIM 810</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods in Criminology and Criminal Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIM 815</td>
<td>Advanced Quantitative Techniques in Criminology &amp; Criminal Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice

CRIM 820  Advanced Research Methods in Criminology & Criminal Justice  3

Electives
Elective Hours  12

Dissertation Credits
CRIM 899  Dissertation  9

Total Hours  48

Comprehensive Examinations
The comprehensive exam assesses a student’s expertise of the literature in criminology and criminal justice (in terms of both breadth and depth) in theory, research methods and statistics, inequality and policy as applied to questions of criminological interest; and her/his ability to think broadly and critically and to present her/himself as a sophisticated intellectual thinker. Preparation for the comprehensive exam gives students the opportunity to organize their knowledge of the field as gained from coursework, their own independent readings, teachings, and research.

The written comprehensive exam is taken by students following completion of all coursework except the dissertation seminar; students may petition the Ph.D. Committee to take the exam prior to the completion of all coursework. The written exam will be in a take-home format distributed during August. Details about the structure of the exam will be announced to students by the end of the spring semester before the exam. Student names will be removed from the exams for grading. No more than three faculty members will grade each section of the exam as “pass” or “fail” and more than one negative vote from the exam committee will result in a failure of the section. Students may pass or fail the exam in whole or in part. Students need to retake only those sections that are failed. Students who fail any section of the exam may register for fall classes but must retake the failed section in accordance with the directions stipulated by the comprehensive exam committee, generally in late November/early December of that same year. Students who do not successfully pass the written comprehensive exam following the retake will be dismissed from the program; they may complete the classes they are enrolled in that semester for credit if they wish. Students may not defend a dissertation proposal until they have passed the written comprehensive exam.

Admission to Candidacy
Students are admitted to candidacy for the degree once the following criteria are satisfied:

- They have completed all Ph.D. coursework (excluding dissertation hours) with a GPA of at least 3.25;
- They have successfully passed the comprehensive examinations;
- They have successfully defended a dissertation prospectus.

The Dissertation
The dissertation is a scholarly work investigating a problem of significance and should constitute a meaningful contribution to the body of existing knowledge regarding matters of criminology and criminal justice policy or practice. It is the culmination of a program of advanced study leading to a doctoral degree and, as such, is expected to demonstrate a high level of scholarly competence. It must show that the candidate is capable of conceptualizing and conducting sophisticated original research, as well as analysis and reporting on an approved topic related to crime and justice by use of accepted scientific methods. Complete information about the dissertation is found on the program’s website.

CRIMINOLOGY Courses
CRIM 700. Proseminar in Criminology and Criminal Justice. 3 Credits.
This course provides students with a broad overview of enduring topics and emerging issues in criminology and criminal justice. It also explores the history and role of criminology as an academic discipline and criminal justice as an institutional system in American society.

CRIM 701. Criminology and Public Policy. 3 Credits.
This course covers the policy process as it relates to crime legislation, criminological theory and implications for public policy.

CRIM 702. Advanced Criminological Theory. 3 Credits.
This course is an examination of criminological theory for the advanced student. The focus is on critical analysis of both contemporary and historical criminological theories. In order to aid in the development of a critical understanding of theory, beyond understanding the content of central theories, the class focuses on discussion of theory development and testing. In addition, the class focuses on an understanding of the relationship of one theory to another as well as the state of empirical evidence surrounding each theory.

CRIM 703. Inequality, Crime and Justice. 3 Credits.
This course examines the linkages between social characteristics and crime. The course concentrates on what we know about the impact of gender, age, race and social class on crime and criminal justice.

CRIM 705. Multivariate Statistics in Criminological Research. 3 Credits.
This course teaches multivariate statistical techniques to train criminal justice researchers and policy makers to explore the causes and consequences of crime and criminal justice policies. Although the exact statistical techniques covered may vary, they will typically include multiple regression, multiple discriminate analysis, logistic regression, factor analysis, cluster analysis and path analysis.

CRIM 710. Qualitative Methods in Criminology and Criminal Justice. 3 Credits.
The central goal of this graduate seminar is to enable students to create and critique qualitative research designs focused on contemporary issues in criminology and criminal justice. A number of qualitative approaches will be covered including field observational research, focused interviews, case studies and content analysis. The seminar explores techniques, strengths and limitations of these varied qualitative methodologies.

CRIM 715. Advanced Quantitative Techniques in Criminology & Criminal Justice. 3 Credits.
This course explores advanced statistical techniques commonly used in research on crime and justice. The major focus of the course will be hierarchical linear modeling (HLM), a diverse set of techniques that extend standard multivariate analysis to accommodate nested data. Other advanced techniques will also be covered: event history/survival models, time series, etc.

CRIM 720. Advanced Research Methods in Criminology & Criminal Justice. 3 Credits.
This course provides students with advanced understanding of issues in criminology/criminal justice research including: history, philosophy, sociology, epistemology, politics and ethics of social science research; methodological questions of reliability, validity, conceptualization, operationalization, scale construction, data collection methodologies, sampling.

CRIM 740. Social Structures, Crime and Justice. 3 Credits.
This course examines the links between social structures and institutions, and justice at the individual, neighborhood, city, state and country levels. Students explore the ways in which structures and institutions are both agents of social control and facilitators or initiators of crime. Emphasis will be placed on theories, methodologies and empirical assessments.

CRIM 745. Crime and Communities. 3 Credits.
This course provides a foundation of the most important theories and research relating to residential communities and crime. The casual linkages between features of neighborhoods and social disorder will be explored in the context of criminological theories. Students will emerge with sufficient knowledge to develop a class or design a significant research project.

CRIM 750. Crimes of the State. 3 Credits.
This course explores crimes of the state from a sociological and criminological perspective by examining historical and current cases of governmental crime. This will cover the history, theory and method of the field; controls of and constraints on state crime; and cases of state crime.

CRIM 755. Researching the Criminal Justice System. 3 Credits.
Students will develop original research projects on the criminal justice system, police, courts and/or corrections. Projects will be designed to culminate in a publishable paper.
CRIM 760. Life Course Criminology. 3 Credits.
This course is designed to introduce graduate students to life-course perspectives for understanding crime and deviant behavior. Students discuss the various methodologies, both quantitative and qualitative, most commonly found in studies of the life course today.

CRIM 795. Topics in Criminal Justice. 1-3 Credits.
Topics vary by semester.

CRIM 797. Independent Study. 1-3 Credits.
Supervised independent study arranged with instructor and approved by graduate program director.

CRIM 800. Proseminar in Criminology and Criminal Justice. 3 Credits.
This course provides students with a broad overview of enduring topics and emerging issues in criminology and criminal justice. It also explores the history and role of criminology as an academic discipline and criminal justice as an institutional system in American society.

CRIM 801. Criminology and Public Policy. 3 Credits.
To familiarize students with the policy process as it relates to crime legislation, criminological theory and implications for public policy.

CRIM 802. Advanced Criminological Theory. 3 Credits.
This course is an examination of criminological theory for the advanced student. The focus is on critical analysis of both contemporary and historical criminological theories. In order to aid in the development of a critical understanding of theory, beyond understanding the content of central theories, the class focuses on discussion of theory development and testing. In addition, the class focuses on an understanding of the relationship of one theory to another as well as the state of empirical evidence surrounding each theory.

CRIM 803. Inequality, Crime and Justice. 3 Credits.
This course examines the linkages between social characteristics and crime. The course concentrates on what is known about the impact of gender, age, race and social class on crime and criminal justice.

CRIM 805. Multivariate Statistics in Criminological Research. 3 Credits.
This course teaches multivariate statistical techniques to train criminal justice researchers and policy makers to explore the causes and consequences of crime and criminal justice policies. Although the exact statistical techniques covered may vary, they will typically include multiple regression, multiple discriminate analysis, logistic regression, factor analysis, cluster analysis and path analysis.

CRIM 810. Qualitative Methods in Criminology and Criminal Justice. 3 Credits.
The central goal of this graduate seminar is to enable students to create and critique qualitative research designs focused on contemporary issues in criminology and criminal justice. A number of qualitative approaches will be covered including field observational research, focused interviews, case studies and content analysis. The seminar explores techniques, strengths and limitations of these varied qualitative methodologies.

CRIM 811. Interviewing and Ethnography. 3 Credits.
This course focuses on the methodological, practical, and theoretical considerations involved in designing interview-based or ethnographic research studies. Practical in its approach, students will leave this course with the necessary skills, competencies, and instruments/protocols necessary to complete data collection for an interview-based or ethnographic project.

CRIM 815. Advanced Quantitative Techniques in Criminology & Criminal Justice. 3 Credits.
This course explores advanced statistical techniques commonly used in research on crime and justice. The major focus of the course is hierarchical linear modeling (HLM), a diverse set of techniques that extend standard multivariate analysis to accommodate nested data. Other advanced techniques are also covered: event history/survival models, time series, etc.

CRIM 820. Advanced Research Methods in Criminology & Criminal Justice. 3 Credits.
This course provides students with advanced understanding of issues in criminology/criminal justice research including: history, philosophy, sociology, epistemology, politics and ethics of social science research; methodological questions of reliability, validity, conceptualization, operationalization, scale construction, data collection methodologies, sampling.

CRIM 830. Corrections. 3 Credits.
This course examines issues surrounding jail and prison environments in the U.S. Topics include the philosophy of incarceration, inmate rights, inmate (mal)adaptation, misconduct, inmate and correctional officer safety and well-being, classification, rehabilitative programming, and evidence-based solutions and scholarly opportunities aimed at improving the experience of both inmates and staff.

CRIM 840. Social Structures, Crime and Justice. 3 Credits.
This course examines the links between social structures and institutions, and justice at the individual, neighborhood, city, state and country levels. Students explore the ways in which structures and institutions are both agents of social control and facilitators or initiators of crime. Emphasis will be placed on theories, methodologies and empirical assessments.

CRIM 845. Crime and Communities. 3 Credits.
This course provides a foundation of the most important theories and research relating to residential communities and crime. The casual linkages between features of neighborhoods and social disorder will be explored in the context of criminological theories. Students will emerge with sufficient knowledge to develop a class or design a significant research project.

CRIM 848. Queer Communities, Crime, and Victimization. 3 Credits.
This course provides a systematic introduction to the study of queer communities in criminology and criminal justice, while still drawing from diverse academic disciplines, such as sociology, history, and women’s, gender, and sexuality studies. We will first explore the contexts of LGBTQ individuals’ criminalized conduct across time and space, as well as our guiding theoretical lens. We will critically interrogate existing literatures on queer peoples’ victimization as well as their offending. Finally, we will explore emerging public health and education concerns.

CRIM 850. Crimes of the State. 3 Credits.
This course explores crimes of the state from a sociological and criminological perspective by examining historical and current cases of governmental crime. This course covers the history, theory and method of the field; controls of and constraints on state crime; and cases of state crime.

CRIM 855. Researching the Criminal Justice System. 3 Credits.
Students develop original research projects focusing on the criminal justice system, police, courts and/or corrections. Projects are designed to culminate in a publishable paper.

CRIM 860. Life Course Criminology. 3 Credits.
This course is designed to introduce graduate students to life-course perspectives for understanding crime and deviant behavior. Students discuss the various methodologies, both quantitative and qualitative, most commonly found in studies of the life course today.

CRIM 861. Gender and Crime. 3 Credits.
This course provides a systematic introduction to the study of gender and crime. We first explore theories, trends, patterns, and pathways, which include gendered contexts of risk, victimization, and offending. We also explore the role of the state, such as in regulating reproduction or in furthering criminalization and surveillance through institutions such as schools, the crinmo-legal system, and carceral settings. Other topics, including the experiences of women in criminal justice occupations, are also discussed.

CRIM 890. Professional Development and Dissertation Seminar. 3 Credits.
This course enhances the process of professionalization of students by supporting ongoing dissertation progress as well as preparing the student for publishing, grant writing, and the job market.

CRIM 895. Topics in Criminal Justice. 1-3 Credits.
Topics vary by semester.
violence, sexual assault on college campuses, gender-based violence in the systemic, institutional, and cultural. Prevalence, risk factors, theoretical explanations of causes of deviant behavior and the impact of deviant behavior on society and the individual.

SOC 523. Women, Health and Healing. 3 Credits.
An examination of women's experiences with health and illness and women's roles in the health-care system as patients and care providers from a feminist sociological perspective.

SOC 526. Minority Group Relations. 3 Credits.
The study of the process of and responses to the oppression of racial, religious, ethnic, and national minorities in a variety of countries within a historical and comparative perspective. Special emphasis given to American minorities and especially African Americans.

SOC 527. Gender-Based Violence. 3 Credits.
This course takes an expansive and intersectional approach to studying various forms of gender-based violence, from the interpersonal to the systemic, institutional, and cultural. Prevalence, risk factors, theoretical explanations, and legal remedies related to topics such as intimate partner violence, sexual assault on college campuses, gender-based violence in the military, sexual violence against undocumented immigrants, commercial sexual exploitation, and racism and reproductive health will be examined.

SOC 540. Health, Illness, and Society. 3 Credits.
The study of health, illness and society. After exploring how health is conceptualized by the prevailing allopathic medical model, an emergent alternative or "integrative" health perspective is examined with a focus on how wellbeing may be understood.

SOC 541. Drugs and Society. 3 Credits.
Topics include changes in the legal status of drugs, cross-cultural and historical variations in the control and use of drugs, and social epidemiology of drug use in contemporary society.

SOC 595. Topics in Sociology. 3 Credits.
The advanced study of selected topics designed to permit qualified students to work on subjects of mutual interest which, due to their specialized nature, may not be offered regularly. These courses will appear in the course schedule, and will be more fully described in information distributed to academic advisors.

SOC 596. Topics in Sociology. 3 Credits.
The advanced study of selected topics designed to permit students to work on subjects of mutual interest which, due to their specialized nature, may not be offered regularly. These courses will appear in the course schedule, and will be more fully described in information distributed to academic advisors.

SOC 597. Tutorial Work in Special Topics in Sociology. 1-3 Credits.
Independent reading and study on a topic to be selected under the direction of an instructor. Conferences and papers as appropriate.

SOC 598. Tutorial Work in Special Topics in Sociology. 1-3 Credits.
Independent reading and study on a topic to be selected under the direction of an instructor. Conferences and papers as appropriate.

SOC 610. Applied Social Research Methods. 3 Credits.
The application of social science methods to practical problems. The topics of research design, measurement, scaling, sampling, data collection, and research organization are taught with reference to issues of reliability, validity and ethical concerns.

SOC 615. Perspectives on Racial Inequality. 3 Credits.
This course explores racial inequality in the United States. The course is organized by the question: "Why, in 21st Century United States, are there still different social outcomes for the descendants of American slaves and descendants of European immigrants?" Students are given a selection of materials from a variety of perspectives attempting to answer the question.

SOC 620. Proseminar in Sociological Theory. 3 Credits.
An examination of classical and contemporary sociological theories about the relations between the individual and society; the ways theory shapes and informs the study of social issues; and the relationship among theory, research and practice.

SOC 627. Violence Against Women. 3 Credits.
This course examines the many ways in which violence against women functions as an agent of social control. Violence is viewed on a continuum in order to determine how a variety of acts contribute to the subordination of women. Specific types of violence are explored including: wife assault, rape, incest, sexual harassment and pornography.

SOC 630. Applied Social Statistics. 3 Credits.
This course is a graduate-level introduction to social statistics as they may be applied to various practical problems. Students will learn the appropriate use of various statistical procedures through discussion and application. Prerequisites: SOC 610.

SOC 640. Sociological Application of Computer and Data Analysis. 3 Credits.
This course is a graduate-level introduction to the use of the computer in problems of data management and analysis. Students will use existing software packages (e.g., SPSS, SAS) to build specified data files and carry out various statistical procedures. Prerequisites: SOC 610.

SOC 650. Research Seminar. 3 Credits.
This seminar integrates the skills needed to complete a master's thesis. Exercises include formulating research questions, developing a research design, and writing a publishable paper. Students practice these skills assignments in class and by completing their thesis proposal. Prerequisites: SOC 610, SOC 620 or CRJS 620, SOC 630, and SOC 640.
SOC 668. Internship. 3 Credits.
Students gain first-hand experience in professional settings which are
deemed appropriate given their academic background and career objectives.
Students will be required to complete a research project which corresponds
to their specific internship placement. Prerequisites: Permission of the
instructor.

SOC 695. Topics of Sociology. 3 Credits.
Topics vary each semester.

SOC 696. Topics of Sociology. 3 Credits.
Topics vary each semester.

SOC 697. Independent Study in Special Topics in Sociology. 3 Credits.
Independent reading and study on a topic to be selected under the direction
of an instructor. Conferences and papers as appropriate. Prerequisites:
Approval of the department chair.

SOC 698. Independent Study in Special Topics in Sociology. 3 Credits.
Independent reading and study on a topic to be selected under the direction
of an instructor. Conferences and papers as appropriate. Prerequisites:
Approval of the department chair.

SOC 699. Thesis. 3-9 Credits.
Credit hours to continue thesis work.

SOC 740. Demographic Techniques. 3 Credits.
Basic methods of demographic analysis. Topics include population
estimation and projection and the measurement of fertility, mortality, and
migration.

SOC 795. Topics in Sociology. 3 Credits.
Topics vary by semester. Prerequisites: Six hours of graduate credit.

SOC 797. Independent Study in Sociology. 3 Credits.
Independent reading and study on a topic to be selected under the direction
of an instructor. Prerequisites: Approval of department chair and 6 hours of
graduate credit.

SOC 895. Topics in Sociology. 3 Credits.
Topics vary by semester. Prerequisites: Six hours of graduate credit.

SOC 897. Independent Study in Sociology. 3 Credits.
Independent reading and study on a topic to be selected under the direction
of an instructor. Prerequisites: Approval of department chair and 6 hours of
graduate credit.

SOC 998. Master's Graduate Credit. 1 Credit.
This course is a pass/fail course for master's students in their final semester.
It may be taken to fulfill the registration requirement necessary for
graduation. All master's students are required to be registered for at least one
graduate credit hour in the semester of their graduation.

SOC 999. Doctoral Graduate Credit. 1 Credit.
This course is a pass/fail course doctoral students may take to maintain
active status after successfully passing the candidacy examination. All
doctoral students are required to be registered for at least one graduate credit
hour every semester until their graduation.