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Welcome from the
Department of Criminology
University of South Florida

We want to take this opportunity to express our thanks to you for choosing the Department of Criminology at the University of South Florida as the home for your graduate education. We are honored that you have placed your trust and confidence in us. There is no more important role that we, as University faculty, play than educating the scholars and professionals of tomorrow. We will do everything in our power to provide you with a world-class education and to create a professional and intellectual environment within which you can fulfill your ambitions and exercise your talents to their fullest.

As Department Chair, Graduate Director and Graduate Coordinator we are here to ensure that your educational experience is productive, rewarding and enjoyable. We can speak for all the faculty and staff who have the same commitment.

So we extend to you a hearty welcome! We hope that your time with us in the Department of Criminology proves to be one of the most fulfilling and enriching of your educational life.

Mike Leiber
Mike Leiber, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair

Ojmarrh Mitchell
Ojmarrh Mitchell, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Graduate Director

Elizabeth S. Cass
Elizabeth S. Cass, Ph.D.
Instructor and Graduate Coordinator
General Graduate Student Information

University Policies and Information

Admissions: General graduate admissions information and policies may be found at the following website: http://www.grad.usf.edu/graduate-admissions.asp. The Criminology website is at http://criminology.usf.edu. Please consult these websites for the latest information.

USF Graduate School: Information regarding graduate study at USF may be found at http://www.grad.usf.edu. The Graduate Catalog is available at this site.

Financial Aid: Financial assistance is available through the Office of Financial Aid. Students requiring such assistance should contact http://www.usf.edu/finaid for information.

Parking Services/BullRunner: Parking and transportation information may be found at: http://usfweb2.usf.edu/parking_services/default.asp. Please note that all parking at USF requires a permit and violators will be ticketed and/or towed at the owner’s expense. Permits may be purchased by logging onto OASIS. Failure to pay parking violations will result in academic holds and an inability to register for classes. You may pay parking fines in person at parking services or on their website (note: parking services does not accept cash or checks). The BullRunner is a free shuttle that runs routes across the campus. Please consult the website for current routes and schedules.

Academic Computing/E-Mail Accounts: All students registered for courses at USF are eligible for a free student email account from Academic Computing. To activate a student account, visit the University Network Access website at http://www.usf.edu/it/services/netid.aspx You will need your “U” number to activate your NetID. Your NetID allows access to a variety of services including Canvas online courseware, open-use computing labs, free software downloads, and USF library online services. If you experience problems with the website, please contact the IT Help Desk at 813-974-1222.

Student ID Cards: For information on USF Card Services, see the website at: http://www.usf.edu/it/class-prep/usf-card.aspx All USF students are required to obtain and carry a USF ID. The cost of this card is $10 and qualifies you for graduate student privileges at the Tampa Library and at local businesses that provide student discounts.

International Students: International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) at USF is the main administrative and advising office for approximately 1,400 international students and 200 research scholars from 130 countries.

Office Location and Hours: USF Tampa Campus, Cooper Hall (4th floor), Room 469, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Contact at (813) 974-5102 (phone) (813) 974-0491 (fax) and via email at internationalservices@iac.usf.edu.
Veterans: USF is approved for the education of veterans, eligible dependents, members of the selected reserve, and active-duty personnel who are eligible for benefits under public laws in effect. All degree programs currently offered at USF are approved by the State Approving Agency. Students who may be eligible for benefits are urged to contact Veterans Services for information, procedures, and forms as early as possible. To initiate, change, or renew benefits at USF, a request must be submitted through that office. VA regulations require that students take only courses that are applicable to their degree program or other approved program and make satisfactory progress toward their degree. Students should consult the “Handbook for VA Students” (available at the USF Veterans Services office) or log on to USF Veterans Services web site http://www.veterans.usf.edu/index.asp for information on various programs and services, and VA rules and regulations.

Graduate and Professional Student Council (GPSC): The GPSC represents all graduate student interests pertaining to academic issues in regular meetings with the USF President, Provost, Dean of Graduate Studies, the Graduate Council, Student Government, and other University Administrators. Advantages to joining the GPSC include:

- Staying abreast of current issues of importance to graduate students
- Receiving announcements on deadlines, scholarships, courses, etc. from USF faculty
- Receiving information on on-campus research positions and general job openings
- Receiving announcements on current GPSC socials, seminars, and meetings

To join the GPSC, visit http://www.gpsc.usf.edu/

Background Checks. The General Counsel’s Office told the department to include in any “handbook,” a statement indicating that students will be responsible for any costs associated with fingerprinting and/or background checks if they are required by an agency (e.g., for employment or for an internship).

Department of Criminology Misc. Policies and Information

Copies/Supplies: The Departmental copier and supplies are not for the student’s personal/educational use; they are for departmental business, including a student’s assigned work as a Graduate Assistant or adjunct.

Listserv: All criminology graduate students are required to subscribe to the Department of Criminology Listserv to keep updated on news and correspondence. This listserv will be the primary source of communications between the Department faculty and students. Please go to this website and follow the directions to be added to the Listserv: http://listserv.admin.usf.edu/archives/crimgrad.html.

Conference Information and Funding Support: There are two national professional associations for academic Criminologists: the American Society of Criminology (ASC) and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS). These professional organizations hold conferences annually in November and March, respectively. For student membership information, visit the following websites: for ASC: http://www.asc41.com; for ACJS: http://www.acjs.org.
There are two forms of funding for graduate students who are actively participating in local and national professional conferences. When the budget permits, the Department will provide a small stipend to students who present a scholarly paper or poster at a conference. Students, who wish to attend a conference, but not to present a paper or poster, may also be afforded a smaller stipend. These travel expenses are coordinated through the Office Manager and receipts are required for payment. (Required paperwork must be processed before travel.) Please consult the Graduate Director for more information. All students receiving department funding for conferences are expected to attend Department functions at such conferences and represent the Department in a professional manner at all times.

In addition, the Graduate and Professional Student Council offers a conference presentation grant. This program awards a stipend to graduate students presenting or otherwise actively participating at a conference. This funding is limited and competitive, please apply early. To submit an application, visit their website at http://www.sg.usf.edu/?q=node/347. Please direct any questions regarding this grant to the A&S Business Office at (813) 974-2045. Per a recent policy change (2012), this council will not fund a trip that is already, even partially, subsidized by another USF provider, such as the Criminology department.

Non-Degree Seeking Students: A student who has not yet been accepted into the graduate program may take courses as a “non-degree seeking student.” If that student is subsequently accepted into the graduate program, up to 12 non-degree seeking hours can be applied toward the degree; the student will need to submit appropriate paperwork to have those non-degree seeking hours applied toward the Criminology graduate degree. To apply as a non-degree-seeking student, go to http://www.usf.edu/registrar/resources/nondegree.aspx Find “Take a few classes” and click on the last listing under it, “Non-degree graduate.” Follow instructions. A non-degree seeking student must obtain permission from the professor to take his or her particular graduate course and then receive OASIS permission to register through Ciera White.

Criminology Graduate Student Organization (CGSO): The purpose of the CGSO is to serve and advocate for graduate students within the department of Criminology both at the departmental and university levels. The CGSO hosts workshops aimed at improving teaching and research effectiveness, organizes and implements the annual departmental research symposium, addresses student concerns, enhances communication between faculty and students, and assists with the orientation of incoming graduate students. The CGSO meets monthly and all graduate students are welcome to attend.

Student Registration Information

OASIS

Login and Registration: To register for classes, students must login to the Student OASIS System at http://usfonline.admin.usf.edu. Note: Florida law requires that all students enrolled in colleges and universities be immunized against certain communicable diseases. Students who are not properly immunized or who do not have proof of immunization or an approved exemption (medical/religious) will have a registration hold placed on their account.

If you have additional questions, please contact the Immunization Compliance Office at (813) 974-4056 or email: [immunization@shs.usf.edu](mailto:immunization@shs.usf.edu).

Additional information regarding all registration requirements may be found in the Schedule of Classes. Step-by-step instructions are available at [http://www.registrar.usf.edu/howtos/oasis_student_registration/](http://www.registrar.usf.edu/howtos/oasis_student_registration/)

Continuing degree-seeking students register online during the preceding term for their next semester’s courses. Dates and instructions for all registration periods are published in the Schedule of Classes for the appropriate semester. Registered students may make schedule adjustments in the regular registration period during the preceding term or during the drop/add period during the first week of classes. (Deadline information is available in the Academic Calendar.)

Degree-seeking students who do not register prior to the first day of classes may late-register the first week of classes. A late registration fee is charged during this week. To avoid cancellation of registration, fees are due and payable for all registered courses of record on the fifth day of classes (end of drop/add period).

Late Registration Information

*Fees: To avoid a late payment fee, all tuition fees must be paid in person at the Cashier’s Office, on OASIS, or postmarked by the U.S. Post Office (not office metered), by the fifth day of the term. The University is not responsible for lost or misdirected U.S. Postal mail. A student whose registration has been cancelled may request registration reinstatement through the fourth week of class for the academic term. Upon approval for reinstatement, all fees and other debts owed to the University must be paid in full by cash, money order, check, or credit card before reinstatement will be effected. Students receiving financial aid may receive a deferment of their tuition fees until their aid is disbursed. Please verify this in OASIS to avoid a late payment charge.*

*Graduate Petition to Add or Drop a Course Late:* If a student wishes to add or drop a course after the registration deadline, s/he should obtain and complete an “Office of Graduate Studies Petition” and submit it through the Department’s Graduate Director (who will submit it to the College). This form and others can be obtained by going to the Graduate School website [http://www.grad.usf.edu/student-forms.php](http://www.grad.usf.edu/student-forms.php).
Florida Residency

Students from out-of-state can find out whether they are eligible to become Florida residents for purposes of tuition, by going to http://www.registrar.usf.edu/Residency/Qualifying/florida-residency.php

MyUSF

Features: The University web portal, https://my.usf.edu, is a one-stop shop of online services provided via the web for USF faculty, staff, and students. After logging into the myUSF site, you will first see the myUSF page, a customizable personal page.

Canvas

Canvas can be found within myUSF. Navigate to “Learning and Teaching Tools” and then “Canvas”. Here you can: 1) view course materials and grades (when available) by clicking on the “Courses” tab in the navigation menu, 2) check and send email using Gmail, 3) browse the USF user directory, and 4) link directly to OASIS. Other portal features beyond the myUSF page include links to: Course catalogs, Library resources, Information Technology, organizations on campus, a customizable Google Apps homepage, and other university-wide resources.

Gaining Access to myUSF:
1. From a web browser, visit https://my.usf.edu
2. Login with your NetID and password (if you don't have a NetID, visit https://una.acomp.usf.edu and follow the instructions).
3. Once inside myUSF, browse through courses, communities, and resources by clicking the tabs at the top of the page. You may also modify the content and the layout to best suit your needs, and create a personalized home page at My Google Apps @ USF where you can add links to your USF Gmail account, The Oracle student newspaper, local weather, and Google Docs and Calendar, among other gadgets.

Independent Study Courses in Criminology

Some student credits are not associated with “organized” classes, but rather denote work with individual faculty members. These include the following:

- CCJ 6905 (Directed Independent Study) is the course for a Master’s student who is working on a Master’s project
- CCJ 6910 (Directed Research) is the course for a Master’s student conducting an independent study with a professor.
- CCJ 7910 (Advanced Research) is the course for a Ph.D. student conducting an independent study with a professor.
- CCJ 6971 (Thesis: Master’s) is for a Master’s student working on a thesis.
- CCJ 7980 (Doctoral Dissertation) is for a Ph.D. student working on a dissertation.
To sign up for these categories of hours, you first make arrangements with the professor and then contact Ciera White so that she can provide "permission" in OASIS for you to sign up for the course. You will convey to Ms. White (cierawhite@usf.edu) the semester, the course number, the number of hours, the professor, and your U number. You will cc: the professor with whom you are working.

Information on projects, theses and dissertations are provided below. Included there is information on how to develop your faculty committee for each. For “Directed Research” hours, contact a professor and indicate you want to take one or more credit hours under his/her supervision. You might indicate in your note a short list of topics that you would like to explore through reading and/or writing. If the faculty member agrees, indicate that you will set up a meeting with him/her during the first week of classes to finalize the plans for how you will earn these credit hours. The work you end up doing is entirely up to you and the professor.

Important Academic Policies that Apply to All Criminology Graduate Students

**Continuous Enrollment:** All graduate students must maintain continuous enrollment, defined as completing 6 hours of graduate credit within 3 consecutive semesters (e.g. 6 credits in Fall, 0 in Spring, 0 in summer). Those who fail to maintain continuous enrollment are automatically dropped to non-degree seeking status and must reapply for admission. Students who have advanced to candidacy must be signed up for two credit hours (likely CCJ 7980-Dissertation Hours) each and every semester following advancement and through to the graduation semester. This includes summers. Students who do not maintain continuous enrollment, as defined above, may be dropped from the program and required to re-apply. The Graduate Committee will evaluate the application on the bases of the student’s prospects for successful completion of the degree. Per University policy, doctoral students who have advanced to candidacy and “are dropped from degree-seeking status and formally readmitted to the program must enroll in a minimum of 5 dissertation hours in the semester that the readmission is effective.”

**In Good Standing:** Graduate students must maintain an overall average of 3.0 (“B”) in all courses, and meet the requirements of the degree program to be considered “in good standing.” No grade below a “C” will be accepted toward a graduate degree, including C- grades. All grades earned will be counted in computing the overall grade point average (GPA), except that CCJ 6905-Directed Independent Study, CCJ 6910-Directed Research, and CCJ 7910-Advanced Research are graded as Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory and are not included in the calculation of the GPA. (CCJ 6971-Thesis and CCJ 7980-Dissertation hours are also not graded and are therefore not included in the GPA.)

Any student who is not in good standing at the end of a semester shall be placed on probation. The College or Department may also place students on probation for other reasons. Notification of probation shall be made to the student in writing by the department, with a copy to the College Dean and the Dean of the Graduate School. At the end of the probationary semester, the Department shall recommend to the College Dean, in writing, one of three alternatives:

1. Removal of probation,
2. Continued probation,
(3) Dismissal from the degree program.

The Dean of the Graduate School, upon recommendation by the Dean of the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, may dismiss the student from a degree-seeking status after one semester of probation.

A Graduate Assistant who is placed on probation will lose his/her assistantship.

**Academic Dishonesty Policy:** The field of criminology/criminal justice is based upon the integrity of those people working in it. It is assumed that students in the Department of Criminology will live up to the highest levels of academic honesty. All papers, research, and examinations will be monitored carefully and students found cheating will be punished to the fullest extent allowed by the University and the Department.

**Institutional Review Board (IRB) Policies and Procedures:** All graduate students are required to become acquainted with and keep up to date with the policies and procedures of the USF Institutional Review Board and become IRB certified. Individuals proposing to conduct research using human subject or conduct secondary data analysis with identifiable private information are required to submit an application to the IRB for review and approval before initiating each project. A researcher may begin a study only after receipt of a letter of approval from the IRB.

To learn more about human research protection, go to: [http://www.research.usf.edu/dric/hrpp/education.asp - mandatory](http://www.research.usf.edu/dric/hrpp/education.asp). This website contains a host of information about human research protection programs.

**NEW:** Starting Spring of 2013, all incoming Ph.D. students must become IRB certified by taking a Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) course whether or not they are working with human subjects. Each student must take the basic course.

To become IRB certified, scroll down to "CITI Course in the Protection of Human Research Subjects", click on "CITI Program." After registering, you will be linked to the appropriate course(s). For registration instructions click on the "Instructions for CITI Program Registration Process" link. Upon completion of the course(s), you will receive a certificate documenting course complete. Provide a copy to the Graduate Director for your file.

To submit an IRB application go to: [http://www.research.usf.edu/dric/hrpp/forms-templates.asp](http://www.research.usf.edu/dric/hrpp/forms-templates.asp); then scroll down to "Social & Behavioral IRB"
**Master of Arts Degree in Criminology**

**Master’s Program Description**

The M.A. in Criminology is a two-year program designed to provide the student with an in-depth understanding of the major ideas, issues, theories, and research comprising the field of Criminology. Below are two sets of “Master’s Program requirements.” The first is for students who started the program before Fall 2014 and the second reflects the curriculum that applies to students who start the program in Fall 2014 or later. (Students who started the program before Fall 2014 can opt into the new curriculum if s/he still has at least two terms left to complete.)

**Master’s Program Requirements: Students Who Started Prior to Fall 2014**

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*In the course of adopting the new curriculum, these 4-hour courses were reduced to 3 hours. Master’s students completing the pre-2014 curriculum who did not complete the courses before the switch, will complete the new courses with fewer hours and make up the remaining hours with more elective hours.**

**Per University restrictions, a student may not sign up fewer than 2 hours of CCJ 6971: Thesis.**
Master’s Program Requirements: Students Who Started in Fall 2014 or Later

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* Per University restrictions, a student may not sign up fewer than 2 hours of CCJ 6971: Thesis.
**Electives must be organized courses, not independent study hours (e.g., CCJ 6910). The exception is students who are taking the comprehensive exam who are allowed to take 3 hours of CCJ 6905-Directed Independent Study.

Master’s students are strongly encouraged to take Criminology electives; however, with prior approval from the Graduate Director a Master’s student may take up to six hours of courses from another USF department.

Culminating Experience

All Master’s students must complete a culminating experience. There are three kinds of culminating experiences: 1) a Master’s thesis, 2) a Master’s project, or 3) comprehensive exam. The sections below describe the content and process associated with each of these culminating experiences.

Master’s Major Professor

Each Master’s student, in consultation with the Graduate Director, should select his/her Major Professor or Co-Major Professors before s/he has completed 50% of the degree program. This person becomes the chairperson of a student’s thesis, project, or comprehensive exam committee.

1. Master’s Thesis Option

The Thesis Option is particularly well suited for students seeking a research career in criminal justice and for those intending to pursue a Ph.D., and ultimately an academic career. In the Thesis Option, students will learn to conduct methodologically sound and theoretically-grounded research. Students will produce an original piece of research that makes a unique contribution to the scientific body of literature in criminology and criminal justice.
Master’s Supervisory or “Thesis” Committee: Students working toward a thesis degree will have the benefit of a committee, appointed by the Graduate Director and approved by the Associate Dean or designee of the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences. The committee will approve the plan for research, supervise the research, and read and approve the thesis for content and format.

It is the responsibility of the student to form this committee that will consist of three individuals, at least two of whom are members of the Department of Criminology. The student will first identify a Chairperson (also called the “Major Professor”) who is a member of the faculty of the Department of Criminology. (If there are co-chairs, at least one must be from the Department of Criminology.) The student, in consultation with his/her chairperson (or co-chairs), will select additional members to produce a committee comprised of at least three individuals (including the chair or co-chairs).

Tenure-line faculty members can serve as the chair or co-chair of a thesis committee. A faculty member may not serve as a (sole) chair of a thesis committee until s/he has served as a member or co-chair of a thesis to completion. Both tenure-line and non-tenure line faculty members can serve as members of a thesis committee. A member must have a Master’s, MS, JD or equivalent, or Ph.D. A student who nominates for his/her committee a person who is from outside the Criminology department, is outside USF, or who does meet the above requirements must submit a curriculum vitae for that person and have the member approved by the Department and the College.

Once a proposed committee has been determined, a Supervisory Committee Form, needs to be completed by the student and submitted to the committee members for signature. (Faxed/scanned signatures are acceptable.) The student submits the form to the Graduate Director, who, if s/he approves the committee makeup, will maintain a copy in the student’s file and forward the original to the Dean’s Office in the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences. Once approved by the College, the original form is placed in the student’s file in the College and a copy is returned to the program with the Dean’s signature. The committee appointment is official only after receiving College approval. An approved and current Supervisory Committee Form must be on file in the College before graduation may be certified. Committee forms need to be processed as early in the program as possible, but no later than the semester prior to graduation.

Changes to the Supervisor Committee: The Change of Committee Form should be submitted for approval to the Graduate Director if the student wants to change the makeup of his/her committee or the status of a member (e.g., changing a member to chair). Faculty members who are removed from the Committee are not required to sign the revised form, provided that the Major Professor has signed indicating approval of the change. Any non-USF person being added to a committee must submit a curriculum vitae for approval. Changes to a Committee are official only once approved and filed by the Graduate School.

Thesis Proposal: The student is required to prepare, in consultation with the Supervisory
Committee, a proposal outlining the objective of his/her thesis. The proposal typically contains a literature review and a detailed description of the research methods to be used for the thesis research. Committee members will decide whether the student will defend the proposal orally. Regardless of whether there is an oral defense, the student shall notify the Director of the Graduate program once the proposal has been accepted by the committee. (There are no forms for this notification.)

**Oral Defense of Thesis:** The student, after having an approved proposal, will complete the proposed thesis with the guidance of his/her Major Professor and Committee. Upon completion of the thesis, the student will submit to an oral defense before the thesis is submitted for final approval to the Graduate School.

Defense Notification - It is the student’s responsibility to direct the committee chair to send out notification to the department faculty of the defense at least one week ahead of time. The student shall similarly notify the graduate student listserv of the defense one week ahead of time. (If these deadlines are not met, the defense will need to be delayed.)

The Thesis Committee administers the oral examination. The student shall present a summary of key elements and findings of the thesis to the Committee; the length of this presentation shall be approximately minutes 20 and no more than 30 minutes. Any faculty member in the department may attend and examine if desired, but the right of voting is reserved to members of the thesis committee. A unanimous vote of the committee is required for thesis approval. The thesis and oral defense will be evaluated as a combined effort. There are three possible outcomes: Pass, Pass provided specific modifications are made, or Fail. If the outcome is a failure, the oral defense may be repeated within one semester of the first attempt. It is the responsibility of the chair of the Thesis Committee to notify the Graduate Director in writing of the action taken by the Thesis Committee. (There is no required form to document the successful defense of the thesis.)

Students who are passed conditionally upon modifications to the thesis will have such time to complete them as the committee determines appropriate. The modified thesis will be resubmitted to the Committee for final approval. After this step is completed the student may then submit the thesis to the Graduate School. A successful candidate must provide electronic copies of the completed thesis to the Graduate Director and (at least) the chair of the committee in order to be certified for graduation.

**Graduate School Format Requirements, Master's:** The University uses the “Electronic Thesis and Dissertation” (ETD) system. The “ETD Resource Center” is at [http://www.grad.usf.edu/ETD-res-main.php](http://www.grad.usf.edu/ETD-res-main.php) All Master's-thesis and doctoral students are required to attend an ETD Workshop or complete an ETD tutorial the semester prior to graduation.

**Thesis Credit hours:** Thesis students will take at least six credit hours of CCJ 6971-Thesis. CCJ 6910-Directed Research hours may satisfy up to two of the six required thesis hours. (Note that a student cannot sign up for only one hour of thesis credit with a professor; the minimum is two hours, but you can also take 3, 4 or 6 hours). Many students end up taking more than six thesis
hours; only six will be applied toward the 33 hours required for the degree. The student completing a thesis MUST be signed up for two CCJ 6971 hours during the semester of his/her graduation.

**Change to Non-Thesis Option:** If a student changes from the thesis to the non-thesis option during a semester and is currently enrolled in thesis credit, the current thesis credits may be exchanged without academic penalty if a Graduate Petition is filed no later than the last day of drop/add. If a student signed up for thesis credits in prior semesters, those accumulated thesis credits may not be exchanged or converted to another non-structured credit. The thesis hours will remain on the transcript and will retain the “Z” grade.

**2. Master’s Project**

The Master’s Project is appropriate for students seeking research positions in the field of criminal justice who do not plan to pursue a Ph.D. Through the completion of a project, students will learn to assess the practical applications of theory and research to policy and program development.

The topic and form of the project will be determined by the student, his/her Major Professor and one other faculty member. Typically, a project is a research proposal in which the student poses a research question, creates hypotheses based on theory, and details a research methodology. The major distinction between the typical project and a thesis is that a project usually does not involve data collection and data analysis. While a project is typically a research proposal, a project can be other kinds of research activities. Examples include, but are not limited to, an innovative application of theory to a new topic/issue, an internship focused on understanding a criminal justice problem along with a literature review on that problem, or a literature review focused on an issue combined with interviews of those knowledgeable about the issue of interest. As above, projects are supervised and then approved by the Major Professor and one other Criminology faculty member. Students sign up for at least three hours of CCJ 6905 for project work. Upon successful completion of the project, the student must submit an electronic version to the Graduate Director.

**3. Master’s Comprehensive Exam**

The Master’s comprehensive exam is appropriate for students seeking non-research positions in the field of criminal justice. By passing a comprehensive exam, students demonstrate their knowledge of key criminological theory, current issues in criminal justice, and key elements of criminological research methodology.

Students selecting the Master’s Comprehensive Exam option will take an exam that focuses on the three core areas of the Master’s program; criminological theory, current issues in criminal justice, and research methodology. The exam will have three parts corresponding to each of these core areas. Students must respond to questions in two of the three parts. The exam will be graded on a pass/fail basis by two faculty members selected by the Graduate Director. All faculty members may serve as graders except the Chair. The Graduate Director shall be the deciding vote in the case of one passing grade and one failing grade. The Master’s Comprehensive Exam is disseminated at noon on the Friday of the last week of classes, and the exam is due on the following Monday at noon. Mark your calendar at the beginning of the semester to avoid a conflict over those three days.
**Master’s Time Limitations**

All requirements for the Master’s degree must be completed within five (5) calendar years from the student’s date of admission for graduate study. Courses taken prior to admission to USF (e.g., transferred in or taken as a non-degree seeking student) can be no older than 7 years at the time of graduation with a Master’s degree.

In the event that a student nears the end of the time limitation, but needs more time to complete the degree, the student may submit a request for an extension. The request must be approved by the (Co-) Major Professor(s), Graduate Director, College Associate Dean, and Dean of the Graduate School or designee. The request must include the reasons for needing an extension and clearly state the amount of time requested, up to one year. Students who exceed the time limitations may have their registration placed on hold until a request for extension has been approved.

Students who are unable to continue in the program for more than 12 months must submit a Leave of Absence Request, which extends the time limit for the duration of the approved leave. Both the Time Limit Extension and Leave of Absence Request Forms may be obtained at: [http://www.grad.usf.edu/student-forms.php](http://www.grad.usf.edu/student-forms.php).

**Application for Graduation**

In order to graduate, a student must submit an application for the graduate degree to the Office of the Registrar ([http://www.usf.edu/registrar/](http://www.usf.edu/registrar/)). This application must be submitted in the term of expected graduation by the deadline noted in the academic calendar. If a student applies for graduation and is not approved, a new application for graduation must be submitted by the deadline in a new term. (It is not unusual for a student to apply for graduation, believing s/he will finish during the current semester, and then determine that an additional semester is required for completion. As stated above, a second graduation form must be submitted.) In order for the degree statement to appear on a student’s academic record, the student must file the aforementioned application whether or not s/he plans to participate in the commencement ceremony. It is the student’s responsibility to clear all “I” grades (Incompletes) in courses required for graduation and to provide official transcripts of all transferred course work needed for graduation at least 3 weeks prior to the end of the term in which they expect to graduate. A student must be enrolled in at least 2 credit hours during the semester of graduation. (Thesis students must be enrolled in two thesis credits.)
Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Criminology

Ph.D. Program Description

The Ph.D. or Doctor of Philosophy degree is a research degree conferred when a student has demonstrated proficiency and distinctive achievement in the field of Criminology. The student completes required courses and a minimum number of hours of course work, takes and passes qualifying examinations, and meets the residency requirements. The Doctor of Philosophy degree requires a student to complete a dissertation that provides evidence of the ability to do original and independent research that contributes to the body of knowledge in Criminology.

There are two sets of “Ph.D. Program requirements.” The first is for students who started the program before the Fall 2014 and the second reflects the new curriculum that applies to students who started the program in the Fall 2014 or later. (Students who started the program before the Fall 2014 can opt into the new curriculum if s/he still has two terms left to complete.)

Ph.D. Program Requirements: Students Entering Prior to Fall 2014

For students entering prior to Fall 2014, the Ph.D. in Criminology requires a minimum of 90 hours beyond the Bachelor’s degree, or a minimum of 57 hours beyond the Master’s degree. Students entering the program with a Master’s degree are normally awarded 30 credit hours towards the Ph.D. Students who earn their Master’s in Criminology at USF are awarded 33 credit hours towards the Ph.D. In addition to their coursework, doctoral students are required to complete qualifying examinations, a prospectus, a prospectus defense, a dissertation, and a dissertation defense. The 90 hours required for the Ph.D. are:

1. 30 credits hours earned for M.A;
2. 24 core hours (CCJ 6937, CCJ 6118, CCJ 6705, CCJ 6706, CCJ 6707, CCJ 6708, and either CCJ 6709, CJJ 6716, or equivalent as designated by the Graduate Director);
3. 12 elective hours, up to 9 of which may be in an area outside the department*; and
4. 24 dissertation hours. [Dissertation hours over 24 will not count toward the total number of required hours.]

*Any course taken outside the department is expected to bear a reasonable and meaningful relationship to the discipline of criminology. The Graduate Director must approve any outside course that the student wants to apply toward his/her degree.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR THOSE WHO EARNED THEIR MASTER’S IN CRIMINOLOGY AT USF: Graduates of USF’s Master’s in Criminology will have already taken many of the required courses. To acquire a total hours for the Ph.D. such students will take electives to substitute for the required courses they already took to fulfill Master’s requirements.
**Ph.D. Program Requirements: Students Who Started Prior to Fall 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Courses</th>
<th>CCJ 6937 Pro Seminar</th>
<th>2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CCJ 6118 Theory</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CCJ 6705 Research Methods</td>
<td>4*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CCJ 6706 Quantitative Analysis I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CCJ 6707 Quantitative Analysis II</td>
<td>4*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CCJ 6708 Quantitative Analysis III</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CCJ 6709 Qualitative Methods OR CCJ 6716 Evaluation Research (or designated equivalent)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>Graduate level electives (up to 9 may be taken outside of Criminology) [See earlier note if you earned your Master’s in Criminology at USF]</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualifying Process</td>
<td>Pre-2014 Exam or New Qualifying Process</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>CCJ 7980 Dissertation</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*In the course of adopting the new curriculum, these 4-hour courses were reduced to 3 hours. Ph.D. students taking the traditional curriculum, who did not complete the courses before the switch, will complete the new courses with fewer hours and make up the remaining hours with more elective hours.

**Ph.D. Program Requirements: Students Entering Fall 2014 or Later**

For students entering in the Fall 2014 or later, the Ph.D. in Criminology requires a minimum of 55 hours beyond the Master’s degree. In addition to coursework, doctoral students are required to complete two qualifying examinations and an independent research project, a prospectus, a prospectus defense, a dissertation, and a dissertation defense. The 55 hours required for the Ph.D. are:

1. 28 hours of required courses hours;
2. 9 to 15 elective hours, and
3. A minimum of 18 dissertation hours. [Dissertation hours over 18 will not count toward the total required hours.]

Pre-requisites for the new Ph.D. curricula are the completed master’s degree and master’s-level courses in (a) theory, (b) statistics, and (c) research methods. The department’s equivalent Master’s courses that may be taken to meet these pre-requisites are CCJ 6118, CCJ 6706 and CCJ 6704/6705, respectively.
**Ph.D. Program Requirements: Students Who Started Fall 2014 or Later**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Courses</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCJ 6937 Pro Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCJ 7705 Research Methods II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCJ 7605 Ph.D. Theory I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCJ 7606 Ph.D. Theory II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCJ 6485 Criminal Justice and Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCJ 6707 Quantitative Analysis II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCJ 6708 Quantitative Analysis III</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCJ 7910 Advanced Research</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCJ 7065 Professional Development Course</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCJ 7940 Teaching Practicum Course</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Electives | Graduate-level electives** | 9 - 16 |
| Qualifying Process | New Qualifying Process (see below) |  |
| Dissertation | CCJ 7980 Dissertation | 18 |
| TOTAL | 55 |

**Electives:** Students will take 9 to 16 elective hours, depending on the number of hours needed to achieve 55 total degree hours beyond the Master’s. At least 9 hours of electives must be in-class electives. (Independent study hours or equivalent do not count as in-class electives.) Students who enter with a Master’s in Criminology or Criminal Justice can take up to 6 hours of electives outside of Criminology; these must be pre-approved by the Graduate Director. Others may take up to 3 hours outside the department (with pre-approval).

**Doctoral Supervisory Committee (Applies to All Ph.D. Students)**

**Major Professor**

Each Ph.D. student, in consultation with the Graduate Director, should select his/her Major Professor or Co-Major Professors before s/he has completed 50% of the degree program. This person becomes the chairperson of a student’s doctoral supervisory committee.

**Composition:** As soon as an area of research is determined and a Major Professor is chosen, a Doctoral Supervisory Committee should be selected for the student. The Graduate Director must approve the committee makeup, and then the department will request approval of the Doctoral Committee from the Associate Dean of the College. The Doctoral Supervisory Committee will approve the student’s course of study and plan for research, supervise the research, read and approve the dissertation, and conduct the dissertation defense.

The Doctoral Supervisory Committee will consist of at least four members, three of whom must come from the Department of Criminology. The chair (or at least one co-chair) will be a tenure-line member of the faculty of the Department of Criminology. **A faculty member may not serve as a (sole) chair of a dissertation committee until s/he has served as a co-chair of a dissertation to completion.** Tenure-line and non-tenure-line faculty members with Ph.D.’s can serve as members of dissertation committees. A student who nominates for his/her committee a person...
who is from outside the Criminology department, is outside USF, or does not meet the above requirements must submit a curriculum vitae for that person with his/her Doctoral Supervisory Committee Form. The Graduate Director will request from the Associate Dean of BCS and then from the Office of Graduate Studies that the outside person become an Affiliate Graduate Faculty member.

**NEW: For students entering the Ph.D. program in Fall 2013 or later, the four-person Ph.D. committee must include one external member (from outside the Department, the College, or USF).**

Once a proposed committee has been selected, a Supervisory Committee Form needs to be completed by the student and submitted to the Committee Members for their signatures. (Faxed/scanned signatures are acceptable.) To insure uniformity of excellence across the colleges, (Co-) Major Professor(s) of Doctoral Supervisory Committees will need to submit a current curriculum vitae (approximately two pages long with the last three years of scholarly activity included) with the committee appointment form to the College for approval by the Associate Dean or designee. Notification of the committee appointment will be sent to the Associate Dean of the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences.

Once approved by the College, the original form and the approved curriculum vitae are placed in the student’s file in the College. A copy of the committee form will be returned to the Department. The Committee appointment is official only after receiving approval from the College. An approved and current Committee Form must be on file in the College before qualifying exams and must be current before graduation can be certified.

Changes to Supervisory Committee: Changes must be submitted on a Change of Committee Form. Signatures of faculty being added to the Committee, along with the approval signature of the (Co-) Major Professor(s), must be on the form. Faxeds/scanned signatures are acceptable. Faculty members who are removed from the Committee are not required to sign the form, provided that the Major Professor has signed indicating approval of the change. Any non-USF faculty being added to a committee must submit a curriculum vitae for approval. If a faculty member is being added as a Co-Major Professor, or if there is an appointment change to the Major Professor position, a curriculum vitae must be included for the faculty member who is being added to that position. Change of Committee Forms should be submitted for approval as soon as the change takes place. Changes to a Committee are official only once approved and filed by the College.

Doctoral Qualifying Examinations

Purpose: The purpose of the doctoral qualifying examination is to determine the student’s readiness to conduct independent research for the doctoral dissertation. To demonstrate readiness, students must show convincing evidence of their ability to apply theoretical perspectives and sound methodological procedures to research questions. The department will assess a student’s knowledge of (a) theory, and (b) research methods and statistics, and assess a student’s skills of (a) analytical thinking, (b) research design and (c) writing. The comprehensive exam covers knowledge/application of material beyond coursework. Prior to taking the exam,
students will sign a document indicating their understanding that the comprehensive exam covers knowledge/application of material beyond coursework.

There are two qualifying processes. Students who enter the Ph.D. program in Fall 2014 or later must meet the “new qualifying exam procedures.” Students who started before Fall 2014 may select the qualifying processes they will use; once a student selects one process or the other, s/he must stay with that process (i.e., s/he cannot switch to the other process following failure of an examination).

Procedures Prior to Examinations (this applies to both the pre-2014 and new comp processes):

1. To be permitted to sit for the doctoral qualifying exams, all outstanding “I” and “M” grades, including “IF” and “MF” grades, must be cleared and replaced with permanent grades, and all Ph.D. course requirements must be completed. The Graduate Director, however, has the discretion to allow students to take the qualifying exam prior to completing all Ph.D. course requirements. Please note that satisfactory completion of coursework by itself is not sufficient for qualifying exam preparation.
2. Students must submit to the Graduate Director a Graduate Supervisory Committee form with all required signatures.
3. Students must inform the department Graduate Director of their intention to sit for the doctoral comprehensive exams at least three weeks before the exam is distributed. An email or phone communication is sufficient to meet this requirement. The student will tell the Graduate Director for which exam(s) s/he is sitting (traditional or new). Students may opt out of qualifying exams for the semester after this deadline and communication; they may not switch exams.
4. During the semester in which the student takes the examination, the student must be enrolled in at least two hours of CCJ 7910 (University Requirement). Normally the students signs up for these hours with his/her major professor.

Doctoral Comprehensive Examination Committees: The Doctoral Comprehensive Examination Committees consists of at least three faculty members who serve on a rotating basis. The duties of the Doctoral Comprehensive Exam Committee each semester are as follows:

1. Solicits questions from the full faculty (as needed)
2. Constructs the written examinations
3. Reads each student’s written exam
4. Devises questions to be asked on each student’s oral examination (applies to the pre-2014 exam only)
5. Determines a grade for each student’s performance
6. In the case of a Conditional Pass (applies to the pres-2014 exam), determines what additional work will be required and grades it.
Pre-2014 Qualifying Exam Process

Written Comprehensive Examination

1. Samples of prior pre-2014 comprehensive exams are on the Criminology website under “Doctorate in Criminology” and “Comp Exams.”
2. The written examination is administered at the end of the 3rd week of the Fall and Spring semesters. The scheduling of the written exam is firm and will not be changed.
3. The format of the written exam will be take-home, and students are permitted to avail themselves of all notes, library materials, and the like.
4. All students taking the exam in a given semester are given the same questions. During the written examination period, students **may not** discuss the exam with other students or faculty either within or outside the University of South Florida. Students are on their honor to produce their own work on their exams. **Academic dishonesty in any form, including plagiarism, is a serious offense.** All exams are subject to review for any form of academic dishonesty. Students found by the Doctoral Comprehensive Exam Committee to be guilty of academic dishonesty—to any degree—on their exams are subject to immediate reprimand and dismissal from the graduate program and the University, as provided in the Student Handbook.
5. Students are given the written examination at **noon on Friday at the end of the 3rd week of the Fall or Spring semester.** Students must submit their exam responses within 10 days (i.e., no later than noon on the 2nd Monday after the written examination is distributed). Written exam responses may be submitted earlier than the deadline at the student’s discretion.

Oral Examination for Pre-2014 Exam

1. The Graduate Director will contact each student to schedule an oral examination. Oral exams will begin two weeks after the written examination responses have been submitted by the student.
2. During the period between the submission of the written exam and the oral examination, students may confer with anyone except USF Criminology faculty members on their exam content.
3. The oral examination will be prepared and administered by the Doctoral Comprehensive Exam Committee, with the Graduate Director serving as moderator. Each oral exam will not exceed 2 hours and will consist of questions designed to follow up on answers provided by the student on the written exam. Because the oral exam is predicated on each student’s individual performance on the written exam, oral exams will likely differ from student to student.
4. The oral exam will take place with only the student, the Graduate Director, and the Doctoral Comprehensive Exam Committee present. The student may not bring any notes, books, or other materials to the oral exam; s/he will be provided with a copy of his/her own exam and the exam questions.

Grading of Pre-2014 Comprehensive Exams

1. The Grading Rubrics for the pre-2014 exam are on the Criminology web site under “Doctorate in Criminology” and “Comp Exams.” Two weeks after the deadline for
submission of written responses to the exam, the Doctoral Comprehensive Exam Committee will meet to discuss each student’s written. During this two-week period, members of the Committee will keep their impressions of students’ performances confidential and restricted only to other members of the Committee or the Graduate Director.

2. The Graduate Director, in consultation with the Committee, will draft comments on the written exam, identifying strengths and weaknesses of the response.

3. Upon completion of the oral exam, the Doctoral Comprehensive Exam Committee will determine a grade for each question and the overall exam (High Pass, Pass, Conditional Pass, or Fail) and produce, as appropriate, written comments on the exam. See separate document entitled “Grading Guidelines.”

4. Within one week of the completion of the oral exam, the student will be notified in writing by the Graduate Director of his/her overall grade on the comprehensive exam.

5. A student who achieves an overall grade of High Pass or Pass will be recommended by the Graduate Director to the Graduate School for Admission to Doctoral Candidacy. A student who earns an overall grade of Conditional Pass will be offered the opportunity to revise one or more answers on the examination following guidelines offered by the committee. The student will receive written feedback regarding the comprehensive exam and will meet with the committee as a whole to discuss this feedback. The due date for the conditional pass submission will be at noon six weeks from the date the student receives the written feedback. If, because of faculty schedules, the student cannot meet with the committee within one week of receiving his/her written feedback, the Graduate Director may extend the due date for the submission.

6. In completing the required work for the Conditional Pass, the student will continue to follow the same restrictions in terms of conferring with others as set forth in the exam instructions. The Doctoral Comprehensive Exam Committee will notify the student of his/her overall performance (either Pass or Fail) no later than two weeks after the additional work was submitted.

7. A student who earns an overall grade of Fail the first time s/he takes the exam will meet with the full committee to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the exam and to receive guidance on how to achieve success. All procedures detailed above will be repeated for the student re-taking the doctoral comprehensive examination. Failure on the second taking of the examination shall result in dismissal from the graduate program.

8. Students who apply to take the pre-2014 doctoral comprehensive examination may elect to withdraw from the examination process at any time prior to the submission deadline for the written examination. Failure to submit a written exam by the deadline will automatically result in a student’s withdrawal from the examination process. However, once the student submits the written examination, s/he may not withdraw from the remainder of the examination process. Submission of a first written exam by the student constitutes a first doctoral comprehensive examination; submission of a second written exam constitutes a repeat examination.

9. Grade appeals are handled consistent with the University Academic Grievance Process. The department document describing this process is uploaded to the Criminology Department web site (“Doctorate in Criminology,” “Comp Exams” and “Appeals Process”).
“New” Qualifying Exam Process

For students admitted in 2014 or later qualifying exam process, students will (1) complete two in-class qualifying exams and (2) complete an independent research project that results in a publishable manuscript. There is no prescribed order for the completion of the project/manuscript and the exams. The purpose of the two exams is to determine a student’s knowledge of (a) theory, (b) research methods and data analysis, and (c) empirical literature, and to assess a student’s (a) innovative, critical, and analytical thinking and (b) writing skills. Any student who sits for the new qualifying exams must also meet the project/manuscript requirement.

“New” Exam Process

Students can take one or both exams (research methods and theory) during a semester. The exams are spaced three weeks apart. Students will have up to nine hours to complete each exam. Students who accept an exam must complete it at that sitting or s/he will automatically receive a “fail” grade; that is, a student may not review the exam and decide not to sit. Students will take the exam in a single room with monitoring by the Graduate Director. (The Graduate Director can move a student to a separate location if s/he is disrupting the other students.) Students will not be allowed to bring in any resource materials; they can schedule their own breaks. Students may hand write their exams; the student will type up his/her own exam after the fact and a staff person will do a side-by-side check to make sure the typed version matches the handwritten one. The committee will receive both the typed and hand-written copy. Appropriate accommodations will be made for students with disabilities.

The new Theory exam will be held from 8am to 5pm on the 4th Friday of the semester; the Methods exam will be held from 8am to 5pm on the 7th Friday of the semester.

“New” Exam Content

The exams will cover (1) theories of crime and (2) methods and data analysis. The two exams (theory and methods) will be graded independently, but together they constitute a qualifying exam. The student must pass each exam, although not necessarily in the same semester. Students will answer four questions on each exam. Exam questions will have equal weight. The Qualifying Exam committee has flexibility in terms of developing the exam. In many instances, students will be able to select from among several questions within a section. Any questions that are not optional will either have flexibility within them [e.g., “pick any two theories to explain (this behavior)”] or will call upon knowledge that is central to our field (e.g., “describe the strengths and weaknesses of experimental and quasi-experimental designs”). Prior “new comp” exams are uploaded to the Criminology website under “Doctorate in Criminology” and “Comp Exams.”

Oral Exam: There are no oral exams for the new qualifying process.

Grading Outcome

Students will earn a pass or fail on each exam; there will be no conditional passes. A student must pass both exams; a second fail on either exam will result in dismissal from the program. A high pass is given at the discretion of the qualifying exam committee; the vote must be unanimous.
**Grading Criteria**

The grading rubrics and grading/scoring guidelines are uploaded to the Criminology website under “Doctorate in Criminology” and “Comp Exams.” The essays are evaluated in terms of the following, as applicable to the Theory and/or Research Methods Exam:

1. Formal writing conventions
2. Theoretical knowledge
3. Knowledge of empirical literature
4. Critical appraisal of the field
5. Research methods knowledge
6. Data analysis knowledge

Grade appeals are handled consistent with the University Academic Grievance Process. The department document describing this process is uploaded to the Criminology Department web site (“Doctorate in Criminology,” “Comp Exams” and “Appeals Process”).

**Independent Research Project**

In addition to passing the two exams, a student participating in the “new” qualifying process, will complete an Independent Research Project and produce a publishable manuscript. The purpose of the project is to (a) ensure that students acquire some hands-on experience with empirical research prior to starting work on a dissertation, (b) promote student publishing, and (c) ensure student competency in at least one specialty area. The Graduate Committee will evaluate the manuscript produced from the research in terms of (1) the student’s role in conducting the research and producing the manuscript and (2) the quality of the manuscript. Regarding the first, the student’s level of involvement in the research and manuscript production must be such that the student would legitimately be designated first author on the manuscript per contemporary standards in our field. Regarding the second, the Graduate Committee will determine if the manuscript is publishable in a refereed, mid-tier or better journal. (The Graduate Committee has produced a list of such journals to guide this determination.)

**The following rules apply to all Ph.D. students.**

**Admission to Doctoral Candidacy**

The Admission to Candidacy form will be submitted by the Graduate Director during the semester in which the student successfully completes/passes the "pre-2014" or “new” qualifying processes. The form will be approved by the Dean of the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences and forwarded to the Dean of the Graduate School for final approval. Doctoral Candidacy is effective as of the day that the Graduate School approves of the request and changes the student’s status. As long as the Candidacy request is received between the first and last day of class during a semester, the Candidacy will be effective as of that semester. The student may then enroll in dissertation hours the following semester.
Dissertation Requirement

Ph.D. students are strongly advised when they BEGIN their dissertations to familiarize themselves with the requirements and associated deadlines found on the Graduate School website www.grad.usf.edu. Follow the “Students” link to “Dissertation and Thesis.”

Dissertation Enrollment Requirements: Students may begin to register for dissertation hours in the semester following Admission to Candidacy and must enroll for a minimum of 2 dissertation hours (or 7910 hours, as provided below) each semester until graduation (including summers) regardless of whether the student is using any university resources.

The student should enroll in dissertation hours (CCJ 7980) with each committee member who will be working with him/her that semester. (Per university restrictions, a student may not sign up for a section of CCJ 7980 for fewer than two hours.) Although 24 and 18 hours of CCJ 7980 are the maximum number of hours to apply for the Ph.D. degree for the pre-2014 and new curricula respectively, many students will find it necessary to take more than 24/18 hours of CCJ 7980. **Only 24/18 dissertation hours will count toward the total hours required for the degree for the pre-2014 and new curricula respectively.**

Advanced Research hours (CCJ 7910) may be applied, with approval, toward the total number of dissertation hours required. In general, no Advanced Research (CCJ 7910) hours taken prior to (or during the semester of) advancement to candidacy will be counted as dissertation hours. (See the “new” exception below.) Advanced/Directed Research hours shall not exceed 50% of the dissertation hour requirement.

The student must be signed up for 2 dissertation hours (these **must be** CCJ 7980 hours) during his/her final semester.

**NEW in 2012:** For students entering Fall 2011 or later, directed research hours taken with their major professor (or co-major professor) PRIOR to advancement to candidacy and that involves work related to the dissertation may satisfy up to 50% of the dissertation hour requirement, with Graduate Director approval. Students who started the program prior to Fall 2011 can request application of this new policy to them through the Graduate Director (who would email the request to the Graduate School for approval).

Dissertation Prospectus and Prospectus Defense: After completing coursework and the qualifying examination process required for the doctoral degree, students are expected to prepare a dissertation prospectus. This paper details the objectives and justification for the dissertation. The proposal typically contains a cover page, table of contents, introduction, literature review and a detailed description of the research methods to be used for the dissertation research. [For information on both format and content, students might refer to Rudestam and Newton (2007) *Surviving Your Dissertation: A Comprehensive Guide to Content and Process.*] This project should be an original work that contributes to the field of knowledge within criminology. Students should consult with their Major Professor for information on the expectations of the committee in meeting this requirement.
Upon satisfactory completion of the prospectus, a defense of this proposal is conducted. The student should send the document to committee members at least two weeks before the scheduled defense. The student will make a presentation to the committee members, respond to questions, and get input on needed changes to the project or document.** Once revisions are completed, the student will provide an updated prospectus to the committee for approval. The Major Professor will notify the student when s/he has satisfied all the requirements of the committee for the prospectus and discuss a course of action for completion of the final dissertation. The student will inform the Graduate Director that his/her prospectus has been approved; there is no form for this purpose. (A student has not “successfully defended” his/her dissertation until a final document has been produced and approved by all committee members.) (While not desirable, there is no University or Department rule that precludes defending the prospectus and the completed dissertation in the same semester.)

**NOTE: It is inadvisable for the graduate student to present his/her proposal for the dissertation to the non-chair committee members for the first time in the form of a “completed” prospectus. Instead, the student should be sharing ideas and getting input from all committee members during the process of developing the prospectus document.

**Dissertation Defense**

After the Doctoral Committee has determined that the final draft of the dissertation is suitable for presentation, the student will request the scheduling of the Dissertation Defense (also called Final Oral Examination or Oral Defense). The student must submit the full final draft of the dissertation to the Committee at least four weeks before the dissertation defense date. (The student will identify a mutually convenient time for committee members and outside chair and reserve a room.) A student must successfully defend the dissertation in order to be able to complete the final submission process.

Scheduling the defense requires that the following forms be completed and submitted to the college dean’s office at least two weeks prior to the defense. The forms are located on the BCS website. Please note that all committee members must sign the request for dissertation defense form. (Faxed/scanned signatures are acceptable.) The following documents must be submitted along with the dissertation defense request form:

- Announcement of Dissertation Defense
- Successful Defense form (unsigned by Committee members)

The College Office will perform the following tasks related to dissertation defense:

- Confirm that the eligibility criteria for the outside chair has been met
- Verify the composition of the examining committee and approve the request for the defense and announcement

The University uses the “Electronic Thesis and Dissertation” (ETD) system. The “ETD Resource Center” is at http://www.grad.usf.edu/thesis.asp. All Master’s-thesis and doctoral students are required to attend an ETD Workshop or complete an ETD tutorial the semester prior to graduation.
• Notify the outside chair and major professor of the guidelines for conducting the exam (The outside chair will be sent the Successful Defense Form and told to bring it to the defense.)
• Notify the chair of the academic department that the approved announcement of the defense needs to be disseminated to the department faculty
• Notify the Graduate School that the defense has been scheduled

The College will notify the chair, the major professor and the Graduate Director that the announcement has been approved. At that point, the hard copy announcement will be posted by the student in and around the Criminology offices. Until that notification by the College, the “formal announcement” cannot be distributed, but Major Professors must send out an email at least one week ahead of time to all colleagues announcing the defense and the student will similarly announce the defense on the graduate student listserv.

Outside Chair of the Dissertation Defense

The Dissertation Defense shall be presided over by a senior and distinguished scholar from outside the department (who is not a member of the dissertation committee) nominated by the Major Professor. If the chair is from another institution, this individual should have the equivalent qualifications necessary to chair a dissertation in the subject area at the University of South Florida. The function of the Outside Chair is to preside over the introduction of the candidate, the questioning procedure, and the deliberation and voting of the committee.

The outside chair will record the vote of the Dissertation Committee via the Successful Defense Form and convey the decision of the Dissertation Committee to the Chair of the Department of Criminology.

Oral Defense Procedures

1. The oral defense should be scheduled to allow time for the student to make any necessary corrections following the defense and still meet the Graduate School’s final submission deadline of the dissertation.
2. It is required that all members of the Dissertation Committee be present for the examination unless an absence is approved prior to the defense taking place by the Graduate School Dean. In the event that a member cannot attend in person, participation is permissible via speakerphone or video conference. A minimum of three members, including the Major Professor is required to proceed with the defense. The Outside Chair is not considered as part of the Committee.
3. The presentation should be considered an important function in the department and graduate students and faculty are encouraged to attend.
4. The presentation and defense are open to the public and as such, must meet the requirements of the Sunshine Laws for the State of Florida. The voting is not public.
5. The room selected for the examination should have adequate seating with an alternate room selected in case of problems.
6. The Outside Chair should open the proceedings by introducing the candidate and the Dissertation Committee.

7. The examination should begin with a presentation by the candidate designed to summarize the dissertation. **The length of this presentation shall be approximately 20 minutes and no more than 30 minutes.**

8. The remainder of the examination may take place in a different setting and will consist of questions about the research by the Outside Chair and the Dissertation Committee and by other interested persons. It is suggested that questioning should be limited to about 15 minutes for each person with subsequent rounds of questioning as necessary.

9. Questions from the faculty-at-large and/or the public may be allowed at the end of the committee’s questioning.

10. The length of the examination period will generally not exceed three hours. Throughout this time the Outside Chair is to be in charge of all proceedings and, ideally, is expected to play a balancing role between advocacy and contention. The Outside Chair, at any time during the course of the examination, may request all visitors to leave.

11. Following the completion of these proceedings, the Outside Chair will ask all visitors and the candidate to leave and will re-convene the Dissertation Committee only. The Outside Chair may share his/her impressions and opinions of the candidate and the dissertation. The Outside Chair will preside over the deliberations and voting of the committee, but is not to participate in the voting. The voting is to be limited to “pass” and “fail” votes. The Outside Chair has the responsibility of tallying the votes and of informing the candidate of the final decision. **The vote of the Dissertation Committee must be unanimous and recorded on the Successful Defense form.** The College Graduate Dean will resolve substitutions and disagreements within the committee. [It is often the case that the committee wants some changes made before the document is deemed final. If all are in agreement, the Outside Chair can collect the signatures of the committee members to the Successful Defense Form and agree not to submit the form to the college until such time s/he is notified by the chair(s) that all committee members have approved the final product.]

12. The Outside chair will convey the decision of the Dissertation Committee to the Department/College Graduate office by submitting the fully signed Successful Defense Form.

**Dissertation Final Submission Guidelines:** Students will follow ETD Guidelines for purposes of submitting the final dissertation document. Students who fail to submit the final copy of a dissertation by the posted submission deadline will be considered for graduation in the following semester and therefore must apply for graduation by the posted deadline and enroll in a minimum of 2 dissertation hours for that subsequent semester. An electronic copy of the dissertation must be provided to the Graduate Director.
**Summary of Forms Necessary for Dissertation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form/Document</th>
<th>When to Submit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) <strong>CBCS Supervisory Committee Form</strong></td>
<td>When Preparing for Comprehensive Exams or at Candidacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1) <strong>Request for Dissertation Defense Form</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) <strong>Dissertation Defense Announcement</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) <strong>Successful Defense Form</strong> (unsigned)</td>
<td>At Least 2 Weeks Prior to Defense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1) <strong>Successful Defense Form</strong> (signed)</td>
<td>After Committee Approves Final Version of Dissertation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: No forms are necessary at the prospectus/proposal stage.

**Graduation Requirements for the Ph.D. Degree**

During the semester in which graduation is anticipated, students must:

1. Have an approved and accurate Supervisory Committee Form on file in the Graduate School
2. Be enrolled in at least 2 dissertation hours (no other type of credit hour will substitute)
3. Complete all requirements set forth by the ETD system
4. Apply for graduation by the posted deadline (see below)
5. Have a Successful Dissertation Defense Form submitted to the Department and the College (by the defense chair).
6. Complete all of the ETD requirements associated with the dissertation.

**Application for Ph.D. Degree**

In order to graduate, a student must submit an application for the graduate degree to the Office of the Registrar. This application must be submitted in the term of expected graduation by the deadline noted in the academic calendar. If a student applies for graduation and is not approved, a new application for degree must be submitted by the deadline in a new term. In order for the degree statement to appear on a student’s academic record, the student must file the aforementioned application whether or not s/he plans to participate in the commencement ceremony.


It is the student’s responsibility to clear all “I” grades (Incompletes) in courses required for graduation and to provide official transcripts of all transferred course work needed for graduation at least 3 weeks prior to the end of the term in which s/he expects to graduate.
Final Grade Modifications Post-Dissertation

The Graduate School will notify the registrar of the change in dissertation grade from “Z” to “S” once the final manuscript has been received, reviewed and certified for permanent filing in the University Library. Copies of the “Final Approval Form” will be distributed to the student and college. Copies of the Change of Grade memo will be sent to the College.

Academic Residency

Students must be enrolled in a doctoral program for a minimum of 3 years beyond the baccalaureate degree. A student must achieve at least one academic year of residency, defined as a minimum of 9 hours per semester for 2 consecutive semesters completed on a USF campus. Additionally, the University requires a minimum of 24 hours to be completed on a USF campus. Deviations from these rules must be recommended by the student’s doctoral committee and approved by the Dean of the Graduate School.

Ph.D. Time Limitations

The Department requires that students advance to candidacy within five years of admission. Doctoral candidacy is defined as completion of all coursework and successful completion of the qualifying examination.

| For students who started their Ph.D. degrees before Fall 2007: | Per University policy, all requirements for doctoral degrees must be completed within ten (10) calendar years from the student’s date of admission for doctoral study. |
| For students who started their Ph.D. degrees between and including Fall 2007 and Spring 2011: | Per University policy, all requirements for doctoral degrees must be completed within eight (8) calendar years from the student’s date of admission for doctoral study. Courses taken prior to admission to the Ph.D. program (e.g., transferred in or taken as a non-degree seeking student) can be no older than 8 years at the time of graduation with the doctoral degree, with the exception that there is no time limit for courses from a completed master’s degree applied toward a doctoral program. |
| For students who started their Ph.D. degrees in Fall 2011 or later: | Per University policy, all requirements for doctoral degrees must be completed within seven (7) calendar years from the student’s date of admission for doctoral study. All courses applied to the doctoral degree must be completed within seven (7) years, including courses taken prior to admission to the USF doctoral program, taken as a non-degree seeking student or transferred in from another institution. Exception: There is no time limit for courses from a completed master’s degree applied toward a doctoral program. |

In the event that a student nears the end of the time limitation, but needs more time to complete the degree, s/he may submit a request for an extension. The request must be approved by the (Co-Major Professor(s), Graduate Director, College Associate Dean, and Dean of the Graduate School or designee. The request must include the reasons for needing an extension and clearly state the
amount of time requested, up to one year. Students who exceed the time limitations may have their registration placed on hold until a request for extension has been approved.

Students who are unable to continue in the program for more than 12 months must submit a Leave of Absence Request, which extends the time limit for the duration of the approved leave.

Both the Time Limit Extension and Leave of Absence Request forms may be obtained at “Forms” on the Grad School web site at http://www.grad.usf under Students.

**Assistantship and Funding Information**

*Presidential Doctoral Fellowships*

The Presidential Doctoral Fellowship is reserved for recruiting outstanding doctoral students who have demonstrated potential for excellence in research and scholarly/creative activity. Competition for these fellowships is university-wide, and recipients exemplify the University of South Florida’s mission, goals, values, and vision in the areas of teaching, research, service, and community engagement. The fellowship provides a stipend of $25,000 per year plus full tuition, fees, and health insurance and is renewable up to five years. For information on the nomination process, please go to: [http://www.grad.usf.edu/grants.asp](http://www.grad.usf.edu/grants.asp)

*University Graduate Fellowships*

The goal of the University Graduate Fellowship (UGF) is to recruit outstanding doctoral level graduate students to the University of South Florida. To be nominated by the Department of Criminology, applicants must have achieved a high GRE score and a high GPA and demonstrate a strong commitment to research. This fellowship provides a stipend of $15,000 plus a tuition waiver. (Note that, unlike a Graduate Assistantship, a UGF does not come with a subsidy towards health care insurance.) University Graduate Fellowships are for the first year of graduate study only. Students on this fellowship do not have a first year work requirement.

*USF Graduate School Scholarships and Fellowships*

The University of South Florida provides numerous funding opportunities to enhance student diversity and access for all citizens. The USF Graduate School is committed to excellence in graduate education and is proud to offer fellowship opportunities for new and continuing students. Some of these fellowships are only available to students through nominations by their Program/Department, while others are available by direct submission from students who meet the eligibility requirements. It is important to note that funding for the fellowships is limited and the competition for the awards is stiff. In addition, many of the fellowships require that a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) be completed and filed with USF. To be considered for specific awards, it is critical to submit a complete application prior to the stated deadline. Applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed. For information on these fellowships, go to [http://www.grad.usf.edu/grants.asp](http://www.grad.usf.edu/grants.asp)
Criminology Graduate Assistantships

Selection: Every person who is newly admitted to the program or is a continuing student is eligible for a Graduate Assistantship. The criteria used to select GAs from among incoming students are the same criteria used to evaluate their application materials (e.g., GRE scores, letters of recommendation, scholarly/academic achievements). There may be additional situation-specific considerations, such as the hiring of an eligible student on a grant-funded project. Generally, Ph.D. GAs receive 3 years of funding and Master’s GAs receive 2 years. When the budget permits, GAs will be considered for funding beyond the standard 2 or 3 years. The criteria used to fund a continuing student (e.g., a second year student who did not receive a GA upon entry) or provide supplemental funding to a GA who has already received 2 (Master’s) or 3 (Ph.D.) years of funding are: course performance, timely progress on degree components (e.g., taking courses/comps, passing comps, defending a prospectus), scholarly accomplishments (e.g., publications/submissions, conference presentations), participation in department activities (e.g., attending special events, assisting with recruitment/hiring). Students who are on Criminology Graduate Assistantships need to be living in the Tampa area so that they can be involved in department activities and be available for on-campus assignments. A Graduate Assistant must be a full-time student during the funded semesters (9 hours in fall and spring; 6 hours in summer) and maintain a 3.00 GPA.

Period of Service: Although, generally Ph.D. and Master’s GA’s receive funding for three and two years, respectively, there is no guarantee of funding for that period. Students who are not performing satisfactorily in their studies and/or in their GA assignments may lose their Graduate Assistantships. A student whose GPA falls below 3.0 will lose his/her Graduate Assistantship. (The university does not allow funding for students with this academic record.)

As above, it is the general practice of the department to fund Ph.D. students for three years. If a student, during the 3-year period, is hired by an alternative funder (e.g., researcher at FMHI), s/he may be returned to Criminology Graduate Assistant funding following that employment, as needed and as budgets permit, if the three year period associated with the original commitment has not expired.

**NEW: Required Training: Starting in 2013 – 2014 the University requires that all Graduate Assistants (with job codes of 9184 and 9183) attend training on being teaching assistants. Information on this training will come to the students from the Graduate School. The Criminology GAs shall meet this requirement.

Preparing to Teach: Ph.D. students who want to be considered for teaching an undergraduate class as part of their Graduate Assistantship or as an adjunct should be able to document steps they have taken to prepare themselves for such a position. First, The Office of Graduate Studies (OGS) requires TA Training for all TAs before they can teach, involving both a face-to-face one-day event and an online training. More details can be found at: [http://www.usf.edu/atle/events/ta-training.aspx](http://www.usf.edu/atle/events/ta-training.aspx) (Those who started teaching at USF before this requirement was adopted are exempt from it.) Second, the Department expects students to participate in a teaching practicum under the guidance of a faculty member. For students who enter under the 2014-2015 curriculum this takes the form of a formal course (CCJ 7940-Teaching Practicum in Criminology). For
students who started under an earlier curriculum this takes the form of an informal “shadowing” arrangement with a faculty member. The expectations for this can be obtained from the Graduate Director.

**GA Benefits:**

**Student Health Insurance for Graduate Assistants:** A benefit of being a Graduate Assistant (Class Code 9191, 9182, 9183, 9184, 9185 or 9550) is eligibility to participate in the Student Insurance Program. The University will subsidize part of the health insurance premium for individual coverage of those employees on a .25 or .50 FTE appointment who elect coverage under the USF Student Health Insurance Plan. The employer contribution will be paid directly to the insurer. The employee is responsible for payment of the remainder of the insurance premium for coverage selected by the employee. If you have enrollment or general questions, contact Student Health Insurance Office at 1-813-974-5407 or by e-mail at [http://www.usf.edu/student- affairs/student-health-services/](http://www.usf.edu/student-affairs/student-health-services/)

**Tuition Payment (Waiver) Procedures:** Students eligible for tuition payments (waivers) through assistantships, employee benefits, etc. in the Department of Criminology will each receive a copy of their appointment papers from the Office Manager. It is the student’s responsibility to make copies of this paperwork for his/her own records.

Each semester, students receiving financial assistance through assistantships in the Department will be required to turn in a copy of their appointment papers, their registration schedule for the coming semester, and their waiver paperwork, and to meet all deadlines set within the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences.

**GA Job Assignments, Requirements and Accountability:** The assignment of graduate students to positions within the department is the responsibility of the Department Chair in consultation with the Graduate Director, matching student and faculty preferences wherever possible. The assignment of graduate students to faculty members should be in keeping with the professional objectives of the student and the department. Students eligible for more than one type of support will be awarded the type for which they ranked the highest. The Graduate Director may change assignments and make additional assignments as necessary and as new sources of funding become available. Assistantships typically carry the expectation of twenty hours of effort per week, as well as attendance at Department-sponsored functions.

Departmental assistantships are competitive and may be revoked if students do not perform their job duties satisfactorily. Please note that assistantships are for the entire length of the appointment dates (see appointment papers for dates). Assistants may be required, therefore, to work through the Christmas, Spring Break, and Thanksgiving holidays and are responsible for getting permission for early leave. Under the Collective Bargaining Agreement, graduate assistants are able to request 40 hours of leave per semester for any reason, with permission from their supervisor. For example, a student wishing to attend a conference could ask for that week off.

At the close of each semester, the assigned supervisors will be given the opportunity to evaluate graduate assistants. Students will be provided this feedback by the Graduate Director. If a student is found to be deficient and/or negligent in his/her duties and funding is recommended to be
dropped, the Graduate Director will meet with the student to discuss the reasons for revocation of funding. All graduate assistant appointments are one-year renewable appointments (9- or 12-month).

**Adjunct Teaching Positions:**

Barring exceptional circumstances, adjunct positions will be offered only to those Ph.D. students who have passed their qualifying exams. The criteria for selecting adjuncts will be course performance, timely progress on degree components (e.g., taking courses/comps, passing comps, defending a prospectus), scholarly accomplishments (e.g., publications/submissions, conference presentations), participation in department activities (e.g., attending special events, assisting with recruitment/hiring), and the potential to produce quality teaching. Selection of an adjunct might also be based on his/her expertise relative to department teaching needs. The department will also consider the student’s need for and interest in obtaining teaching experience (e.g., because s/he will be applying to academic positions). Adjuncts must live in the Tampa Bay Area so that they are available for in-class teaching assignments and can be involved in department activities.

See “Preparing to Teach” in the section above entitled “Criminology Graduate Assistantships.”

**Communications:** All graduate assistants, teaching associates, and adjunct instructors will be assigned a mailbox in the Department copy room. Please check your mailboxes regularly for Departmental and University information.

Due to the large number of students sharing the graduate offices, there is not a voicemail box available for messages. If you are assisting a faculty member with teaching, or teaching your own course, please notify your students that they will need to communicate with you via the USF email system provided by the University either through Canvas or through another email of your choosing. Please note your office hours and email contact information on your syllabus to avoid miscommunication and phone calls to the general department line. Students who are funded in the department are expected to provide a personal contact number to the Graduate Director and/or faculty assigned to work with these students.

**Copying/Supplies:** All funded graduate assistants working with assigned faculty members will be provided a confidential code for the copy machine. The Departmental copy machine and supplies are not for students’ personal/education use; they are to be used for departmental business, including work associated with GA and adjunct assignments. **Under no circumstances** are students to share this code with or receive this code from any other graduate students. Doing either will be construed as academic dishonesty and a serious violation of the Department’s code of conduct.
Faculty and Staff

Tenure and Tenure-track Faculty

Lyndsay Boggess  
**Associate Professor:** Community context of crime, race/ethnicity and crime.

John Cochran  
**Professor:** Capital punishment, micro-social theories of criminal behavior, macro-social theories of crime and crime control.

Joshua Cochran  
**Assistant Professor:** Punishment and prisoner reentry; theory; inequalities and criminal justice.

Richard Dembo  
**Professor:** Drugs, juvenile justice and delinquency, methodology, youth public health issues, interventions.

Lorie Fridell  
**Associate Professor:** Police use of force, violence against police, biased policing.

Kathleen Heide  
**Professor:** Juvenile homicide, parricide, family violence, child abuse, treatment issues, juvenile justice, psychological theories and issues.

Wesley Jennings  
**Associate Professor and Associate Chair:** Trajectories, Hispanics, sex offending.

Michael Leiber  
**Professor and Department Chair:** Race, juvenile justice, delinquency.

Michael Lynch  
**Professor:** Environmental and corporate crime and regulation, radical criminology, racial bias and criminal justice.

Ojmarrh Mitchell  
**Associate Professor and Graduate Director:** Corrections and sentencing, race and crime, drugs and crime, meta-analysis.

Rachael Powers  
**Assistant Professor:** Violent victimization, public perceptions of crime, domestic violence.

Dwayne Smith  
**Professor & Vice Provost for Faculty and Program Development:** Homicide, capital punishment, structural correlates of crime.

Instructors

Scot Boeringer  
Andrew Franz

Elizabeth Cass  
LeGrande Gardner

Director of the MACJA Program

Dr. Max Bromley

Staff

**Director of Undergraduate Advising Office:** TBD
**Office Manager:** Amanda Rausch
**Academic Program Specialist:** Ciera White
Tampa Community and Surrounding Area

With 2.5 million residents, the Tampa Bay area is one of the world's most desirable areas in which to live. Tampa Bay is home to year-round festivals and activities, and enjoys a climate that is consistently pleasant and sunny. In 2008, Yahoo Real Estate ranked Tampa as the 8th cleanest city in America, and Forbes lists it as the 5th best outdoor city. A 2004 survey by the NYU newspaper ranked Tampa as the top city for 20-somethings. It's no wonder that more than half of USF's 212,000 graduates have opted to stay right here after graduation.

The Tampa Bay area is situated off the Gulf of Mexico and features outstanding local beaches. Two nearby beaches have earned the title “Best Beach in the U.S.” as rated by Dr. Beach—Caladesi Island near Dunedin and Fort DeSoto Park North Beach in St. Petersburg. Other vacationing draws include Busch Gardens/Adventure Island, the Lowry Park Zoo, The Florida Aquarium and historic Ybor City area. Orlando, with all of its theme parks, is about one hour away.

In addition, we host several national professional sports teams, such as the NFL's 2002 Super Bowl Champion Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 2008 American League Champions Major League Baseball's Tampa Bay Rays and the NHL's 2004 Stanley Cup Champion Tampa Bay Lightning. And, for the culturally inclined, there is the Salvador Dali Museum in St. Petersburg, Ringling Brothers Museum in Sarasota, the Museum of Science and Industry (right across the street from our Tampa campus), the Straz Center for the Performing Arts and the Tampa Museum of Art, not to mention USF's own Contemporary Art Museum and GraphicStudio. The Gasparilla Pirate Festival, often referred to as Tampa’s Mardi Gras, draws over 400,000 visitors annually to witness the pirate “invasion” of the pirate ship Jose Gaspar and the parade that follows, after the mayor of Tampa turns the keys to the city over to the Gasparilla and his men.

Concerts and performances are regularly staged at USF's Sun Dome, the College of Visual and Performing Arts and Special Events Center, as well as Tampa's St. Pete Times Forum, Clearwater's Ruth Eckerd Hall, and numerous small venues located through the Bay area.

Tampa Attractions

- Adventure Island – Water park adjacent to Busch Gardens
- Busch Gardens – Theme park with roller coasters, shows, and a zoo specializing in the African continent (located within walking distance to campus)
- The Salvador Dali Museum – Located near the USF St. Petersburg campus
- The Florida Aquarium – Large-scale aquarium located in the Channelside District of Tampa
- Florida Holocaust Museum – One of the largest in the U.S.
- Lowry Park Zoo – Home to over 2,000 animals including the largest collection of Florida wildlife, several hands-on exhibits, and an African Safari
- Museum of Fine Arts – St. Petersburg, the only comprehensive art museum, from antiquity to the present, on Florida’s West Coast
- Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI) – Largest science center in the Southeastern U.S., includes an IMAX theater
• The Pier – Waterfront district in St. Petersburg; includes an aquarium, children’s museum, fine dining, and specialty shops
• Ringling Museum of Art – Sarasota, collection includes more than 10,000 objects from ancient to contemporary periods from around the world
• Tampa Museum of Art – New facility that just opened in 2010
• Ybor City – Florida’s Latin Quarter, a popular nightclub and entertainment district

Venues

• Ruth Eckerd Hall – One of the finest acoustic performance halls in Florida
• St. Pete Times Forum – Home to the NHL Tampa Bay Lightning and USF basketball and host to concerts, professional wrestling, ice-skating, etc.
• Raymond James Stadium – Home of the NFL Tampa Bay Buccaneers (and their 103-ft pirate ship) and USF Bulls football and host to the Outback Bowl, big ticket concerts and events including Super Bowls XXXV and XLIII
• George M. Steinbrenner Field – Spring training home to the New York Yankees and home of the Tampa Yankees Class A affiliate
• Straz Center for the Performing Arts – Boasts one of the nation’s leading Broadway series
• Tampa Theater – Historic theater featuring a wide range of independent, foreign, and documentary films
• Tropicana Field - Home to the MLB Tampa Bay Rays
• Sun Dome – Located on the USF campus, a venue for year-round concerts and events

For information on all of these places and other things to do in Tampa, please visit: http://www.visittampabay.com/ for links to these sites.
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