

California State University, Fresno
Department of Criminology

Master of Science in Criminology
Admission and Program Requirement Information Bulletin

Completing a Master of Science Degree at CSUF involves six major steps. These are listed below:

1. Admission to graduate studies at CSUF.
2. Admission to the Department of Criminology Graduate Program.
3. Advancement to candidacy.
4. Completion of 30 units of course requirements.
5. Completion of theses (Crim 299) or project (Crim 298) (Plan A).

OR

Successful completion of the Departmental Comprehensive Examination (Plan B).

These steps are described in greater detail below:

A. Admission to the University:

1. Admission to CSUF graduate standing is prerequisite to admission to the Department of Criminology Graduate Program.
This requires that the GRE be taken prior to a student being admitted into graduate criminology course work, or to graduate status.

B. Admission to the Department of Criminology Graduate Program

1. The Department of Criminology requires:

- a. An acceptable baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution with a grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 (on a 4 point scale) in the last 60 semester units attempted.
- b. A baccalaureate degree equivalent to the degree in Criminology at CSUF and prerequisite course work with a minimum grade of "B".
- c. Completion of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). The Department must receive GRE scores **before** final admission by the Department can be determined.
- d. A completed Application for Graduate Study in Criminology form.
- e. Three completed recommendation forms for Graduate Study in Criminology.

2. Additional Information

- a. Completion of the above will allow a student to be admitted with classified standing (full admission).
- b. Conditional classified standing may be granted to students who are deficient due to the lack of prerequisite baccalaureate course work. Any serious deficiencies, those where substitutions cannot be made, must be made up during the first semester of graduate study.
- c. The following content represents prerequisite knowledge for entry into the Criminology Graduate Program. A meeting with the graduate coordinator is suggested for clarification. If students lack the required knowledge, they may take the following courses which may not be used toward the master's degree:

Criminology	100---Criminology
	102---Criminal Justice Organization and Management
	117---Criminal Legal Process
	170---Research Methods

C. Advancement to Candidacy:

Classified graduate standing gives a student permission to work towards qualifying for candidacy. Advancement to candidacy gives a student permission to proceed toward qualifying for the degree. Requirements for advancement to candidacy include the following:

1. Classified graduate standing.

If a student is not classified by the semester in which a minimum of ten units to be used toward the master's degree is completed, then not more than ten units (including transfer and post-baccalaureate credit) completed before achieving full classified standing at CSU, Fresno, may be listed on the Petition for Advancement to Candidacy. Work taken during the semester of classification is considered to be completed in classified standing and may be listed on the Petition for Advancement to Candidacy.

2. Completion of any additional prerequisites which the adviser specifies in writing.
3. A minimum grade point average of 3.0 (both overall and at CSU, Fresno) on all upper division and graduate course work from the date of embarking on the first course of the proposed master's degree program.
4. Completion of core courses.
5. Submission to the Office of the Dean, Division of Graduate Studies and Research, of the properly signed petition for advancement to candidacy. Advancement to candidacy must be attained no later than the semester (or summer) preceding the semester (or summer) in which the student applies for, and is granted, the master's degree, and prior to the semester in which they register for the culminating course (Crim 298 or 299) or plan to take the comprehensive examination. The student is responsible for adhering to deadlines established by the Graduate Division for the submission of Advancement forms. Approximate deadlines are: October 1 (Spring) and March 1 (Fall). Students may not expect to be advanced to candidacy and to graduate in the same semester. (This does not apply to students who plan to complete the degree within one academic year.)
6. In keeping with the University Writing Skills Requirement, all graduate students must demonstrate their competence with regard to writing skills prior to advancement to candidacy. This is met by passing the writing component of Crim 200.
7. All required work must be completed within **five years** of the first course work.

D. Completion of Required Course Work:

Under the direction of a graduate adviser, each student prepares and submits a coherent program individually designed within the following framework:

Required courses in Criminology 200 series (see specific requirements)	15
Electives in criminology or related areas 200 series	15
At least 21 units must be CSUF resident credit, excluding credit by examination and 300 level course work.	
TOTAL	30

Specific Requirements:

Thesis or Project Program: Crim 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, and 298 or 299.

Non-Thesis Program: Crim 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 295, and successful completion of the comprehensive examination.

1. Project or Thesis

- a. Recommended for those who intend to continue graduate education.
- b. Must have been advanced to candidacy.
- c. Complete core courses: Crim 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, and 15 additional units of 200 level courses (total 27 units).
- d. Complete 298 Projects (3 units) or 299 Thesis (3 units). Prepare, complete, and submit an acceptable project or thesis for the Master of Science degree.
 - (1) Committee assignment
 - (a) Project (298) students will be assigned a committee of at least two Department of Criminology graduate faculty.
 - (b) Thesis (299) students select a three-person committee, two of whom must be criminology faculty. After approval, the Chairman of the Graduate Committee will contact the faculty involved and if everyone is in agreement, assign the committee as requested.
 - (e) Must meet all conditions as required by committee chair (Project 298 or Thesis 299)

2. Comprehensive Examination

- a. Recommended for those who do not plan graduate education beyond the Master of Science degree.
- b. Must have been advanced to candidacy.
- c. Complete core courses: Crim 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 295 (total 18 units).
- d. Successfully complete a comprehensive examination which is usually scheduled at the end of the fall and spring semesters. Exact time and date will be announced well in advance of the examination.

The above summarizes the major requirements for the Master of Science Degree in Criminology. Please refer to CSUF catalog section on Criminology Graduate Program and Division of Graduate Studies and Research for more detailed information on program requirements and restrictions. Graduate advisers are also available for counseling.