College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
H. Elaine Rodney, Dean

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
Larry French, Interim Head, Department of Psychology
Jonathan Sorensen, Interim Head, Department of Justice Studies

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Anthony Carona, Psychology
Myrna Cintrón, Juvenile Justice
Larry French, Psychology
Camile Gibson, Criminal Justice
M. Denise Lovett, Psychology
Robert Mupier, Economics
Everette Penn, Criminal Justice
Delbert Price, Psychology
Cletus J. Snell, Criminal Justice
Jonathan Sorensen, Criminal Justice
Richard Tachia, Statistics

PURPOSE AND GOALS
The College of Juvenile Justice & Psychology is the academic unit housing the undergraduate and graduate programs for Criminal Justice, Juvenile Justice, Juvenile Forensic Psychology, and Psychology. Its purpose is to provide education and training in juvenile justice-allied disciplines and to produce students who will ultimately improve the juvenile justice system and work to resolve the problems of delinquency.

The College of Juvenile Justice & Psychology at Prairie View A&M University offers undergraduate courses leading to a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice or Criminal Justice with a Specialization in Juvenile Justice as well as a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology. The School also offers graduate courses leading to a Master of Science Degree in Juvenile Justice, a Master of Science Degree in Juvenile Forensic Psychology, and a Ph.D. Degree in Juvenile Justice.

The School seeks a diverse group of qualified students with backgrounds in various disciplines committed to improving the life experiences of youths involved in the Juvenile Justice System.

Master of Science in Juvenile Justice
The Master of Science program in Juvenile Justice offers a curriculum that enables students to critically evaluate and confront the humanistic, technical, and scientific aspects of criminal justice as applicable to juvenile crime and delinquency.
Specifically, the primary objectives of the Master of Science in Juvenile Justice are to:

- Enhance students’ knowledge, skills, and resourcefulness related to detained and institutionalized juveniles in the juvenile justice system
- Increase students’ knowledge of theoretical explanations and the etiologies of delinquency and juvenile crime
- Assure that students engage in the humanistic, technical, and scientific aspects of delinquency and juvenile crime
- Increase students’ knowledge concerning effective methods to intervene and prevent delinquency
- Increase students’ skills in how to conduct research and evaluate programs related to delinquency
- Expand students’ knowledge of programs and policies related to delinquency

Since there are no comparable degree programs in the nation, graduates will have a unique opportunity to acquire specialized skills and competencies that should positively impact the lives of troubled youth across the state of Texas.

Master of Science in Juvenile Forensic Psychology

The Master of Science degree in Juvenile Forensic Psychology is a unique program in the State of Texas, and probably the only degree of its kind in the world. Its creation is in keeping with the intent of the timely and insightful action of the Texas Legislature in its determination to focus on children in the creation of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center at Prairie View A&M University.

The student in the graduate program of Juvenile Forensic Psychology at Prairie View A&M University will study psychological theories of behavior, misbehavior, and deviance.

Specifically, the primary objectives of the Master of Science in Juvenile Forensic Psychology are to:

- Enhance students’ knowledge of how psychology interacts with the law and the legal system
- Increase students’ knowledge of theoretical explanations of juvenile delinquency, juvenile crime, and juvenile aggression, especially from the viewpoint of psychological theories
- Provide students with skills in research methodology and statistics;
- Enhance students’ knowledge of the cognitive and personality development of youth especially as it pertains to aggression in various stages; 
- Increase students’ knowledge of the psychological dynamics of family violence such as child abuse, spouse abuse, incest, and other forms of interfamilial violence;
- Provide students with knowledge and skills pertaining to the assessment, classification, and treatment of juvenile offenders; and
- Provide students with skills in psychological assessment and evaluation

Doctor of Philosophy in Juvenile Justice

The goal of the Ph.D. program is to provide doctoral training in juvenile justice research. General objectives include the development of new knowledge, juvenile crime prevention and improvement in the juvenile justice system, and dissemination of knowledge gained. The specific intention of the program is to produce scholars with three characteristics: First, graduates will have superior empirical skills. Second, they will be specialists in the subject matter of the juvenile justice discipline. Third, they will be generalists in the subject matter of criminal justice. The program produces scholars to teach in criminal justice and criminology departments of colleges and universities and researchers to work in federal, state, and large local agencies.
In 1997, the Texas Legislature authorized the creation of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center (Texas JCPC) at Prairie View A&M University. This resulted in the creation of the College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology. The Texas JCPC is unique in the state of Texas and the nation and is committed to assisting with the reduction of juvenile crime and delinquency among youth.

The purpose of the Texas JCPC is to:
- Increase the knowledge of educators, practitioners, and others by conducting research and evaluation relating to juvenile crime
- Improve the knowledge and skills of students in the field of criminal justice by offering undergraduate degrees, graduate degrees, and continuing education
- Improve the dissemination of information relating to the reduction of juvenile crime
- Increase knowledge about programs and policies that address juvenile crime
- Enhance the skills of personnel by providing training and advice for practitioners engaged in juvenile crime and delinquency prevention

**INSTRUCTIONAL ORGANIZATION**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Degree Offered</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile Justice</td>
<td>Master of Science &amp; Doctor of Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juvenile Forensic Psychology</td>
<td>Master of Science</td>
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ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The Master of Science Programs
In addition to the general admission requirements to the graduate school described elsewhere in the catalogue, students seeking admission to the M.S. degrees in juvenile justice and juvenile forensic psychology should meet the following requirements:

1. A bachelor degree from an accredited college or university
2. A minimum GPA of 2.75 with a GPA of 3.0 or higher preferred
3. Three letters of recommendation from persons in the field of the applicant’s academic major or area of concentration
4. Submission of official scores on the general component of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
5. Completion of liberal arts courses at the undergraduate level such as social sciences, behavioral sciences, college algebra, and statistics
6. Completion of an essay detailing the applicant’s reasons for pursuing the degree

The Ph.D. Program
Admission criteria for the Ph.D. Program in Juvenile Justice, as established by the Program faculty, are as follows:

Required elements: (In order for an application to be considered, all elements below must be present in the applicant’s file by the semester deadline.)

- Baccalaureate degree conferred by a regionally-accredited institution;
- Master’s degree, prior to entering doctoral course work, conferred by a regionally-accredited institution;
- Official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score report, submitted to the Graduate School (an unofficial copy may be used by the Doctoral Committee in initial screening);
- Original transcripts, submitted to the Graduate School, for all academic work taken at the undergraduate and graduate levels (unofficial copies may be used by the Doctoral Committee in initial screening);
- Three letters of recommendation;
- Original written essay as described in the doctoral application form and a copy of the master’s thesis or other lengthy report or paper; and
- If a foreign student, submission of official results from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). A score of 600 or higher is mandatory

Preferences:

- Baccalaureate degree in juvenile justice, criminal justice, or criminology. A secondary preference is a directly-related social science discipline (such as sociology) in which there is evidence of the study of crime-related phenomena.
- 3.0 Grade Point Average (GPA), or higher, on a four-point scale on all completed undergraduate course work.
- Master degree in juvenile justice, juvenile forensic psychology, criminal justice or criminology. A secondary preference is a directly-related social science discipline (such as sociology) in which there is evidence of the study of crime-related phenomena.
- 3.5 GPA, or higher, on a four-point scale in all completed graduate course work.
- Graduate research methods course (if not present, stem work must be completed).
- Graduate statistics course (if not present, stem work must be completed).
- Graduate Record Exam (GRE) Verbal and Quantitative scores in the higher percentiles.
- Evidence of a successfully-completed master’s thesis.
- Written essay demonstrating strong writing skills; an expressed desire to teach at college level, work as researcher in a juvenile justice agency, and/or assist in developing juvenile justice policy within a governmental environment; realistic expectation of the degree’s value; evidence of commitment to completing the degree; strong rationale for wanting this specific Ph.D.; and a rationale expressing what the applicant will add to the field.
- Letters of recommendation from faculty sufficiently acquainted with the student to be able to comment on the potential to successfully complete a doctoral program and demonstrating evidence of excellent
critical thought, motivation, study skills, and writing skills. Preferred ratings would be primarily excellent in all categories with an overall rating in the top 3 to 10 percent of all graduate students.

**Enhancing qualities:**
The committee will consider the following as information that will enhance an application:

1. Three or more years of paid work experience in a juvenile justice agency (law enforcement, probation/parole, or correctional institution).
2. Completion of a previous doctoral degree in any field.
3. College-level teaching experience, either as a part-time or full-time instructor.
4. Publication(s) in academic and/or scholarly outlets, with greatest emphasis on peer-reviewed publications.
5. Paid research work experience (not that involved in the production of a thesis).
6. Grant-writing experience.
7. Ability to attend courses as a full-time student (requires less than full-time outside employment).

**Interview:**
In the event the initial committee decision is favorable, applicants must submit to an interview with the Doctoral Committee prior to final acceptance. That interview may be either in person or via the equivalent of a telephone conference call, depending upon the distance and hardship involved in a personal interview.

Applicants will be admitted in one of two statuses: full graduate status or provisional status.

1. Full graduate status is conferred on those students admitted to the program with no conditions of admission, or who have satisfied all conditions of admission.
2. Provisional admission status is used when the Doctoral Committee feels that prerequisites have not been met, official versions of required forms have not been received, and/or there is a question of ability to perform at doctoral standards by virtue of a failure to meet specific admissions criteria. Students who are provisionally admitted must satisfy all requirements prior to being admitted to full graduate status (conditions and requirements will be provided via letter to the student). In the event of a failure to meet prerequisites, deficiencies must be completed prior to beginning doctoral course work. No doctoral course work may be taken when there are prerequisite deficiencies nor may stem work be used to meet doctoral program requirements. Where stem work is assigned to rectify deficiencies, any grade lower than “B” will automatically result in a decision to deny admission. No more than 12 units of course work may be taken in provisional status.

It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that all conditions of admission are met in a timely fashion and to notify the doctoral coordinator when all conditions are met. Following the first semester in provisional status (non-prerequisite-deficiency cases), the Doctoral Committee will meet to consider placing the student in full graduate status. Based on the evidence at hand, the Committee may admit to full graduate status or dismiss from the program.

No student will be accepted in courses unless he/she is in full graduate status or provisional status within the Juvenile Justice Doctoral Program.

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN JUVENILE JUSTICE DEGREE PROGRAM**

The MSJJ Program requires the completion of 36 semester credit hours. Two options are available for students: thesis and non-thesis. Students opting for the thesis curriculum must successfully complete 30 hours of course work in addition to 6 hours of thesis. The non-thesis option requires the successful completion of 36 hours of course work and passing a comprehensive examination.

Additionally, graduate students are to complete 200 hours of professional internship with agencies or programs servicing juvenile delinquents.

**DEGREE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

**Common Core** ......................................................................................................................... 12 SCH
College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology Academic Programs

JJUS5123  Foundations of Juvenile Justice .......................................................... 3 SCH
JJUS 5763  Theories of Delinquency ........................................................................ 3 SCH
JJUS 5943  Research Methods .................................................................................. 3 SCH
JJUS 5963  Applied Statistical Methods and Computing ........................................ 3 SCH

Thesis and Non-Thesis Degree Options ................................................................. 18-24 SCH
Select from:
JJUS 5113  Foundations of Criminal Justice ......................................................... 3 SCH
JJUS 5223  Substance Abuse ................................................................................... 3 SCH
JJUS 5233  Community Structure and Problems ................................................... 3 SCH
JJUS 5243  Community Building and Organizing ................................................... 3 SCH
JJUS 5253  Domestic and Family Violence .............................................................. 3 SCH
JJUS 5413  Economic Life and Juvenile Crime ......................................................... 3 SCH
JJUS 5423  Conflict Mediation/Resolution .............................................................. 3 SCH
JJUS 5433  Counseling ............................................................................................ 3 SCH
JJUS 5523  Management of Juvenile Justice Organizations .................................... 3 SCH
JJUS 5773  Juvenile Law and Practice ................................................................. 3 SCH
JJUS 5973  Policy Analysis .................................................................................... 3 SCH
JJUS 5783  Ethics ................................................................................................. 3 SCH
JJUS 5953  Special Topics in Juvenile Justice .......................................................... 3 SCH

Thesis Option Requirements .................................................................................. 6 SCH
JJUS 5986  Thesis 0-6 SCH

Total Degree Requirements ................................................................................. 36 SCH

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN JUVENILE FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

The MSJFP Program requires the completion of 36 semester credit hours. Two options are available: thesis and externship. The thesis option is designed for students interested in research and a Ph.D. The externship option is designed for students who desire to work in the field of forensic psychology.

THESIS OPTION DEGREE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Common Core ................................................................. 9 SCH
JPSY 5113  Psychology and the Juvenile Law ........................................................ 3 SCH
JPSY 5123  Psychology of Crime & Delinquency ................................................. 3 SCH
JPSY 5763  Development Psychology .................................................................. 3 SCH

Required Courses ................................................................. 9 SCH
JPSY 5943  Research Methods ............................................................................. 3 SCH
JPSY 5963  Applied Statistical Analysis ............................................................... 3 SCH
JPSY 5986  Thesis .............................................................................................. 3 SCH
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<td>JPSY5233</td>
<td>Violence and Aggression</td>
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<td>Ethics</td>
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<td>JPSY5853</td>
<td>Personality Assessment II</td>
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<td>JPSY5973</td>
<td>Field Work in Psychology</td>
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**Elective Courses** ........................................................................................................... 18 SCH

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<td>Clinical Interviewing</td>
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**Total Degree Requirements** ........................................................................................................... 36 SCH
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN JUVENILE JUSTICE DEGREE PROGRAM

The program requires a minimum of 61 semester credit hours for the Ph.D. Of these hours, 49 are course work hours and 12 are dissertation hours. Only 6 hours may be from courses lower than the 7000 level. The Juvenile Justice Ph.D. Program has no tracks. There is a common core and students may develop a specialty by structuring their choice of substantive courses, elective courses, and dissertation topic.

Courses taken during a master degree program may not be repeated for credit at the doctoral level. No more than two (2) courses lower than the 7000 level may be applied toward fulfilling the requirements of the Ph.D. program. Courses lower than the 7000 level must be approved by the Doctoral Coordinator prior to enrolling. In no event will more than one lower-level course in each of the theory and juvenile justice areas be approved.

Transfer of Graduate Courses from Other Universities
A maximum of six (6) units of juvenile-justice-related doctoral-level course work may be transferred from other accredited universities. A minimum grade of B is required in any such courses. Transfer credit is granted by petition to, and approval by, the Doctoral Committee, with final approval by the Dean of the School. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate the petition and justify the acceptance of the courses. In the event a student has taken less than 7000-level courses to be used toward the course work requirements of the doctoral program, the number of allowed transfer units will be reduced on a one-for-one basis. Courses presented for transfer credit must be the equivalent of courses in the doctoral program.

Continuous Enrollment
Continuous enrollment defines the minimal level of academic activity needed to remain enrolled in the program. A Ph.D. student is considered to be continuously enrolled when he or she is enrolled for at least one course during each of the spring and fall academic semesters. Once a Ph.D. student has been admitted to candidacy he or she must enroll for a minimum of 6 hours during the 12-month academic year to be continuously enrolled. Students who fail to meet the continuous enrollment criteria will be withdrawn from the program and must apply for readmission. The sole exception is enrollment during comprehensive exams. Students taking comprehensive exams are not required to be enrolled in course work.

Residency
Students must establish course work residency before being admitted to candidacy. The residency requirement is considered to be met when a student has been continuously enrolled on campus for two consecutive semesters (excluding the summer semester).

Leave of Absence
Graduate students who have not completed their formal course requirements are expected to enroll continuously in the program during all consecutive long semesters after initial registration. Students who do not expect to be enrolled should request a leave of absence in a letter to the Doctoral Coordinator. A leave of absence is granted at the discretion of the Dean.

This provision includes students who have completed their formal course requirements and are writing the dissertation away from the campus. During a leave of absence, a student cannot make use of the University or College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology resources, nor can a student attempt comprehensive exams or defend a dissertation.
Good Standing
Ph.D. students remain in good standing when they maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 for graded courses in the doctoral program. Only grades of B or better count toward required course work (i.e., all but the elective courses) and dissertation hours. Any grade lower than "B" in a required area course will necessitate that the course be retaken and passed with a grade of "B" or higher. While one elective grade of C may be counted toward the Ph.D., only grades of B or better indicate satisfactory completion of courses required for the Ph.D. If a second such grade is earned, the student will be dismissed from the program, but may petition the Doctoral Committee for readmission. After reviewing the petition, the committee may allow readmission under such conditions as it deems appropriate. A third grade lower than "B" will result in permanent dismissal from the program with no recourse to petition.

Time Limit
A student must complete all requirements for the Ph.D. degree within seven (7) consecutive years after the first date of enrollment in the program. If transfer courses are permitted, the initial enrollment date of those courses must not exceed seven years prior to the date the degree is awarded.

Comprehensive Examination
Before they may be admitted to candidacy, students must successfully complete their doctoral examinations. These examinations are employed to test the student's general knowledge, his or her ability to integrate and synthesize the wealth of information in the field, and his or her preparation for engaging in the kind of independent scholarship required to complete a doctoral dissertation. Students failing any portion of the comprehensive examinations must consult with the Doctoral Coordinator to determine the steps to be taken. Two consecutive failures on any examination will result in the student's dismissal from the Ph.D. program.

Advancement to Candidacy
Following successful completion of the comprehensive examinations, it is the student's responsibility to petition for advancement to candidacy. To be advanced to candidacy, students must have completed all of the following requirements and/or procedures:

1. Achieved a cumulative grade-point average no lower than 3.0 in program course work and a minimum grade of B (3.0) in all required area courses.
2. Completed all program course work with no more than one grade lower than B (unless the student successfully petitions his or her dismissal and retakes a second C course with a grade of ‘B’ or higher).
3. Successfully passed all comprehensive examinations.

Students admitted to candidacy are required to accumulate a minimum of 6 credit hours during each twelve month period following admission to candidacy and until such time as the degree is granted. Further, a student must be enrolled for a minimum of 3 dissertation hours during any semester in which University resources are used. Assistantship students must continue to meet the enrollment criteria for maintaining their assistantship. Any exception to this policy requires the approval of the Doctoral Program Coordinator and the Dean of the College of Juvenile Justice & Psychology. Students who fail to enroll for the appropriate number of hours following advancement to candidacy shall be placed on probation. To be removed from probation, the student must enroll for the deficient number of credits plus three additional credits in the next semester. Students who do not meet these requirements will be dismissed from the doctoral program and required to reapply for admission, subject to any new admissions criteria in effect at the time of readmission.
Dissertation
Following approval of the student's application to candidacy, the student may enroll in Dissertation hours. Two attempts at passing both the dissertation prospectus defense and the dissertation defense are permitted. Having met other requirements for the degree, students who successfully defend their dissertations and complete the submission process are granted the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the commencement ceremony immediately following. Failure to pass either the dissertation prospectus defense or the dissertation defense will result in the student's dismissal from the program.

The determination of completion requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Juvenile Justice is solely the province of the program faculty.

Financial Assistance
The Graduate Programs of the School offer a limited number of graduate assistantships to qualified full-time students. Students who receive such an award are required to assist faculty on research projects and/or teach courses in the undergraduate programs. Criteria for assignment of master’s assistantships include quantitative information (GPA, GRE scores) and qualitative information (undergraduate preparation, writing, and letters of recommendation). Criteria for assignment of doctoral assistantships to new students include quantitative information (graduate GPA, GRE scores and TOEFL scores) and qualitative and/or supplemental information (letters of recommendation, examples of student writing, applicant’s statement of interest and intent, preparation in the field of study, academic publications, previous college-level teaching experience, research work in the field, and grant-writing experience). No standardized test score will be used as the sole criterion for awarding assistantships or for rejecting applicants for assistantships.

Student loans are available to graduate students at Prairie View A&M on the basis of need. For more information about loans and other sources of aid, contact the Office of Student Financial Services, Evans Hall, Rm. 201, Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX 77446.

DEGREE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisite Courses (necessary for admission, not counted in program hours) ......................... 6 SCH
JJUS 5943 Research Methods (or equivalent) ........................................................................... 3 SCH
JJUS 5963 Applied Statistical Methods and Computing (or equivalent) ............................. 3 SCH

Required Support Courses ........................................................................................................ 13 SCH
JJUS 7661 Juvenile Justice Statistics Lab .................................................................................. 1 SCH
JJUS 7943 Advanced Research Methods I ............................................................................. 3 SCH
JJUS 7943 Advanced Research Methods II .......................................................................... 3 SCH
JJUS 7943 Advanced Statistical Techniques I ...................................................................... 3 SCH
JJUS 7943 Advanced Statistical Techniques II ..................................................................... 3 SCH

*Required Juvenile Justice Courses ................................................................................... 9 SCH
JJUS 7113 Juvenile Justice Issues and Practice ..................................................................... 3 SCH
JJUS 7653 Seminar on Juvenile Corrections ......................................................................... 3 SCH
JJUS 7683 Philosophy of Punishment ............................................................................... 3 SCH
JJUS 7753 Demographics and Juvenile Justice ................................................................. 3 SCH
JJUS 7763 Seminar on Juvenile Processing by Police and Courts ........................................ 3 SCH
JJUS 7783 Legal Aspects of Juvenile Justice ....................................................................... 3 SCH
JJUS 7863 Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation ......................................................... 3 SCH

**Required Delinquency Theory Courses ........................................................................... 9 SCH
JJUS 7673 The Juvenile Offender and Youth Gangs ............................................................ 3 SCH
JJUS 7773 Theories of Crime and Delinquency ............................................................... 3 SCH
JJUS 7873 Advanced Seminar in Crime and Delinquency Theory ...................................... 3 SCH
**Elective Courses** ............................................................................................................................................. 18 SCH

Select from:
JJUS 7623  Seminar in Grant Writing ............................................................................................................. 3 SCH
JJUS 7643  Management and Administration ..................................................................................................... 3 SCH
JJUS 7653  Seminar on Juvenile Corrections ....................................................................................................... 3 SCH
JJUS 7673  The Juvenile Offender and Youth Gangs .......................................................................................... 3 SCH
JJUS 7683  Philosophy of Punishment ................................................................................................................ 3 SCH
JJUS 7693  Qualitative Methods in Social Sciences ........................................................................................... 3 SCH
JJUS 7753  Demographics and Juvenile Justice .................................................................................................... 3 SCH
JJUS 7763  Seminar on Juvenile Processing by Police and Courts ..................................................................... 3 SCH
JJUS 7773  Theories of Crime and Delinquency .................................................................................................. 3 SCH
JJUS 7783  Legal Aspects of Juvenile Justice ...................................................................................................... 3 SCH
JJUS 7853  Prevention and Treatment of Crime and Delinquency .................................................................... 3 SCH
JJUS 7863  Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation .......................................................................................... 3 SCH
JJUS 7873  Advanced Seminar in Crime and Delinquency Theory ..................................................................... 3 SCH

*Selected courses lower than the 7000 level may be accepted with petition to and approval of the Doctoral Coordinator prior to enrollment.

**Selected courses lower than the 7000 level may be accepted with petition to and approval of the Doctoral Coordinator prior to enrollment. Comprehensive exams will, minimally, require content from JJUS 7673, 7773 and 7873. Therefore, students are strongly encouraged to select these courses to meet the delinquency theory area requirement.