



## CURRICULAR REQUEST FORM

Please note: All requests must be approved by the Department Chair, College Curriculum Committee, Dean/Associate Dean, and the External Department Chair(s) (if the proposal impacts or involves another program) before submission to Academic Affairs (Undergraduate Catalog) or the Graduate School (Graduate Catalog) for final review and approval. Be sure to submit requests timely, in accordance with established catalog deadlines.

College/School: College of Arts & Letters <input type="checkbox"/>	Department/School: Sociology and Criminal Justice
Requestor's Name: Ruth Triplett	Requestor's Email: rtriplet@odu.edu
Program Level: Graduate <input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed Effective Date (SEM/YR): Fall 2025
Type of Program: Master's Degree <input type="checkbox"/>	
Name of Degree or Certificate Program (include major or concentration, if applicable): <b>Master of Science in Criminology</b>	

### PROPOSED ACTION

EXIT THIS FORM AND BEGIN WITH THE [PROGRAM ACTION INQUIRY \(LINK\)](#) WHEN PROPOSING....

New Undergraduate Degree Program	New Graduate Degree Program
New Undergraduate Certificate Program	Change Program Purpose/Focus
New Graduate Certificate Program	Add/Reduce Program Credit Hours by 3+ Credits
Add/remove delivery format to online, hybrid, in-person	Discontinue/close a Degree Program
Change name, CIP code, and/or designation of a degree/certificate	Change licensure-qualifying status

OR

CONTINUE COMPLETING THIS FORM WHEN PROPOSING (select applicable proposal) ....

<input type="checkbox"/> Add/revise/discontinue major (undergrad) or concentration (grad)	<input type="checkbox"/> Change Continuance Requirements
<input type="checkbox"/> Change GPA Requirement (GRAD Only)	<input type="checkbox"/> Change Exit/Graduation Requirements
<input type="checkbox"/> Change Degree or Curriculum Requirements	<input type="checkbox"/> Change to Admission Requirements
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	

### APPROVALS: Information on the following pages must be completed before signatures are obtained

Requestor	Ruth Triplett	Digitally signed by Ruth Triplett Date: 2024.09.26 07:18:47 -04'00'
Department Chair	Ruth Triplett	Digitally signed by Ruth Triplett Date: 2024.09.26 07:19:09 -04'00'
External Department Chair(s), if appropriate		
Chair, College Curriculum Committee	Regina Karp	Digitally signed by Regina Karp Date: 2024.10.03 14:25:42 -04'00'
College Dean/Associate Dean	Dale E. Miller	Digitally signed by Dale E. Miller Date: 2024.10.03 14:42:51 -04'00'

**\*\*SEND TO ACADEMIC AFFAIRS (UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG) OR THE GRADUATE SCHOOL (GRADUATE CATALOG) FOR THE ADDITIONAL APPROVALS BELOW\*\***

Undergraduate or Graduate Catalog Administrator	Shana Pribesh	Digitally signed by Shana Pribesh Date: 2025.01.08 16:46:30 -05'00'
Office of Institutional Effectiveness & Assessment	Megan E. Corbett	Digitally signed by Megan E. Corbett Date: 2025.01.16 11:49:28 -05'00'
Vice Provost for Academic Affairs/SACSCOC Liaison	Megan E. Corbett as Proxy for VP	Digitally signed by Megan E. Corbett as Proxy for VP Date: 2025.01.16 11:49:35 -05'00'

After final approval, the Undergraduate or Graduate Catalog Administrator will provide copies of the form to the SCHEV Liaison, the Office of the University Registrar, the Office of Institutional Research, and the relevant college(s) and departments.

**NOTE: DO NOT UPDATE OR REMOVE CATALOG CONTENT UNTIL APPROVAL IS RECEIVED.**

1. Description of Proposed Change:

**The proposal is for the development of a new program - Master of Science degree in Criminology. The Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice currently offers the BS and BA in Criminal Justice as well as a doctorate in Criminology and Criminal Justice.**

2. Rationale for Proposal:

Please see attached document

3. Program, Major/Concentration, or Certificate Description and Requirements (to be used for Catalog text):

If proposal includes new or revised courses, please submit the appropriate information through the online Course Inventory Management (CIM) process in CourseLeaf ([nextcatalog.odu.edu/courseadmin](http://nextcatalog.odu.edu/courseadmin)). Note: Specific content courses are expected for each *certificate* proposal. **(Attach additional sheets, if necessary.)**

a. Admission Information (include requirements, standards, and deadlines, if applicable):

Please see the attached document.

b. Degree Requirements:

**The proposed Master of Science in Criminology degree program requires 33 credit hours of graduate level coursework.**

**Core courses will provide specialized knowledge on the individual and social risk factors for, and consequences of, crime, victimization, and social (dis)order. Students will examine the nature and causes of crime, the characteristics and behaviors of people who commit crime, societal reactions to crime, victims, and offenders, and the connections between crime, social institutions, and public policy. Courses will also develop students' methods, and analysis skills, enabling them to conduct high quality evidence-based research on policy issues pertaining to crime, victim well-being, and social disorder. In addition, though students will write in all of their classes, they will take a professional writing seminar to sharpen writing skills which are critical for clear communication and in high demand for professionals in the field of criminal justice.**

- c. Curriculum (Include complete Course List and/or Plan of Study – Indicate total number of credit hours:

**Please see the attachment for more information. The proposed program will offer a thesis and non-thesis option.**

**Core Courses - 18 credit hours**

**Criminology & Public Policy Evaluation (3cr)  
Criminological Theory (3cr)  
Social Research Methods (3cr)  
Applied Statistics & Data Analysis (3cr)  
Social Inequality, Crime, & Victimization (3cr)  
Professional Writing Seminar (3 cr)**

**Thesis option (33 hours):** Students electing to undertake original research will also complete a Thesis Seminar (3 credit hours), a Thesis (6 credit hours), and two courses (6 credits) of electives. In the Thesis Seminar, students will prepare chapters one through three of the thesis proposal (statement of the problem, review of the literature, research methodology) and produce an annotated bibliography. Each student will then complete and defend their thesis to a committee of faculty advisors (6 credit hours).

**Non-thesis option (33 hours):** Students are expected to complete 3 credits of a 'Leadership for Social Change' course, 3 credits of a 'Social Stratification' course, and 3 credits of research seminar following completion of 15 credits of required courses and two courses (6 credits) of electives. The research seminar course will include a culminating assessment (i.e., a policy paper) that forces students to apply their knowledge and research skills and critically evaluate a particular criminal justice policy issue. Non-thesis students will complete their degrees after completing 33 total credits.

**Thesis Seminar (6 credit hours):** This course supports students in preparing chapters one through three of the thesis proposal (statement of the problem, review of the literature, research methodology) and an annotated bibliography.

**Elective courses will be offered according to student interest and faculty availability.**

d. If there is an increase or decrease in the total number of credit hours required for the degree, please specify and explain the change.

e. Continuance Requirements, if applicable:

f. Exit or Graduation Requirements, if applicable:

**Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00. In addition, each of the required Core Courses must be completed with a grade of B or better. Students whose grade point average falls below 3.00, will be considered for dismissal. Students choosing the thesis option must complete a thesis. Students choosing the non-thesis option will complete a comprehensive assessment in the research seminar course and the Leadership for Social Change seminar.**

4. Assessment Plan for new or revised programs, majors/concentrations, or certificates: Completed in coordination with the Assistant Director for Assessment. Please provide a summary of the planned assessment action.

**Please see the attached document.**

5. Target Audience, if new degree, major, concentration, or certificate (be specific):

**There are three target audiences for the program. First, are those individuals currently working in the field of criminal justice who are pursuing advancement to leadership positions in their careers. Second, the department of sociology and criminal justice has a large number of majors and have had students express interest in a MS program. Finally, ODU has a strong record of serving Military students and has already established Military Connections with Pathways within ODU Global.**

6. Course Delivery Modes (please note if a new delivery mode is being added or if the delivery mode is changing):

Online, synchronous and asynchronous.

7. Additional funding needed beyond existing resources:

**Stipend for Director of the MS Program and, once the program is up and running, two additional faculty members. Please see the attached document.**

**FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY**

**ADMINISTRATIVE CODING**

Effective Term: \_\_\_\_\_

Major Code: \_\_\_\_\_

College: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Degree:**

Master of Science in Criminology

**Description Proposed Change:**

The proposal is for the development of a new program – Master of Science degree in Criminology. The Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice currently offers the BS and BA in Criminal Justice as well as a doctorate in Criminology and Criminal Justice.

**Rationale for Proposal:**

A Master of Science degree in Criminology with a sociological emphasis has the potential to strengthen ODU's growing reputation as a "public research university" committed to the goal of attaining a national reputation for excellence in graduate education. Crime, victimization, and social stratification issues directly "impact the economy, environment, health and wellness, and social justice" in Hampton Roads as well as across the Commonwealth. Graduates of the proposed program will not only possess the skills to propose solutions to these issues, they will promote "equity and inclusion" in their future roles, and continue to grow ODU's reputation for providing "educational and professional growth opportunities in our diverse Monarch community." In addition, as an online program making use of modern technologies, it will enhance ODU's access to individuals, particularly those outside the Hampton Roads area and/or those who do not live near an institution of higher learning. In sum, the proposed M.S. in Criminology program would enrich Hampton Roads as well as the Commonwealth through education, individual and community advancement, and the study of policies and practices that drive the socio-criminological landscape.

The proposed program responds to current needs in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States. Criminal justice and social welfare agencies command a substantial portion of local, state, and national governmental budgets, and public safety represents the second largest budget item for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Within this space, the need for highly trained criminology and public policy professionals has never been greater due to ongoing increases in violent crime and gun-related homicide, child abuse, and intimate partner violence in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as the increasing tension within the diverse communities most at risk for both crime and victimization. Indeed, crime and victimization have escalated to such an extent that they have dire implications for the safety and health of some communities. To address recent increases in violent crime and improve public safety, scholars have argued that "police and policymakers should pursue violence-prevention strategies of proven effectiveness and enact needed policing reforms" that approach community stakeholders with empathy, emphasize healing with trauma-informed care, and invest in an anti-violence workforce. Such efforts are necessary to not only increase public safety, but also to counteract the current challenges that exist for the nation's criminal justice system.

Perceived injustice and the persistent failures of existing programs and policies aimed at addressing crime and violence have made citizens increasingly distrustful of police, court, and

correctional personnel in some communities. As a result, residents may be drawn to ‘vigilante’ justice (e.g., reciprocal gang violence), and/or be less apt to call the police for help or cooperate with investigations and court proceedings. At the same time, highly publicized examples of police brutality and the widespread social movement that followed have contributed to a “Ferguson Effect,” where authorities have grown increasingly demoralized, disillusioned, and less proactive in the face of increased scrutiny and/or reform. Police and correctional administrators all over the nation have witnessed a mass exodus of personnel and are struggling to retain quality officers—particularly supervisors—to maintain coverage and manage agency responsibilities and public expectations. That is, years of perceived unequal treatment have undermined the legitimacy of the criminal justice system, emboldened criminals, and made efforts to fight concentrated crime, victimization, and violence more difficult.

The proposed graduate level program in Criminology will address the need for “agents of change,” or critical and data-driven thinkers, with a clear understanding of stratification and how it affects crime and the response, who possess the knowledge and skillset to evaluate the efficacy of existing crime prevention policies, identify what works, what does not, and what is promising, and propose evidence-based solutions for improving public safety and equal justice. With attention to theory, policy, and research, the proposed program will enable graduates to meet the demands of a diverse, changing society and prepare them for a wide variety of public and private sector positions.

### **Proposed Effective Term:**

Fall 2025

### **Program Requirements:**

#### **a. Admission Information**

Applicants for the M.S. in Criminology are required to submit credentials to Old Dominion University for consideration. The criteria for acceptance include:

- A completed online application via [www.odu.edu/admission/graduate](http://www.odu.edu/admission/graduate)
- A baccalaureate degree from a regionally-accredited institution or an equivalent degree from a foreign institution
- An overall 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or higher cumulative GPA in the undergraduate degree\*
- A GPA of 3.25 or higher in the undergraduate major courses
- Two letters of recommendation (from former faculty and/or employers)
- A personal statement describing the applicant’s educational and career goals
- At least one undergraduate course each in criminological theory, social science research methods, and social statistics with a grade of B (3.00) or better in each course\*
- A Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of 550 on the paper-based test (or 79-80 on the iBT) for non-native English speakers

Students who have a lower GPA or course grades may be considered for admission on provisional status.

Sociology and Criminal Justice undergraduate majors at Old Dominion University with a 3.25 GPA will be considered for direct admission to the program. The program will offer 4 + 1 admission.

The Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice will not require the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) for students entering this proposed M.S. degree program.

Provisional admission may be granted when an applicant's credentials suggest aptitude for M.S. 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 in conjunction with conditional admission is determined by the MS graduate program director on a case-by-case basis.

### **b. Degree Requirements**

The proposed Master of Science in Criminology degree program requires 33 credit hours of graduate level coursework.

Core courses will provide specialized knowledge on the individual and social risk factors for, and consequences of, crime, victimization, and social (dis)order. Students will examine the nature and causes of crime, the characteristics and behaviors of people who commit crime, societal reactions to crime, victims, and offenders, and the connections between crime, social institutions, and public policy. Courses will also develop students' methods, and analysis skills, enabling them to conduct high quality evidence-based research on policy issues pertaining to crime, victim well-being, and social disorder. In addition, though students will write in all of their classes, they will take a professional writing seminar to sharpen writing skills which are critical for clear communication and in high demand for professionals in the field of criminal justice.

### **c. Curriculum**

The proposed program will offer a thesis and non-thesis option.

### **Program Requirements**

#### **Core Courses - 18 credit hours**

CRIM 601	Criminology and Public Policy Evaluation (3cr)C
CRIM 602	Criminological Theory (3cr)
CRIM 605	Social Research Methods (3cr)
CRIM 610	Applied Statistics & Data Analysis (3cr)
CRIM 603	Social Inequality, Crime, & Victimization (3cr)
CRIM 615	Professional Writing Seminar (3 cr)



**Thesis option (33 hours):** In addition to the core requirements above, students electing to undertake original research will complete a Thesis Seminar (3 credit hours), a Thesis (6 credit hours), and two courses (6 credits) of electives. In the Thesis Seminar, students will prepare chapters one through three of the thesis proposal (statement of the problem, review of the literature, research methodology) and produce an annotated bibliography. Each student will then complete and defend their thesis to a committee of faculty advisors (6 credit hours).

CRIM 620      Thesis Seminar (3cr)

CRIM 699      Thesis (6 cr)

Electives (6 cr)

**Non-thesis option (33 hours):** Students are expected to complete 3 credits of a ‘Leadership for Social Change’ course, 3 credits of a ‘Social Stratification’ course, and 3 credits of research seminar following completion of 18 credits of required courses and two courses (6 credits) of electives. The research seminar course will include a culminating assessment (i.e., a policy paper) that forces students to apply their knowledge and research skills and critically evaluate a particular criminal justice policy issue. Non-thesis students will complete their degrees after completing 33 total credits.

CRIM 630      Leadership for Social Change Seminar (3cr)

Social Stratification Seminar (3 cr) from one of the following:

CRIM 525      Women and Crime

CRIM 526      LGBTQ People, Crime, and Justice

CRIM 527      Gender-Based Violence

CRIM 548      Women, Sex Discrimination and the Law

CRIM 551      Race/Ethnicity, Crime and Justice

CRIM 650      Research Seminar (3cr)

Electives (6 cr)

**Thesis Seminar (3 credit hours):** This course supports students in preparing chapters one through three of the thesis proposal (statement of the problem, review of the literature, research methodology) and an annotated bibliography.

Elective courses will be offered according to student interest and faculty availability. Below is a list of potential elective course offerings:

CRIM 501	Understanding Violence
CRIM 510	Cybercriminology
CRIM 515	Courts as a Social System
CRIM 516	Juvenile Delinquency
CRIM 518	Crime, Society, and Media
CRIM 520	Law and Society
CRIM 541	Drugs and Society
CRIM 542	Deviant Behavior
CRIM 550	Victimology
CRIM 555	Crime and Communities
CRIM 556	Gangs
CRIM 575	Comparative Criminology
CRIM 607	Feminist Criminology
CRIM 608	Criminology and the Law
CRIM 640	Social Structures, Crime, and Justice
CRIM 660	Life Course Criminology
CRIM 668	Professional Development/Internship– students may complete up to 3 hours of Professional Development in place of an elective
CRIM 695	Topics in Criminology
CRIM 697	Tutorial Work/Independent Study in Criminology

**d. Continuance Requirements (if applicable)**

**e. Exit or Graduation Requirements**

Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00. In addition, each of the required Core Courses must be completed with a grade of B or better. Students whose grade point average falls below 3.00, will be considered for dismissal. Students choosing the thesis option must complete a thesis. Students choosing the non-thesis option will complete a comprehensive assessment in the research seminar course and the Leadership for Social Change seminar.

### Assessment Plan:

Students who complete the proposed M.S. in Criminology program will possess specialized knowledge on the risk factors for, and consequences of, crime, victimization, and social (dis)order. The program's learning goals will enable students to:

1. develop both a theoretical and research-based understanding of crime and victimization as well as the operation of the criminal justice system;
2. understand the development of and reasoning behind criminological policies and systems;
3. become conversant in criminological and sociological research methods and techniques;
4. work with others to evaluate and conduct research on crime and victimization, and propose evidence-based solutions to these issues;
5. sharpen writing skills and enhance their ability to communicate, conduct research, secure resources, and disseminate information;
6. analyze the impact of social inequality and stratification on crime, victimization, civil disorder, and how criminal justice policies affect our communities.

### Curriculum map for the M.S. in Criminology

Learning Outcomes	Core and Required Courses	Assessment Methods
Students will develop both a theoretical and research-based understanding of crime and victimization as well as the operation of the criminal justice system	Criminology and Public Policy Evaluation	<u>Formative</u> : Critical analysis of criminological thinking and research; Critical analysis of historical and contemporary data on crime, victimization, and social disorder; Exams/Quizzes; Papers; Class reflections/discussions
	Criminological Theory	
	Social Inequality, Crime, & Victimization	<u>Summative</u> : Policy evaluation paper; Theoretical application paper; Research paper

Students will understand the development of and reasoning behind criminological policies and systems	Criminology and Public Policy Evaluation  Criminological Theory  Social Inequality, Crime, & Victimization	<u>Formative:</u> Critical analysis of local, state, and inter(national) criminal justice legislation; Critical analysis of historical and contemporary data on crime, victimization, and social disorder; Exams/Quizzes; Papers; Class reflections/discussions  <u>Summative:</u> Policy evaluation paper; Theoretical application paper; Research paper
Students will become conversant in criminological and sociological research methods and techniques	Social Research Methods  Applied Statistics & Data Analysis	<u>Formative:</u> Quantitative exercises; Qualitative exercises; Vignette assignments; Sampling design exercises; Survey and interview construction assignments; Problem sets; Institutional Review Board (IRB) exercises  <u>Summative:</u> Methodological aptitude exam; Statistical aptitude exam; Methodological paper; Survey/interview questionnaire and/or research protocol
Students will work with others to evaluate and conduct research on crime and victimization, and propose evidence-based solutions to these issues	Social Research Methods  Criminology and Public Policy Evaluation	<u>Formative:</u> Research and policy evaluation exercises; Content analyses  <u>Summative:</u> IRB proposal; Primary/secondary research project; Group presentation; Intra- and inter-group peer review; Policy evaluation paper
Students will sharpen writing skills and enhance their ability to communicate, conduct research, secure resources, and disseminate information	Professional Writing Seminar	<u>Formative:</u> Report writing exercises; Academic writing exercises; Grant writing exercises; Progress/program writing exercises; Peer review  <u>Summative:</u> Peer review journal article, Grant proposal, Evaluation report, Progress evaluation, Technical report
Students will analyze the impact of social inequality and stratification on crime, victimization, civil disorder, and how criminal justice policies affect our communities	Criminology and Public Policy Evaluation  Criminological Theory  Social Inequality, Crime, & Victimization	<u>Formative:</u> Critical analysis of the nexus between gender, race/ethnicity, class, and criminogenic life circumstances; Critical analysis of local, state, and inter(national) criminal justice legislation; Critical analysis of historical and contemporary data on crime, victimization, and social disorder; Program/policy analyses; Direct interaction with research participants, community stakeholders, and policy makers  <u>Summative:</u> Primary/secondary research project; Policy evaluation paper; Peer review journal

	Professional Writing Seminar	article; Grant proposal; Process/program evaluation; Technical report
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### **Target Audience (be specific):**

The MS in Criminology is planned to served two types of students. The first are students who want to prepare for research careers in criminology, public policy, and/or sociology, and who are interested in pursuing doctoral level work. The second are students interested in leadership roles in contemporary public sector positions who will be facing a variety of issues related to social stratification in criminology. Following from this there are three target audiences for the program.

First, are those individuals currently working in the field of criminal justice who are pursuing advancement to leadership positions in their careers.

Second, the department of sociology and criminal justice has a large number of majors and have had students express interest in a MS program. Finally, ODU has a strong record of serving Military students and has already established Military Connections with Pathways within ODU Global.

### **Course Delivery Modality(ies):**

The proposed degree program will offer students the opportunity to complete their degree requirements fully online with faculty based on the Norfolk campus. Classes will be synchronous as well as asynchronous. Synchronous courses will be scheduled to meet one time per week in the late afternoon or evening hours during the Fall and Spring semesters. In addition, faculty will develop a host of asynchronous online courses to complement the curriculum and provide added flexibility for students. Sociology and Criminal Justice faculty are well versed in distance learning equipment provided by the University and/or the College of Arts and Letters such as cameras, microphones, speakers, and screens, and will utilize technology such as Zoom and Kaltura to make telework and teleconferencing possible.

### **Resources Needed:**

The proposed M.S. program in Criminology will draw on existing resources with the College of Arts and Letters as well as the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice. There are a small number of additional resources needed however that must be allocated in support of the program if it is to realize its full potential.

### **Director of the M.S. Program**

Duties: meet with and recruit prospective students, chair the admissions committee, oversee the admissions process, evaluate transfer credit, conduct academic advising, schedule classes,

monitor student progress, ensure policy compliance, complete university required paperwork, coordinate defenses (2/2 teaching load, summer stipend of \$2,000).

### **New Faculty**

At present, there are sufficient full-time, graduate-certified faculty to reasonably accommodate responsibilities associated with initial enrollment figures. The hiring of two additional faculty members will be imperative in order to cover current undergraduate, doctoral and the additional M.S. courses that will be required as the program grows to its full potential.