

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST FOR NEW PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA: DOCTOR OF
PHILOSOPHY IN CRIMINOLOGY**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa for a Doctor of Philosophy in Criminology in the Graduate College.

The Council of Provosts and Board office support approval of this program.

Description of proposed program. The Department of Sociology and Criminology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is seeking to add a PhD program in criminology. At present, the department offers a substantive track in crime, law and social control, but recent years have shown a growing national demand for PhD programs in criminology, specifically. A PhD in criminology will extend the department's highly successful undergraduate BA/BS in criminology, law, and justice. The location of the program within this department allows the program to fill an important niche nationally in graduate training in criminology, by drawing on the strengths and availability of graduate coursework and faculty expertise within sociology, particularly in the study of social stratification, mental health and social psychology. These areas of sociological research often inform studies of crime, violence and criminal justice. As such, SUI is in a prime position to develop a nationally visible, highly competitive, vibrant program.

The mission of the proposed PhD in criminology will be to provide students with comprehensive training in criminological theory, criminology research, research methods and data analysis. Additionally, the program will promote advanced understanding of substantive issues related to criminology, including government policy and the justice system. By design, the program will give students well-rounded experiences as teachers, scholars and researchers through rigorous interdisciplinary coursework, research experience, and teaching opportunities. Paramount to the goals of the program will be the formulation of critical thinking skills and the application of evidence-based reasoning and analytics to contemporary criminological issues. Graduates will pursue careers at Research I and II universities and liberal arts colleges, as researchers in government and NGOs, and as policy consultants in diverse organizations around the country. This will serve a national, as well as state, job market as is typical for persons earning a PhD in criminology.

Academic objectives. The proposed PhD in criminology will develop professionals who are qualified to (A) conduct original research in the field of criminology and (B) serve the discipline and larger community through teaching, private and academic research, government and community research, and policy making. The program's specific learning outcomes are outlined below.

Broad Goal A: To develop the expertise to conduct original research in criminology that pushes forward scholarly knowledge, policy development, and evaluation.

- Outcome 1: Develop a professional skillset in research methodology commonly used in the social sciences, particularly in criminology.
- Outcome 2: Develop a professional skillset in criminological and social science theories.
- Outcome 3: Develop professional expertise in criminological research, which at minimum includes graduate-level competence in criminology as well as in related areas of social scientific research (as pertains to the student's substantive interests).

- Outcome 4: Develop writing, presentation, and communication skills to effectively disseminate research to diverse audiences, including scholars, funding agencies, policy makers, and community stakeholders.

Broad Goal B: To serve the discipline and broader community as criminologists.

- Outcome 5: To be prepared to teach and mentor graduate and undergraduate students in the field of criminology.
- Outcome 6: To be prepared to work with local community, state, and national partners on crime policy and research.
- Outcome 7: To understand the goals, practices and standards of professionals working on crime research and policy. This includes developing a firm grasp of the principles of ethical research.

Need for program. No public or private university in Iowa currently offers a PhD in criminology. This includes the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, the University of Northern Iowa, and the private universities in the state. All three Regents' institutions (and several private schools) have very large undergraduate criminal justice majors, yet there is no avenue in our state for pursuing education in criminology at the PhD level.

Currently, the University of Iowa Department of Sociology and Criminology offers a PhD in sociology, as does Iowa State University. Despite its many strengths, the sociology PhD program is not able to provide students with adequate specialized training in many areas of criminology without a specialized degree program, despite having the faculty strength to do so. Moreover, students increasingly seek a PhD in criminology to work in this field, rather than the PhD in sociology. Sociology and criminology graduate programs are ranked separately by the US News and World Report rankings compendium. Without a PhD in criminology, SUI's department is not eligible to be considered in the criminology rankings. Being ranked in criminology attracts prospective students to the program.

The employment market for persons with PhDs in criminology is very strong, and the University of Iowa and State of Iowa have the opportunity to educate students who can be highly competitive in these markets. Many peer institutions have developed graduate programs in criminology to meet the needs of students interested in pursuing a PhD in criminology. Four of the 14 Big Ten Academic Alliance universities offer PhDs in criminology and/or criminal justice. These include Indiana University, University of Maryland, Michigan State University, and Penn State University. (The University of Nebraska-Omaha and Rutgers University-Newark offer the PhD in criminology and criminal justice; however, these are branch rather than main campuses of BTAA institutions). Large public universities in other academic alliances provide criminology PhD programs, including top-ranked programs at Arizona State University, Florida State University, and the University of Florida. Instituting a PhD in criminology at the University of Iowa would allow for doctoral-level education to augment what is available in the BTAA and add strength to what is available at other public universities in the region. Indeed, because SUI already has significant faculty strength and high national visibility, going forward the expectation is to compete very favorably with the PhD degree programs at the University of Maryland, Pennsylvania State University, and Michigan State University, ranked # 1, # 5, and #10, respectively, by US News and World Reports.

Relationship to existing programs at the institution. There is no comparable program currently offered at the University of Iowa, and there will be no duplication of existing programming. The relationship between the PhD in criminology and other PhD programs at the University of Iowa would be complementary, yet unique. Students pursuing the PhD in criminology may take courses in cognate fields, such as political science, psychology, geography, education, public health and

public affairs, depending on students' own research and teaching interests. In this way, the PhD in criminology will benefit from the availability of course work in other departments and colleges at the UI, as well as contribute students and thereby enrich discussions in graduate courses in cognate fields. Students from other fields will be interested in the graduate coursework in criminology because it will enrich their own graduate education. For example, students pursuing the Graduate College's MA of public affairs and graduate degrees in the College of Public Health, will find that criminology courses augment their own educational tracks and enhance their research knowledge.

Additionally, the PhD in criminology will be housed in the Department of Sociology and Criminology, which is home to both the MA and PhD in sociology. It will share required statistics and methods courses with the MA and PhD in sociology, as well as elective courses. Indeed, some of the current and future students completing the MA in sociology are likely to be interested in entering the new PhD in criminology.

Relationship to existing programs at other colleges and universities. There is no other PhD in criminology being offered in the state of Iowa. Iowa State University has a PhD in sociology with a criminal justice track. That program emphasizes studies of the operation of the criminal justice system, whereas SUI's would emphasize causes of crime, reflecting the expertise of the respective UI and ISU faculty. UNI no longer has an MA of criminal justice and has no PhD or PhD track in criminology. This program could provide an in-state avenue for students in Iowa who wish to pursue more education in the field of criminology and criminal justice.

Resources to establish a high-quality program. The personnel, facilities and equipment in the Department of Sociology and Criminology and at the University of Iowa, more generally, are well-suited to creating and maintaining an excellent program. Many of the faculty in criminology and in sociology are national leaders in their respective fields. In addition, students will have a wealth of substantive, statistical, and methodological courses available to them through various programs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the College of Education, the College of Public Health, and the College of Law. The program will use existing University of Iowa facilities, computing and services.

Student demand. The undergraduate major in criminology housed in the department is highly successful, having grown to around 400 majors since its inception a few years ago. Each year several students who graduate from the undergraduate program in Criminology, Law, and Justice plan to pursue a PhD in criminology. With a PhD at UI, the university is more likely to retain some very strong students.

In addition, there are students pursuing the MA in sociology who would be interested in the PhD in criminology at the University of Iowa.

Workforce need/demand. The PhD in criminology will target a national and state labor market in academia and research organizations. This is a very healthy market. PhDs in criminology from top programs compete very well in national academic markets. They also are highly competitive for research positions in state government, and in public and private sector research organizations. For many years, criminology PhDs have obtained positions in federal agencies that oversee the nation's crime indicator data systems: The Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Justice Statistics, and Department of Homeland Security. Furthermore, the National Institute of Justice, the research arm of the US Justice Department, has a long track record of hiring PhD level scientists, often criminologists, to manage its various grant portfolios.

State agencies, such as Iowa's Department of Corrections, hire criminology PhDs to staff research positions within their agencies. Outside of the government sectors, many criminology PhDs find employment in private research firms that study issues of crime and criminal justice among other social issues, including RTI (Research Triangle Institute) (<https://www.rti.org/>), Pew (<https://www.pewresearch.org/>), Westat (<https://www.westat.com/>), RAND Corporation (<https://www.rand.org/>), Urban Institute (<https://www.urban.org/>), and NORC (National Opinion Research Center) (<https://www.norc.org/Pages/default.aspx>). In fact, these firms and many others routinely advertise and recruit for junior and senior research positions on the American Society of Criminology's online job bank. With increasing emphasis on data in all states and nations, the supply of positions in the non-academic market will continue its upward trajectory.

The market for tenure-track positions in criminology will remain robust in future years owing to the following:

- High demand for college teachers who can train undergraduates in criminology and teach in state government positions (see <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes251111.htm#ind>) because of the continued increases in demand for professionalized workers in the criminal justice system, private securities firms, and security positions in large corporations. (see also <https://www.chronicle.com/article/believe-it-or-not-in-some-fields-colleges-cant-find-anybody-to-hire>)
- A wave of retirements among senior criminology professors nationwide that has already begun
- Greatly increased competition for PhDs in the non-academic sector, including research firms addressing crime, delinquency and justice, as well as state and national government research positions.
- The demand for PhDs in criminology in cognate academic programs such as public health, public affairs, legal studies, colleges of education, and psychology. As the academic boundaries of criminology have expanded, these related disciplines have harnessed some of the demand for criminology by offering criminology and criminal justice related courses that intersect with their own disciplinary foci.

Funding and Cost. The addition of this PhD will be budget neutral because it takes advantage of the natural synergy between criminology and sociology. As indicated above, we will use existing faculty. We will also use already existing facilities and equipment. Many of the courses for the program are already taught in our existing PhD in sociology program. Most students will be funded within our existing teaching assistant allocation that supports our large major in Criminology, Law, and Justice. Others will be funded by external grants that faculty obtain. Over time, we expect that the existence of the PhD in criminology will enhance our faculty's ability to secure a larger amount of external funding.

The only expected cost will be for marketing and recruitment needs.

	Total Costs
Year 1	\$2,250
Year 2	\$2,250
Year 3	\$2,250
Year 4	\$2,250
Year 5	\$2,250

Projected student enrollment.

	Y1	Y 2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7
Graduate	4	4	4	6	6	6	6

The program to serve roughly 6 students per year who are enrolled in other graduate programs and who are interested in taking graduate level courses in criminology.

Accreditation. Program accreditation will not be necessary or appropriate for this program.

Evaluation plan. The department will assess the program annually, and every five years the program will be thoroughly reviewed as part of the regularly scheduled departmental review. UI is committed to continuous program evaluation using surveys, interviews and other program data to gather the necessary information for on-going program evaluation.

Date of implementation. Fall 2022.

Letters of Support



Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology

01 June 2021

Dr. Jennifer Glanville, Professor and Head
Department of Sociology and Criminology
University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1401

Dear Professor Glanville:

Thank you for the opportunity to review your proposed Ph.D. in Criminology. After conferring with my Criminology and Criminal Justice colleagues here at the University of Northern Iowa, please accept our full support for your new degree program. We believe your degree is timely and a welcome addition to Iowa's preparation of the next generation of Criminology professionals.

Best regards to you and your colleagues.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Grey", is written over the word "Respectfully,".

Mark A. Grey, Ph.D.
Professor and Head
Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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August 11, 2021

Christine Getz
Associate Dean for Graduate Education
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
120 Schaeffer Hall
The University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA 52242-1409

Dear Dean Getz,

Thank you for your note requesting our input on the University of Iowa's proposed PhD in Criminology. I have shared your request with the Department Chair in Sociology and Criminal Justice and within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences administration. All agreed that preparing students to contribute to scholarly knowledge, policy development, and evaluation in the field of criminology and criminal justice is vital. Student interest and career opportunities in the field continue to expand. While there are some similarities in graduate level courses offered here and some graduate students focus on criminology/criminal justice within the PhD in Sociology at ISU, we do not offer a separate PhD in Criminology. We did recently create a graduate minor in Criminal Justice to begin Fall 2021.

The proposed program seems to be a logical outgrowth of the University of Iowa's existing graduate program in sociology and builds on student interest. It also leverages particular strengths at the University of Iowa such as the Boyd College of Law, College of Public Health, and the Public Policy Center.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences appreciates the opportunity to review the proposal. We look forward to future faculty and student collaborations in the area of criminology and sociology. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Leslie Hogben
Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Faculty Development
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