



<b>Approved by:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
School Director: <u>Thi V. Khai</u>	March 15, 2012
College Curriculum Chair: <u>Charm R. H...</u>	3-15-12
College Dean: <u>[Signature]</u>	3/15/12
UGPC Chair: _____	_____
Graduate College Dean: _____	_____

**To:** Graduate Programs Committee University

**From:** Dr. Khi Thai, Director, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice  
Contact Person: Dr. Rachel Santos, Graduate Coordinator

**RE:** Proposal for Revisions to Master of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice

**Date:** March 14, 2012

The School of Criminology and Criminal Justice is very excited to announce a revised Masters of Science degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice (MSCCJ) for our students. The product of this effort is a result of much collaboration, feedback, planning, and months of discussion. Our hope with this revised program is multifold. First, we hope to improve the structure and academic rigor of our master's degree to better prepare our students for the complexities of today's workforce as either criminal justice practitioners or researchers. Second, we hope to attract more students into our program from both the criminal justice profession as well as from our strong undergraduate base. Our goal is to ensure that students receive education in the most important discipline-specific concepts and become producers and consumers of research and best practices.

It is important to note that there are NO changes to the program's relationship to the overall mission/goal of the university, the total number of credits required (33), the impact to other colleges schools or departments, or to the name of the program. The revisions that have been approved by the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice Faculty in October 2011 primarily address the following:

- 1) Admission requirements;
- 2) Core requirements;
- 3) Elective requirements,
- 4) Exit requirements, and
- 5) Specializations certifications.

Those places where a specific form is required have been marked with an asterisk (\*) and accompany this document. In memos, have been provided that account for the language changes in the university catalog. The following pages contain a summary of the program revisions by contrasting the components of the old program to those that are new. Note components that have not been changed are not presented in this document.



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## Admission Requirements

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### Current

- BA from an accredited institution
- 3.0 GPA in last 60 credits
- 1000 on GRE
- Letter of intent

### Proposed Changes

- BA from an accredited institution
- 3.0 GPA in last 60 credits
- B or better in undergraduate research methods and theory courses (any major)
- An example of written work
- A current resume
- A letter of intent

*Note: The GRE requirement for admission has been removed, but it could still be submitted by any student for consideration if the student was deficient in other categories. We have removed the GRE requirement because we have determined that it is not predictive of success in our program. The new admissions requirements that we have developed we consider more effective tools to evaluate and ensure a student's future success in our program. Also, other Criminal Justice Masters programs in Florida do not require the GRE for admission (e.g., Florida International University, Central Florida University, University of South Florida, and Nova Southeastern) and other Schools within the College of Design and Social Inquiry have eliminated the GRE as a requirement (e.g., Social Work, Public Administration, Non-Profit Management).*

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## Core Course Requirements

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### Current (12 credits)

- CCJ 6056 Criminology
- CCJ 6704 Research Methods
- CCJ 6902 Foundations Readings in the Criminal Justice Process
- PAD 6701 Applied Methods I OR STA 6113 Educational Statistics

### Proposed Changes (9 credits)

- Remove requiring either PAD 6701 Applied Methods I OR STA 6113 Educational Statistics
- The removal of three credits from the core will be made up in the "exit requirements" discussed at the end of this memo.

### Proposed Name Changes to Core Courses<sup>†</sup>

- CCJ 6056 Understanding Criminal Behavior
- CCJ 6704 Research Methods and Data Analysis
- CCJ 6902 Criminal Justice Research and Policy Foundations

<sup>†</sup>Course name changes have been tabled until August 2012 but are listed here to show how they will be changed to be more representative of the program's content and more appealing to students. The content of each of these courses will remain the same.



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## Elective Course Requirements

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### Current

- **Non-thesis option:** 21 unrestricted elective credits, up to 9 of which may be taken outside CCJ with coordinator approval
- **Thesis option:** 15 unrestricted elective credits, up to 9 of which may be taken outside CCJ with coordinator approval

### Proposed Changes (Both Thesis and Non-Thesis Options)

- Restricted Electives (6 credits, choose two of the following five courses):
  1. CJE 6426 Police Research, Policy, and Practice\*
  2. CJC 6021 Corrections
  3. CJJ 6046 Juvenile Justice
  4. CCJ 6475 Organizational Culture in Criminal Justice Agencies
  5. CCJ 6669 Gender, Race, and Class in Criminal Justice\*
- Unrestricted Electives (12 credits, any of the following courses, also include courses listed as restricted elective but not taken to satisfy that requirement):
  - CCJ 6142 Restorative Community Justice
  - CCJ 6456 Leadership and Future Issues in Criminal Justice Agencies
  - CCJ 6458 Management Implications of Justice Policy
  - CCJ 6485 Public Policy Models
  - CCJ 6675 Victims and the Justice Process
  - CCJ 6905 Directed Independent Study
  - CCJ 6934 Special Topics
  - Students will still be able to take up to 9 credits from outside CCJ with approval from the coordinator and will fall under this category.

*\*Major changes to the CJE 6426 have been made, thus a change form and new syllabus have been provided for approval. CCJ 6669 is a new course, thus the appropriate forms have been provided as well.*

### Proposed Name Changes to Electives<sup>†</sup>

- CJC 6021 Corrections Research, Policy, and Practice
- CJJ 6046 Juvenile Justice Research, Policy, and Practice
- CCJ 6142 Restorative Justice Research, Policy, and Practice
- CCJ 6456 Leadership in Criminal Justice Agencies
- CCJ 6485 Applying Criminal Justice Theory, Policy, and Research

*<sup>†</sup>Course name changes have been tabled until August 2012 but are listed here to show how they will be changed to be more representative of program's content and more appealing to students. The content of these courses will remain the same. The names have also been changed to distinguish them from similarly named courses at the undergraduate level.*



The following electives will be deleted from the current curriculum:

- CCJ 6196 Conflict Management & Dispute Resolution\*
- CCJ 6489 Issues in Community Justice\*
- CCJ 6709 Qualitative Research Methods in Criminal Justice\*
- CCJ 6931 Seminar in Justice Policy Reform\*

*\*The appropriate forms have been provided for approval.*

### Exit Requirements

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#### Current

- **Non-thesis option:** 33 credits and a comprehensive exam
- **Thesis option:** 27 credits and 6 credits for thesis

#### Proposed Changes

- **Non-thesis option:** 27 credits, one unrestricted elective (3 credits), and CCJ 6485 Public Police Models (3 credits)

*Note: CCJ 6485 will be mandatory for every non-thesis student. This course will serve as a capstone course as it requires the student to apply his/her knowledge in a policy related project. This is not a new course, but is taught in the program. The name has been changed to better reflect the new role this course will play. Note that thesis students can take this course as an unrestricted elective if they like. Even though there are changes to the core requirements and electives for thesis students, the thesis option itself as an exit requirement has not changed.*

### Specializations and Certifications

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#### Current

- **Specialization:** Criminology and Criminal Justice: Offered to those obtaining degrees in a different discipline. To receive a specialization in CCJ they would take the 12 core credits and 3 unrestricted MSCCJ elective credits for 15 total.
- **Specialization:** Restorative Community Justice
- **Certifications:** Restorative Community Justice

#### Proposed Changes

- **Specializations:** Change Criminology and Criminal Justice to 9 core credits; 6 unrestricted MSCCJ elective credits for 15 total; Eliminate Restorative Community Justice
- **Certifications:** Eliminate Restorative Community Justice

*Note: The specialization in Criminology and Criminal Justice has been changed according to the new core requirements (i.e., reduce the number of course credits from 12 to 9 and add an additional CCJ elective). The Restorative Justice specialization and certification have been eliminated because many of the courses required for the specialization and certification in Restorative Community Justice have been eliminated from the curriculum and will no longer be taught.*