



Bridgewater State University
Master of Science in Criminal Justice
Joint B.S./M.S. in Criminal Justice

Department of Criminal Justice
August 2010

"It is the spirit and not the form of law that keeps justice alive."

Earl Warren



Dear Graduate Student:

Welcome to the M.S. and Joint B.S./M.S. Programs in Criminal Justice, which are interdisciplinary, research-based programs framed within a social justice perspective. Every faculty member in the Department of Criminal Justice is dedicated to your success, but you must also be prepared for what is a demanding process. Each student is expected to be committed to the level of effort required for graduate work. There are several rules of thumb that provide an estimate of the number of study hours needed to meet course demands. For example, a three-credit course demands nine hours of work each week. We are confident that you will develop the appropriate study regimen that will give you success in the program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dr. Jo-Ann Della Giustina'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Jo-Ann Della Giustina, Ph.D., J. D.
Graduate Program Coordinator



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Section A

The Graduate Faculty



Master of Science in Criminal Justice

Joint B.S./M.S. in Criminal Justice

Department of Criminal Justice
Maxwell Library Room 311
Telephone: (508) 531-2107

Department Administrative Assistant: Ms. Moira O'Connor

Dean, School of Graduate Studies:
Assoc. Dean, School of Graduate Studies:
Program Coordinator:

Dr. William Smith
Dr. Raymond Guillette
Dr. Jo-Ann Della Giustina

The Faculty

The faculty members in the Master of Science in Criminal Justice program are highly accomplished, experienced and dedicated. Most hold doctorates and have extensive teaching experience and strong backgrounds in research and scholarship. Among their areas of expertise are Domestic Violence, Criminal Law and Procedure, Hate Crime, Sex Offenders, Race, Class and Crime, Corrections, Restorative Justice, Cybercrime, Research Methods and Data Analysis, Police Culture, Technology and Crime Control, Homicide, Gender and Crime, Crime Theory, Terrorism, and Crime Policy Analysis.

Dr. Kyung-Shick Choi, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Jo-Ann Della Giustina, John Jay University of Criminal Justice (CUNY)

Dr. Dion Dennis, Arizona State University

Dr. Aviva Twersky-Glasner, John Jay University of Criminal Justice (CUNY)

Dr. Mitchell Librett, John Jay University of Criminal Justice (CUNY)

Dr. Brian Nussbaum, State University of New York, Albany

Dr. Christa Polcynski Olson, University of Central Florida (on leave Fall2010)

Dr. Carolyn Petrosino, Rutgers University School of Criminal Justice

Dr. Richard Wright, University of Massachusetts – Boston

Section B

Mission and Purpose

Program Philosophy

Goals and Objectives



Mission and Purpose

The Master of Science in Criminal Justice prepares students in southeastern Massachusetts and beyond for new careers in criminal justice, whether in courts, corrections, law enforcement, probation, administration or other areas. The program also enhances expertise and assists in career achievement for those already employed in criminal justice, and prepares students for doctoral level work in the field. The program is consistent with the dual mission of Bridgewater State University to educate the residents of southeastern Massachusetts and the Commonwealth and to use its intellectual, scientific, and technological resources to support and advance the well-being of the region and the state. By providing students the knowledge and skills to succeed in a variety of criminal justice careers, as well as providing students with the academic preparation for doctoral programs in criminal justice, the program makes significant contributions to regional and state workforce development and improvement.

We look forward to sustaining academic excellence and scholarly achievements for both graduate students and faculty and to working collaboratively with various criminal justice stakeholders in southeastern Massachusetts and beyond.

Program Philosophy

The major purpose of this research-based graduate program is to assist students in acquiring discipline knowledge and the critical thinking skills needed to be successful in their chosen careers in criminal justice. The program is also intended to foster the development of skilled leaders who will be responsible for the advancement of policy and procedure in the coming decades.

The graduate program strives to create a learning environment that is framed by a social justice perspective. Many of the courses in the curriculum integrate social justice themes that examine how crime and justice manifests for populations subject to abject inequalities which transcend political, economic and social milieus. In addition, other vital areas significant to developing critical thinking skills are emphasized in several course offerings. Specifically, substantial attention is focused on policy analysis as well as the need to evaluate and assess crime and justice literature.

Overall, the program encourages students to develop a broad perspective on the macro social forces that affect law, crime, and the justice system. Course work prompts student to explore profound questions about the field, the system, policies and practitioners. By doing so, students better understand the problems that the criminal justice professional and criminal justice agencies routinely face. In addition, the curriculum not only focuses on issues that confront the criminal justice professional, but also the offender and the community. Since the program began in the Fall of 2001, most of our students have come from a variety of occupations in the criminal justice field or are recent criminal justice undergraduates. However, we also have students from other academic disciplines, who are new to the field of criminal justice. This diversity of students effectively contributes to a stimulating learning environment through the sharing of different experiences and knowledge.

Finally, there are a variety of teaching methodologies that students will experience in the program. For example, the pedagogy of active learning is often utilized for critical and reflective thinking and research tasks. Such an approach creates a medium through which students and faculty can engage in discussions about topics and issues in ways that significantly enhance awareness about critical issues, as well as deepen course content knowledge.

Goals and Objectives

The program's specific goals and purposes are as follows:

Goal 1. To meet state and regional needs by providing graduate students with a relevant body of disciplinary knowledge skills necessary for future success in the broad field of criminal justice.

- **Objectives:**

To provide students with a comprehensive and relevant criminal justice education that includes an understanding of crime causation, the nature of criminal behavior, societal responses to crime, the effects of public policy and developing trends in the field. As such, the curriculum is intended to be aligned with the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education's standards for criminal justice programs;

To emphasize the development of communication skills within the curriculum-skills required by criminal justice employers;

To facilitate successful completion of the graduate program in criminal justice by clearly articulating program requirements;

Goal 2. To provide opportunities for enhancing the knowledge and skills of regional criminal justice professionals for purposes of career advancement.

- **Objectives:**

To emphasize the existence and importance of diversity in criminal justice issues and in the workplace; sensitizing students to how class, race, gender, ethnicity and other categories of diversity impacts crime and justice in America;

To require critical thinking and other higher order cognitive skills appropriate for graduate level study in course requirements. Beyond the understanding of the essentials of criminal justice education, graduate students will utilize cognitive skills that are in keeping with graduate level learning. More specifically, learning on the graduate level requires the development and use of critical thinking skills. Critical thinking skills require reflective habits of thought, the ability to support one's conclusions, and evaluation of the perspectives of others. Evaluation requires the competent use of scholarly evidence and the proficient testing of the accuracy of various knowledge claims;

To require the exercise of written and oral communication skills in course requirements so that students might develop and improve writing and speaking skills;

To emphasize, where appropriate, the applied aspects of course materials, including the use of information technology and scientific methodologies, and problem-solving activities;

To require the development of research skills. These include the comprehension of professional and technical studies and reports, in both qualitative and quantitative formats; proficiency in conducting systematic digital and textual searches; and, in the context of some course requirements, developing competencies in the evaluation of evidence and claims.

Goal 3. To provide a solid academic foundation for the pursuit of doctoral level work in criminal justice or other professional degree programs.

- **Objectives:**

To augment the fundamental disciplinary knowledge in criminal justice with more advanced study and more challenging methods of examination necessary and appropriate for education beyond the undergraduate level;

To routinely incorporate into course assignments critical and analytical thinking assignments, the assessment of competing perspectives, analysis, synthesis and evaluation in order to facilitate conceptual learning;

To develop effective written and oral communication skills that are important in criminal justice careers and for successful performance in doctoral or other professional degree programs;

To offer challenging courses with increasing complexity of course constructs, theories, and other scientific applications (i.e., CRJU 557 Advanced Research Methods in Criminal Justice or CRJU 525 Comparative Crime and Justice or CRJU 546 Class, Race, Gender, and Crime);

To provide opportunities for supervised independent research through such course vehicles such as CRJU 503 Directed Study or in the various research seminars in program (i.e. CRJU 542 Research Seminar in Corrections; CRJU 597 Research Seminar in Criminal Justice);

Goal 4. The Criminal Justice Programs seeks to contribute to a more informed public which will enhance public dialogue on complex and critical criminal justice issues.

- **Objectives:**

To regularly host public forums and/or conferences that focus on Criminal justice issues where the public has a vested interest.

The Concentrations:

The master's program offers two concentration options (subject to change), which are available for graduate students who are seeking to acquire additional skills in either the administration of criminal justice organizations or in the broad area of corrections.

Section C

Academic Integrity



Academic Integrity Policy*

Plagiarism, cheating, forgery, falsification, and/or multiple submissions (i.e., papers (or portions of other papers) from other classes) will not be tolerated.

The School of Graduate Studies considers academic integrity to be an important hallmark for graduate students and scholars. The importance of academic integrity and honesty is even more vital for scholars and researchers at the graduate level, who find themselves writing seminar papers, research papers and theses. All graduate degree programs at Bridgewater State University require courses in research where conventions of documentation are taught. Graduate students, who are acquiring scholarly habits and skills in degree programs, must rely on the scholarship that has preceded them, and they must acknowledge the scholarship in their own academic work by adhering to the time-honored conventions of their discipline. In short, graduate students are entering a community of scholars and must respect the rules and traditions of that community. Sometimes, however, graduate students violate the accepted principles and policies of academic integrity and honesty. The dean of the School of Graduate Studies reviews any infractions of academic integrity.

The following examples represent a partial list of serious breaches of academic integrity:

- (1) Plagiarizing any published or online source, including "Blackboard" and other online discussions, and claiming them as one's own;
- (2) Not properly documenting quotations and paraphrases in one's texts, i.e. not using footnotes, endnotes, parenthetical citations or other conventional methods of documentation;
- (3) Inadequate paraphrasing, with or without proper documentation;
- (4) Copying portions of Internet sources without proper documentation and citations;
- (5) Creating false documentation, i.e. purposely fabricating information used in references, endnotes and footnotes;
- (6) Using or copying from another student's written work with or without the student's permission;
- (7) Taking an examination for another student;

- (8) Cheating on an examination;
- (9) Purchasing a paper or assignment from an online source or another student and claiming it as one's own;
- (10) Writing a paper or report for another student; and
- (11) Altering or falsifying data.

Serious violations of academic integrity are not limited to this list. Penalties for academic misconduct may include the following:

- (1) A grade of "F," "N" or "U" (as appropriate) in the course;
- (2) A grade of "F" for the assignment being evaluated;
- (3) The assigning of additional course work;
- (4) Suspension from graduate programs;
- (5) Dismissal from graduate programs.

Classroom Conduct Policy*

Because all students and faculty at Bridgewater State University are entitled to a positive and constructive teaching and learning environment, Bridgewater State University students are prohibited from engaging in behavior or activity that causes the disruption of teaching, learning, research, or other academic activities necessary for the fulfillment of the university mission.

If disruptive behavior occurs, whether in the classroom or another academic environment, faculty members have the right to remove students from the classroom. Examples of potentially disruptive behavior may include, but are not limited to, using inappropriate language directed at an individual or group, unsolicited talking in class, sleeping in class, using or activating cell phones, arriving at or leaving the classroom while class is in session, and/or failing to comply with the legitimate request of a university faculty member.

You are responsible for reading the BSU policy on Academic Integrity at <http://www.bridgew.edu/Handbook/PoliciesProcedures/academicmisconduct.cfm>.

Section D

The Curriculum



The Curriculum

The Master of Science in Criminal Justice requires 33 credit hours of graduate course work – six core course and five elective courses, which may include concentrations in Corrections and Criminal Justice Administration.

The program is consistent with the dual mission of Bridgewater State University to educate the residents of southeastern Massachusetts and the Commonwealth and to use the University's intellectual, scientific, and technological resources to support and advance the well-being of the region and the state. Specifically, the program *educates* students about the dynamics of crime, criminal behavior, the criminal justice system and how these complex factors interact in recursive relationships with social institutions and public realities.

In addition, students must choose either a comprehensive examination or thesis to satisfy the degree requirement. The Master of Science in Criminal Justice ensures that the knowledge and skills acquired by program graduates is rigorous, academically substantial, and focuses on conceptual learning.

To provide a common substantive framework for all students in the program, *CRJU 500 - Foundations of Scholarship* is a prerequisite for all other courses. It is designed to enhance student preparedness to successfully engage in graduate level research and writing, which are prominent in the master's program. The goal of this course is to cultivate research and writing practices that will lead to students' success, both within the program and in their subsequent careers.

Course sequences and course prerequisites are designed so that students build upon prior learning. For example, all research courses in the program require that students successfully complete CRJU 510 Research Seminar in Criminal Justice prior to enrollment in CRJU 511 Analyzing Criminal Justice Data. Students are advised to take required courses in the correct sequence. In addition, the program requirements clearly specify the relevant prerequisites that must be observed.

The program admits students from various degree backgrounds. To provide students who do not have a criminal justice background with a common framework in criminal justice, *CRJU 501 - The Structure and Process of the Criminal Justice System* examines

the organization of the criminal justice system and explicates the nature of the relationships among its components. The origins of criminal law, law enforcement agencies, federal and state court systems and corrections are reviewed. In addition, the functions and processes of essential agencies within the criminal justice system are investigated at an appropriate Master's level. Students completing this course will gain a solid understanding of the evolution of the modern American criminal justice system as it developed from its Western European and British roots.

Furthermore, *CRJU 504 Seminar: Crime, Justice, and Society*, continues this work in its focus on the foundations areas of criminology, law adjudication, law enforcement, corrections and research and analytic methodologies all within the context of social justice perspectives.

B.S./M.S Joint Degree Students

This joint degree program is a 153 credit program that leads to both a B.S. and a M.S. degree in Criminal Justice. Students admitted into the joint degree program must complete all of the requirements for each degree program in criminal justice in order to receive both degrees simultaneously.

If a joint degree student elects to withdraw from the joint degree program in order to graduate with his/her Bachelor's degree:

- withdrawing from the joint degree program also means withdrawing from the graduate program
- the student's graduate credits will be maintained on record
- should the student later wish to finish her/his master's degree, s/he must reapply to the graduate program
- reapplication would require the completion of a new application, resubmission of letters of recommendation, and the requirement of the GRE
- should the student be accepted into the graduate program, s/he could then apply to have his/her graduate credits waived into (or counted towards) his/her graduate degree

Because of the sequence in course offerings in the Graduate Program, Joint Degree Students should carefully map out each semester of their academic career. Students should consult with the Graduate Coordinator or their Advisor.

Transfer Credits*

Transfer credit at the graduate level is defined by Bridgewater State University to include two distinct credit situations:

First, transfer credit is defined as being any appropriate graduate credit taken at Bridgewater State University or at another accredited institution prior to acceptance to the Bridgewater State University graduate program. This credit includes appropriate graduate credit earned in courses in which the student is enrolled at the time of acceptance.

Second, transfer credit is defined to include appropriate graduate credit taken at an accredited institution other than Bridgewater State University after acceptance to the Bridgewater State University graduate program. It should be noted, however, that not more than six graduate credits, taken both prior to and after acceptance, can be transferred from other graduate schools.

All courses to be used as transfer credit in a graduate program must have the approval of the Graduate Coordinator, who will make the decision of approval or disapproval based on the course description, syllabus, and assessment output (e.g. research papers or other appropriate graduate level assignments) completed during the course.

Approval is subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Not more than six credits being transferred are from an accredited institution other than Bridgewater State University
- (2) A grade of B or better has been earned in all courses being transferred
- (3) Courses being transferred have not been used to fulfill the requirements of another degree or certificate
- (4) Graduate transfer credits may not be more than six years old at the time program requirements are completed
- (5) The transfer course cannot replace a required class

The student is responsible for submitting the completed transfer credit form (green form) to the School of Graduate Studies once it is approved by the student's adviser and graduate coordinator. Students are strongly urged to process their forms for transfer credit early in their graduate program rather than waiting until they apply to graduate.

Program curriculum

The graduate program requires the completion of **33 credit hours with a minimum 3.0** grade-point average (GPA). The required courses include 6 core courses and 5 elective courses. In addition, each student must complete either the Comprehensive Examination or a Thesis.

Criminal Justice Required (Core) Courses (Total credits required=18)		
Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
CRJU 500	Foundations of Scholarship	3
CRJU 504	Crime, Justice & Society Prereq: CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	3
CRJU 505	Applications in Crime Theory Prereq: CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	3
CRJU 510	Research Methods in Criminal Justice Prereq: CRJU 500- cannot be taken concurrently	3
CRJU 511	Analyzing Criminal Justice Data Prereq: CRJU 510, CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	3
CRJU 512	Ethics & Policy in Criminal Justice Prereq: CRJU 504 & 505, CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	3
Criminal Justice Elective Courses (Total credits required=15)		
CRJU 501	Structure and Process in the CRJU System Prereq: CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	3
CRJU 502	Research (leading to thesis) Prereq: CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	6 over two semesters
CRJU 503	Directed Study Prereq: CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	1 - 6
CRJU 515	Criminal Justice Administration Prereq: CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	3
CRJU 517	Studies in Crime Prevention: Understanding What Works Prereq: CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	3
CRJU 518	Hate Crimes and Hate Groups Prereq: CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	3

CRJU 520	Violence, Crime & Society Prereq: CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	3
CRJU 521	Domestic Violence Prereq: CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	3
CRJU 522	Women and Criminal Justice Prereq: CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	3
CRJU 525	Comparative Crime & Justice Prereq: CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	3
CRJU 526	Communities, Cities & Crime Prereq: CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	3
CRJU 527	Policing in a Democratic Society Prereq: CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	3
CRJU 530	Introduction to Police Culture Prereq: CRJU 504 & 505, CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	3
CRJU 540	Corrections, Crime & Society Prereq: CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	3
CRJU 541	Community-based Corrections Prereq: CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	3
CRJU 542	Research Seminar in Corrections Prereq: CRJU 510 & 511, CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	3
CRJU 546	Class, Race, Gender and Crime Prereq: CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	3
CRJU 550	Juvenile Justice & Society Prereq: CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	3
CRJU 551	Law & Society Prereq: CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	3
CRJU 555	Information Technology Prereq: CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	3
CRJU 557	Advanced Research Methods in Criminal Justice Prereq: CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	3
CRJU 597	Research Seminar in Criminal Justice (Rotating Topics) Prereq: CRJU 510 & 511, CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	3
CRJU 598	Internship in Criminal Justice Prereq: CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	3
CRJU 599	Special Topics in Criminal Justice Prereq: CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	3
*POLI 501	Introduction to Public Institutions and Administration	3
*POLI 505	Public Management	3
*POLI 511	Program Evaluation and Policy Analysis	3
Other Courses: With the approval of the Graduate Coordinator, students may take up to two courses from		

other Bridgewater State University graduate programs.		
***Optional Concentrations: (three courses required)		
I. <u>Administration of Justice Concentration: (9 credits/three courses)</u>		
CRJU 515	Criminal Justice Administration Prereq: CRJU 505 and CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	3
CRJU 516	Research Seminar in the Administration of Criminal Justice Organizations	
**POLI 501	Introduction to Public Institutions and Administration	3
**POLI 505	Public Management	3
II. <u>Crime and Corrections Concentration: (9 credits/three courses)</u>		
CRJU 540	Corrections, Crime & Society Prereq: CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	3
CRJU 541	Community-based Corrections Prereq: CRJU 500- can be taken concurrently	3
CRJU 542	Research Seminar in Corrections Prereq: CRJU 510 & 511, CRJU 500- cannot be taken concurrently	3
<u>Capstone Requirement:</u> Students must either complete a Thesis option or a combination of the Comprehensive Examination and a Master's project completed in the CRJU 542 or CRJU 597 research seminar	Thesis = 6 credits of CRJU 502 + Oral Defense of Thesis Or Master's Project (CRJU 542 or CRJU 597 research seminar = 3 credits) + Comprehensive Exam	
Total credit hours required for degree	33	

**Approved courses offered by the Masters in Public Administration program

*** Students interested in pursuing a concentration should contact the program coordinator by the end of their first semester in the program.

Directed or Independent Study*

Graduate students are allowed to undertake a directed or independent study under the supervision of a faculty member. The course Directed Study XXXX 503 (credit to be arranged) is designed for graduate students who desire to study selected topics in their fields. A student can earn 1 to 6 credits of Directed Study.

Directed study may not be used to substitute for courses that are required in the program or to study topics that are covered in required or elective courses in the program.

Directed study follows the same registration procedures as all academic course work on campus; that is, arrangement for directed study must take place prior to the time of registration with all forms completed and on file at the appropriate departmental office. Enrollment in directed study is limited to students who have been accepted to a graduate program at Bridgewater State University and who have completed a minimum of 15 approved graduate credits.

Section E

The Capstone: Comprehensive Examination Thesis Option



The Capstone

To fulfill the requirements for the degree students must demonstrate the knowledge and the skills that they have acquired in the program. Students have an option of selecting either the Master of Science Comprehensive Examination in Criminal Justice or the Thesis to satisfy the exit requirement.

The Comprehensive Examination

The Comprehensive examination reflects a full range of the knowledge and skills highlighted throughout the program. Students must give evidence that they can integrate information and ideas from the various areas in which they have studied. In order to be eligible for the Comprehensive Examination, the student must first complete *all* of the required core courses, at least two electives, and the *successful completion* of their Master's project taken in *CRJU 542 Research Seminar in Corrections* or *CRJU 597 Research Seminar in Criminal Justice*. The Comprehensive Exam is offered twice (November and April) during the academic year and is normally taken in the last semester of the program. The Comprehensive Exam is offered twice (November and April) during the academic year. Prior to taking the Comprehensive Exam, students are required to complete a comprehensive examination request form and pay the comprehensive examination fee by the appropriate application deadline:

- October 1 for November comprehensive examinations
- February 1 for April comprehensive examinations

The examination will consist of material from the required core courses: Crime, Justice and Society, Applications in Crime Theory, Research Methods in Criminal Justice, Analyzing Criminal Justice Data, and Ethics and Crime Policy. The examination will have a 4.5-hour time limit. The exam will consist of multiple essay questions that will be designed to highlight the content areas of the required courses and that will allow students to incorporate what they have learned in elective courses.

Each exam question will be anonymously graded by three members of the Comprehensive Exam faculty committee. Two categories of grades will be assigned: Pass and Fail. Students must pass four out of the five sections. Copies of a book list, previous exams and syllabi for the required core courses will be available from the Department administrative assistant.

Students who fail the comprehensive examination shall be given one additional opportunity to pass the exam. Students should meet immediately with the graduate coordinator to review weaknesses of their performances. To take the comprehensive exam a second time, students will be required to complete a new comprehensive examination request form and repay the comprehensive examination fee. A student will not be granted another exam attempt after two failures.

Students who fail a second comprehensive examination are subject to academic dismissal. Should the student fail the comprehensive examination twice, the Faculty and Graduate Coordinator, after consulting with the School of Graduate Studies, will determine the student's status in the program. The student's affiliation with the program will likely be ended following this review unless compelling reasons suggest otherwise.

Students who plan to take the comprehensive examination should file a Comprehensive Examination Request form in the School of Graduate Studies, with a nonrefundable comprehensive examination fee of \$60 for master's degree candidates. The completed form with required approvals and fee must be filed in the School of Graduate Studies on or before the appropriate application deadline:

- October 1 for November comprehensive examinations
- February 1 for April comprehensive examinations

The Thesis Option*

The thesis provides a learning experience that uniquely furthers the development of research skills. It also provides an opportunity to conduct a more in depth investigation of a topic than is usually possible in a course. Finally, successfully completing a thesis often enhances student chances for admission to and successful performance in either a doctoral program or law school.

The thesis is in-depth original research of a narrowly focused topic. Students may write a thesis for the following reasons: (1) provides a learning experience that uniquely furthers the development of research skills; (2) creates an opportunity to conduct a more in-depth investigation of a topic of personal or professional interest than is usually possible in a course, and (3) successfully completing a thesis often enhances a student's chances for successful admission to and performance in a doctoral program or law school. Students who are interested in writing a Thesis should consult either the Graduate Coordinator or a professor with whom the student wants to work.

Students writing master's theses must adhere to the following BSU policies:

1. All graduate students writing master's theses must have a thesis committee, consisting of a committee chairperson and two faculty readers. The thesis committee must be approved by the graduate program coordinator.
2. Students should consult with a graduate faculty member whom they would like to mentor their thesis work. To help the student in this process, there is a list of faculty areas of interest listed below. The faculty member and student will then work together throughout the thesis process. Together they will choose the faculty who will be on the thesis committee. There should be a faculty member who is familiar with the subject matter and a faculty member who is familiar with the methodology that will be used.
3. Students writing a thesis must be enrolled in CRJU 502 - Research during the period in which faculty members are directing the thesis. Students must register for at least six credits of CRJU 502, but the credits are usually taken over two semesters. These courses are counted toward the 15 elective credits.
4. To register for CRJU 502, students must submit a Thesis Proposal Form, with a detailed proposal and signatures of the thesis chairperson, the two faculty readers, the graduate coordinator and the dean of the School of Graduate Studies. (The Thesis Proposal Form is available for download on the School of Graduate Studies Web page.) After students obtain the necessary signatures, they take the theses proposal forms to the Registrar's Office.
5. Once the thesis is completed, the graduate student must orally defend her/his thesis in a public presentation.

GRADUATE FACULTY AREAS OF EXPERTISE AND INTEREST:

FACULTY MEMBER:	RESEARCH INTERESTS AND EXPERTISE:
Kyung-shick Choi, Ph.D.	Cyber- crime; Criminological theory testing; White-collar crime; Empirical assessment of hypotheses-based on Quantitative approach
Jo-Ann Della Giustina, Ph.D., J.D.	Prison institutions and reentry to community; Criminal law; Criminal procedure; Restorative justice; Homicide; Violence; Violence against women; Domestic violence; Gender (including masculinity) and crime; Race; Class
Dion Dennis, Ph.D.	Media; Ubiquitous computing; Communication; Ethnographic methods; Privatization; Surveillance; Semiotics; Early 21st Century theory; Criminal justice education; National and Transnational copyright law and politics
Mitch Librett, Ph.D.	Policing, community policing, police ethics; Ethnography/qualitative research methods and design; White collar & Organized crime; Gangs; Critical crime theories; Comparative criminal justice/policing
Brian Nussbaum, Ph.D.	International/Transnational Crime; Organized crime (both international and domestic); Terrorism/Homeland Security; Policing; Privatized Security and policing; Crime Analysis/Intelligence analysis
Carolyn Petrosino, Ph.D.	Institutional Corrections; Parole release and supervision; Reentry matters (community-based corrections); Crime Prevention (including environmental designs); Criminal Justice Administration, Ethics and crime policy; Race, Class, and Crime, Social Justice; Minority women and the justice system; Hate crimes
Christa Polcynski Olson, Ph.D. On leave Fall 2010	Gangs, Violent crimes (especially homicide), Immigration/Citizenship status and crime, Crime locations (crime mapping), and Poverty and crime
Aviva Twersky Glasner, Ph.D.	Forensic psychology; Police psychology; Crime mapping; Disabilities and crime; Bio-social correlates of criminal behavior; Secondary data analysis; Research methods and design
Richard Wright, Ph.D.	Federal crime control; Crime policy; Domestic violence; Sex offenders; Sexual assault; Terrorism

Section F

General Information

Graduate Assistantships

About Graduate Forms

Financial Aid for Joint Degree Students



Graduate Student Essentials

Every graduate student must have the following while studying at Bridgewater State University:

- Activated Bridgewater State University User Account
- Activated Blackboard User Account
- InfoBear Account
- Connect Card/BSU Identification Card

Also, graduate students should understand that Bridgewater State University e-mail is the official means of communication from the University.

Academic Standing for Graduate Students

The School of Graduate Studies requires that matriculated graduate students maintain a 3.0 GPA. Any matriculated or non-matriculated graduate students whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 will be notified that they are on academic probation. When graduate students are placed on academic probation, they will receive a letter from the School of Graduate Studies. This letter informs students that they should be mindful that their GPA has fallen below a 3.0. Students should discuss the matter with their adviser or graduate coordinator. If a student's GPAs remain below a 3.0 for two consecutive semesters, his/her academic progress is in jeopardy. The School of Graduate Studies makes every attempt not to dismiss students from academic programs, though prolonged GPAs below 3.0 may result in academic dismissal.

Incomplete

An incomplete may be given at the discretion of the instructor. The time by which missing work must be completed may not extend beyond the last day of classes of the academic semester following that in which the incomplete was earned. Courses that

are not successfully completed by this deadline will automatically be changed to a grade of "F" (Failure) or "N"(No Pass).

Repeat-Course Policy

Graduate-level courses may be taken more than once; however, only the grade earned in the initial course may be included in degree requirements.

Statute of Limitations – Programs and Courses

All graduate program requirements, including the comprehensive examination, must be completed within six years of the date of the student's acceptance. In addition, no graduate course offered for master's degree or CAGS credit may be more than six years old at the time program requirements are completed.

If graduate students cannot complete degree requirements within the six-year limit because of extraordinary circumstances, they may file written appeals, requesting a reasonable extension from the School of Graduate Studies.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS

The Graduate School offers three graduate assistantships: a general Graduate Assistantship, a Research Graduate Assistantship, and a Graduate Writing Fellow Assistantship.

Graduate Assistantships

Graduate Assistantships ("GA") are awarded to full-time students who are fully admitted to a graduate program and who maintain good academic standing during the time of the award. The total award equals over \$10,000 a year which includes tuition and fee remission for up to 24 credits per year plus a stipend. Appointments are competitive and are determined on the basis of undergraduate and/or graduate grade point average, test scores, letters of recommendation, pertinent experience, educational preparation, interviews, or a combination of these factors. They are intended to encourage and assist superior students in pursuing graduate study and in completing the requirements for graduate degrees in the minimum possible time. For further information contact **Jason Cahoon at 508.531.1300.**

Graduate Research Assistantships

Graduate research assistantships (GRA's) are designed to link a graduate student together with a professor in a meaningful research project, which will be one academic year in duration. During the assistantship period, a graduate research assistant will work directly with a professor on a joint project, which will lead to a presentation at a professional conference and/or a joint publication. Graduate research assistantships are awarded to part and full-time students who are fully admitted with a clear-admit status to a graduate degree program and who maintain outstanding academic standing during the time of the award. The total award equals over \$7,000 a year which includes tuition and fees remission for up to 15 credits per academic year, a bi-weekly stipend, plus a complimentary parking pass. Appointments are competitive and are determined on the basis of undergraduate and/or graduate grade point averages, test scores, letters of recommendation, pertinent experience, educational preparation, interviews, or a combination of these factors. They are intended to encourage and assist superior students in pursuing graduate study and in completing the requirements for graduate degrees in the minimum possible time. The following guidelines are to be used in employing GRAs within academic departments. For further information contact **Jason Cahoon at 508.531.1300.**

Graduate Writing Fellow Assistantships

For further information contact **Jason Cahoon at 508.531.1300.**

Graduation Procedures

Students who are nearing the completion of their graduate program requirements and who plan to receive a master's degree in January, May, or August, should complete an **Application to Graduate form. These forms should be completed by students, approved by the faculty advisers and program coordinators, and submitted with the candidates' Graduate Program Proposal forms to the School of Graduate Studies office before the appropriate application deadline.** Students should check with their advisers regarding exit requirements for their academic program, as requirements vary for each program.

Graduation Application Deadlines

- February 1 for May graduation
- June 1 for August graduation
- October 1 for January graduation

Note: failure to file an application before the deadline may postpone degree conferral.

Forms:

The graduation packet contains the Application to Graduate form, Graduate Program Proposal form, and the Comprehensive Examination Request form. For the Master's of Science in Criminal Justice program, the oral defense of a thesis is considered the comprehensive examination.

Comprehensive Examination Request form must be submitted. Students may request graduation packets from the School of Graduate Studies at 508.531.1238 or download the forms at www.bridgew.edu/SoGS/graduation.cfm.

Completed forms with appropriate signatures and payment are submitted to the School of Graduate Studies.

Fees:

Comprehensive Examination Fee - \$60.00

Thesis - \$60.00

Thesis Binding Fee - \$12.00 per copy (four copies required and additional copies may be requested)

Financial Aid and Joint Degree Students: A Note

Joint degree students are considered undergraduate students (regardless of the mix of courses they are taking). As such, they receive undergraduate level financial aid.

When they fill out their FAFSA, they should be answering all of the questions as a 5th year undergraduate student. Nowhere on the form should they indicate that they will be enrolled as a graduate student.

For further information, please Financial Aid: www.bridgew.edu/financialaid.

For additional information, consult the School of Graduate Studies webpage:

http://www.bridgew.edu/SoGS/2009_2010BSU-GraduateHandbook.pdf

*Includes information from the School of Graduate Studies Handbook

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