

Department of Criminal Justice Sciences

Graduate Assessment Plan

The Department of Criminal Justice Sciences Graduate Program has four student learning outcomes to assess. Each will be assessed and measured in the following manner for each student in the program:

Outcome 1: Conduct independent research, master an available body of research-based knowledge, and apply that knowledge to the solution of practical problems.

Relevant Program Requirement: Master's thesis or culminating research project.

Assessment Assignment: Faculty supervising the student's exit option.

Measurement: One of the following, for each student.

Thesis: A thesis evaluation rubric (Appendix A) will be completed by each committee member.

Culminating Research Experience: This option is completed via independent study. An independent study evaluation rubric (Appendix B) will be completed by the faculty member(s) supervising the independent study. Please note that only independent studies that fulfill a student's exit option requirement needs to be assessed. Independent studies that serve only elective hour requirements do not need to be assessed.

Data Collection: Completed exit option evaluation rubrics will be submitted to the department's Office Support Specialist, Jenny Doutt, after the final deposit filing (for the thesis option) or after final grade submissions (for the independent study option) from each faculty member supervising the student.

Outcome 2: Be able to explain the major theoretical perspectives of criminology/criminal justice and apply these perspectives to real world problems, circumstances, or situations.

Relevant Program Requirement: Completion of CJS 401: Criminological Theory.

Assessment Assignment: Faculty member teaching CJS 401.

Measurement: Complete the Criminological Theory evaluation rubric (Appendix C).

Data Collection: Completed evaluation rubrics will be submitted to the department's Office Support Specialist, Jenny Doutt, after final grade submission by the faculty member teaching the course that semester.

Outcome 3: Develop an understanding of basic concepts & principles of research methodology and design in order to examine topical questions in criminal justice.

Relevant Program Requirement: Completion of CJS 497: Graduate Research Methods.

Assessment Assignment: Faculty member teaching CJS 497.

Measurement: Complete the Research Methods evaluation rubric (Appendix D).

Data Collection & Results: Completed evaluation rubrics will be submitted to the department's Office Support Specialist, Jenny Doust, after final grade submission by the faculty member teaching the course that semester.

Outcome 4: Develop an understanding of basic concepts & principles of statistical analysis and apply them to the analysis of criminal justice issues.

Relevant Program Requirement: Completion of CJS 440: Statistical Applications in Criminal Justice.

Assessment Assignment: Faculty member teaching CJS 440.

Measurement: Complete the Statistics evaluation rubric (Appendix E).

Data Collection & Results: Completed evaluation rubrics will be submitted to the department's Office Support Specialist, Jenny Doust, after final grade submission by the faculty member teaching the course that semester.

Outcome Results: There will be four evaluation rubrics per student. The data from the rubrics will be compiled electronically. Data will be aggregated and analyzed by the graduate coordinator yearly. The target benchmark for aggregate results is "Meets Expectations." Areas with aggregate scores on evaluation rubrics that are consistently rated as "Below Expectations" may be used to generate discussions regarding program content, processes, or procedures to make any necessary improvements to the program. Similarly, areas with aggregate scores that are consistently rated as "Exceeds Expectations" may be identified to highlight program successes.

Department of Criminal Justice Sciences MA/MS Program
Thesis Evaluation Rubric (Appendix A)

Student Name: _____ **Evaluator:** _____ **Semester:** _____

Thesis Title: _____

Criteria	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Below Expectations
Research Question(s)/Topic	3 Challenging question(s) that demonstrate thorough understanding of research gaps in topic. Study makes a significant contribution to topic area.	2 Clear and well-thought out question(s) that demonstrate acceptable understanding of research gaps. Study makes a contribution to topic area.	1 Question(s) lack clarity and demonstrate a lack of understanding of research gaps in the topic. Study makes little to no contribution to topic area.
Literature Review	3 Demonstrates in depth understanding of existing body of knowledge. Exceptional synthesis of lit. Identifies need for research question.	2 Demonstrates a solid understanding of existing body of knowledge. Adequate synthesis of lit. and need for research question.	1 Review misses key points in existing body of knowledge. Reviews prior research but does not synthesize lit. Fails to identify need for research question.
Methodology	3 Excellent understanding and execution. Thoughtful consideration of limitations.	2 Adequate understanding and execution. Identifies limitations.	1 Inadequate understanding and/or inappropriate execution. Lacks understanding of limitations.
Analysis	3 Appropriate based on methods/question. Clear understanding of the technique used.	2 Appropriate based on methods/question. Adequate understanding of the technique used.	1 Inappropriate based on methods/question. Lacks understanding of technique used.
Reporting of Results	3 Results reported in a manner consistent with the field. Exceptional use of tables or other organizational devices for presenting results.	2 Results reported in a manner mostly consistent with the field. Tables and/or organizational devices used but may lack clarity.	1 Inconsistent reporting that does not follow practices within the field. Lack of organizational devices for presenting results.
Interpretation/Discussion of Results	3 Accurate interpretations that demonstrate a strong connection between findings & relevance. Discusses results relative to question(s) & gaps in lit. exceptionally well.	2 Accurate interpretations that demonstrate adequate connections between findings & relevance. Adequately discusses results relative to question(s) & gaps in lit.	1 Inaccurate interpretations. Fails to provide much insight as to how results relate to research question and gaps in lit.

Writing: Organization Style Grammar Punctuation Formatting	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> Reflects mastery of the arts of scholarly writing.	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> Reflects competence in the arts of scholarly writing.	<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> Reflects notable deficiencies in some aspects of scholarly writing.
Final Defense Presentation	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> Excellence in all areas: professionalism, free of errors in visual aids, articulate, well prepared, and able to adequately address any questions posed.	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> Competence in most areas: professionalism, free of errors in visual aids, articulate, well prepared, and able to adequately address any questions posed.	<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> Notable deficiencies in more than one area : professionalism, free of errors in visual aids, articulate, well prepared, and able to adequately address any questions posed.
Meets agreed upon requirements How well did the student work independently to meet the objectives and workload expectations (i.e., 270 total hours of work for the 6 credit hour project) of the agreed upon project as outlined in the thesis contracts? Include rationale in the identified rating box. Note: This criteria may only be assessable by the thesis chair. Leave blank if you cannot rate.	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1</p>
Overall quality of thesis Summary assessment of entire thesis project. Include rationale in the identified rating box.	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1</p>

Additional Comments:

Committee Members: Please submit to Jenny Doutt after the student's final defense.

**Department of Criminal Justice Sciences MA/MS Program
Culminating Research Experience Independent Study Evaluation Rubric (Appendix B)**

Student Name: _____ **Evaluator:** _____ **Semester:** _____
Project Title: _____

Criteria	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Below Expectations
1. Understanding of topic	4	3	2 1 0
How well did the student master a body of research-based knowledge?	Rationale:		
2. Methodological approach	4	3	2 1 0
Evaluator Description of the methods used by the student to connect the issues of their topic to the application of a solution:	Rationale:		
3. Application of knowledge to a solution	4	3	2 1 0
How well did the student apply knowledge of topic to the solution of the problem posed?	Rationale:		
4. Meets agreed upon requirements	4	3	2 1 0
How well did the student meet the stated objectives, attend scheduled meetings, review required readings, and meet workload expectations (i.e., 135 total hours of work for the 3 credit hour project) of the agreed upon project as outlined in the CJS 400 contract?	Rationale:		
5. Quality of written product	4	3	2 1 0
Project reflects mastery of the arts of scholarly writing: organization, style, grammar, punctuation, spelling, formatting. Effectively uses organizational devices, such as paragraph sections, headings, and transitions.	Rationale:		
6. Quality of oral presentation	4	3	2 1 0
Degree to which presentation was: professional, free of errors in visual aids, articulate, well prepared, and able to adequately address any questions posed.	Rationale:		
7. Overall quality of project	4	3	2 1 0
Summary assessment of entire culminating research experience project.	Rationale:		

Additional Comments (provide on reverse side):

Please submit to Jenny Douth after submission of final grade for the independent study.

**Department of Criminal Justice Sciences MA/MS Program
Criminological Theory Evaluation Rubric (Appendix C)**

Student Name: _____ **Evaluator:** _____ **Semester:** _____

Criteria	Exceeds Expectations Criminological theory understanding is very clear and can accurately utilize and/or explain the theoretical framework with great skill	Meets Expectations Criminological theory understanding is adequately clear and can utilize or explain the theoretical framework sufficiently	Below Expectations Criminological theory understanding is not adequately clear and/or does not accurately utilize or explain the theoretical framework	Source Variety of assignments (written and/or oral) given by CJS:401 <i>Criminological Theory</i> instructor
Understanding & application of biological perspective.	4	3	2 1 0	
Understanding & application of psychological theories.	4	3	2 1 0	
Understanding & application of social structure theories (e.g., social disorganization, strain, anomie).	4	3	2 1 0	
Understanding & application of social process theories (e.g., bonding & control theories).	4	3	2 1 0	
Understanding & application of labeling.	4	3	2 1 0	
Understanding & application of critical/conflict/feminist perspectives.	4	3	2 1 0	

Comments (continue on reverse side):

Please submit to Jenny Doult after submission of final grade for the class.

**Department of Criminal Justice Sciences MA/MS Program
Research Methodology Evaluation Rubric (Appendix D)**

Student Name: _____ **Evaluator:** _____ **Semester:** _____

Assignment Title: _____

Criteria	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Below Expectations
<p>Research Question:</p> <p>A. Able to Identify and write different types of research questions that are empirically sound (e.g., feasible, measurable) and relevant to the field</p>	4	3	2 1 0
<p>Sampling Knowledge:</p> <p>A. Recognize sampling strategies to employ in order to answer specific research questions B. Able to identify appropriate sampling strategies for both probability or non-probability sampling C. Able to critically analyze the strengths and weaknesses of any sampling strategy</p>	4	3	2 1 0
<p>Conceptualization and Operationalization:</p> <p>A. Able to appropriately identify and conceptualize independent and dependent variables in a study B. Recognize how to appropriately operationalize variables in a study</p>	4	3	2 1 0
<p>Measurement:</p> <p>A. Identify and construct appropriate measurements to examine specific research questions (e.g., write psychometrically sound survey questions; open-ended qualitative interview questions) B. Able to critically examine strengths and/or weaknesses of different types of measurement</p>	4	3	2 1 0
<p>Design Issues:</p> <p>A. Recognize concerns for internal and external validity in a study design B. Recognize concerns for reliability in a study design C. Recognize limitations of a study design D. Recognize ethical concerns (e.g. informed consent, safety, coercion) for any study design</p>	4	3	2 1 0

Comments (continue on reverse side):

Please submit to Jenny Doutt after submission of final grade for the class.

**Department of Criminal Justice Sciences MA/MS Program
Statistics Evaluation Rubric (Appendix E)**

Student Name: _____ **Evaluator:** _____ **Semester:** _____

Criteria	Exceeds Expectations (error free or few minor errors; clearly understands how to apply technique)	Meets Expectations (more than a few minor errors; suggests sufficient understanding of how to apply technique)	Below Expectations (incomplete or contains several errors; evident lack of understanding of how to apply technique)	Source (Assignment, exam, project, etc.)
Understanding & application of MCT and dispersion.	4	3	2 1 0	
Understanding & application of chi square.	4	3	2 1 0	
Understanding & application of t-test techniques.	4	3	2 1 0	
Understanding & application of ANOVA.	4	3	2 1 0	
Understanding & application of correlation.	4	3	2 1 0	
Understanding & application of regression techniques.	4	3	2 1 0	

Comments (continue on reverse side):

Please submit to Jenny Doutt after submission of final grade for the class.