

**NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES
SCHOOL OF CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**SCCJ MASTER'S PROGRAM POLICIES & PROCEDURES
AY 2024-2025**

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DATE OF VERSION: 01.31.2025

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NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY CORE VALUES

- To educate students for a life of fulfillment and accomplishment.
- To create and translate knowledge to meet global and societal needs.

SCHOOL OF CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (SCCJ) MISSION STATEMENT

The Master's Program in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice helps prepare students for research, policy development, administrative, and supervisory positions within the various sectors of the criminal justice field. Conditions and needs in criminal justice are always changing and, therefore, the program acquaints students with the most current perspectives as well as with substantive knowledge, technical skills, and analytic methodologies.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Master's Program in Criminology and Criminal Justice concentrates both on the problem of crime as a form of deviant behavior, and on the criminal justice and private security systems that deal with it. The program emphasizes a systems approach to criminal justice, stressing policy development and analysis, as well as the impact these policies have on the individuals and organizations charged with delivering justice in a fair and equitable manner. Broad in concept and scope, it encompasses such related disciplines as law, sociology, political science, psychology, criminology, and public administration.

Briefly stated, the master's Program in Criminology and Criminal Justice endeavors to:

- Assist in developing criminal justice and private security leaders capable of assuming responsibility for policy planning and administration;
- Offer students the opportunity to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to conduct applied research while assisting them in developing the ability to apply this research in a variety of criminal justice settings
- Provide an opportunity for a solid educational foundation for those who wish to pursue more advanced graduate study beyond the Master of Science degree.

Over the course of the program, students are expected to:

- Demonstrate foundational knowledge of theories of criminology and criminal justice
- Develop an understanding of the causes of crime from an interdisciplinary perspective
- Identify the criminal justice process and important issues confronting the administration of justice

- Demonstrate an understanding of methods of social research
- Explain the use of social science quantitative techniques for academic and public-sector applications
- Understand the role of systemic racism and intersecting dimensions of oppression in the development of policies and practices across the criminal justice system, as well as in crime and justice theory and research

CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (SCCJGSA)

Graduate students in Criminology and Criminal Justice have a [graduate student association](#). All graduate students are encouraged to participate in SCCJGSA meetings and events. The SCCJGSA seeks to foster a healthy graduate student culture in which students can develop academically as well as professionally while learning and establishing long-lasting relationships with fellow students and faculty.

UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDIES POLICIES

The School of Criminology and Criminal Justice's policies and procedures document must be used in conjunction with the Northeastern University [Graduate Catalog](#) and [Graduate Bylaws](#). Additional university-wide policies can be found on the Provost's Office [website](#).

University-wide policies apply to matters of transfer credit, degree requirements, registration requirements, incomplete coursework, parental leave, and leaves of absence. If you need help finding a policy, please contact the graduate program director or administrator.

SCCJ ACADEMIC POLICIES & PROCEDURES

SCCJ Forms

Current versions of all forms referred to in this document are available on [our website](#).

Student Employment Policies

Faculty in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice often have (or pursue) funding for research projects. To ensure greater equity for faculty and students, the College of Social Sciences and Humanities has established the standard hourly rate of \$18.00/hour for master's students.

Academic Advisor

The Master's Program Director will serve as the academic advisor for all master's students during their course of study.

Student Status

For academic purposes, a graduate student is considered a full-time student if enrolled in a minimum of 8 semester hours of credit for the semester, with the following exceptions:

- Students in their last semester of coursework may be enrolled in fewer than 8 semester hours to complete degree requirements. *Note:* To be eligible for some types of financial aid, the minimum full-time load may be defined differently. For information, contact the [Student Financial Services Office](#).

Continued registration in the CSSH is contingent upon receiving all official transcripts and test scores within 30 days of matriculation. Please note that you may be asked to provide us with these if you did not include official copies in your application.

Grading System

The student's performance in graduate courses will be graded according to the following numerical equivalents in the [Academic Catalog](#).

Grading Policies

Grading policies applying to all students may be found in the [Academic Catalog](#).

In the CSSH, not more than two courses or 6 semester hours of credit, whichever is greater, may be repeated to satisfy the requirements for the degree. Only such repeats will be counted in calculating the cumulative grade-point average. No grade changes are permitted after the end of the final examination period one calendar year from the semester in which the student registered for the course. This includes the clearance of [incomplete grades](#). In calculating the overall cumulative average, all graduate-level coursework completed at the time of clearance for graduation will be counted.

Students cannot elect a pass/fail grading scheme for CSSH courses unless the course grading scheme is designated pass/fail.

Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy

Essential to the mission of Northeastern University is the commitment to the principles of intellectual honesty and integrity. Academic integrity is important for two reasons. First, independent and original scholarship ensures that students derive the most from their educational

experience and the pursuit of knowledge. Second, academic dishonesty violates the most fundamental values of an intellectual community and depreciates the achievements of the entire university community. Accordingly, Northeastern University views academic dishonesty as one of the most serious offenses that a student can commit while in college. All students should familiarize themselves with Northeastern University's [Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy](#).

In addition, SCCJ has established the policy that any instance of confirmed academic dishonesty in a course may result in the failure of the course and dismissal from the program.

Academic Appeals Process

For more information, please visit the [Academic Catalog](#).

DEGREE PLAN

Please refer to [the Graduate Catalog](#) for detailed degree requirements.

Core Requirements (16 credits)	Electives (16 credits)
CRIM 6200 Criminology CRIM 6202 The Criminal Justice Process INSH 6300 Research Methods in the Social Sciences INSH 6500 Statistical Analysis	<u>Option 1:</u> Pursue 4 electives in CRIM, INSH, POLS, PPUA, and/or SOCL at the 5000-level or 6000-level <u>Option 2:</u> Pursue the Cybersecurity Concentration or a Graduate Certificate, along with one additional elective
Optional Six Month Co-operative Work Experience (2 credits)	
INSH 6864 Experiential Integration CRIM 6984 Co-op Experience	

Online Coursework

All required courses are offered online. Online electives include, but are not limited to:

CRIM 5201 Global Criminology
 CRIM 5601 Financial Crime
 INSH 5301 Introduction to Computational Statistics
 PPUA 5262 Big Data for Cities
 POLS 7246 Resilient Cities
 POLS 7343 Counterterrorism
 DA 5020 Collecting, Storing, and Retrieving Data
 PHIL 5005 Information Ethics

CRIM 5264 Immigration and Crime
 CRIM 5602 Crime, Place, and Community
 INSH 5302 Information Design and Analysis
 PPUA 5263 Geographic Information System
 POLS 7341 Security and Resilience Policy
 POLS 7369 International Security
 DA 5030 Introduction to Data Mining
 PHIL 5010 AI Ethics

Concentrations and Graduate Certificates

SCCJ currently offers a Cybersecurity Concentration that is 12 credits ([see the course catalog for specific coursework](#)). The Cybersecurity concentration was developed in partnership between SCCJ and the Khoury College of Computer Sciences to prepare students with the practical, legal, and ethical background to analyze security risks and prevent intrusion in vital information systems.

CSSH also offers a variety of graduate certificates, most of which are 12 credits. Students complete concentrations or certificates by using elective credits. Students must request permission from the master's Program Director before pursuing a concentration or certificate.

Directed Studies

In order to pursue specialized interests not covered by the curriculum, master's students can enroll in directed study courses. In a directed study, students are able to explore in-depth an area of literature or to conduct a small research project, under the close supervision of a member of the faculty. Whether one pursues library or original research, the student's work must be reflected in a final product (usually a paper) from the course. Finally, directed studies that duplicate existing course offerings will not be approved.

The student should [request the directed study through the Student Hub](#) for non-scheduled classes. This request must include: (1) a course description; (2) a course syllabus; (3) a description of how the course will be graded; and (4) approval by the faculty member with whom the student wishes to work and the master's Program Director. For scheduled directed study classes, please reach out to the graduate administrator to add a section for the desired faculty member.

Courses Outside of the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Students may choose to enroll in coursework in programs outside of SCCJ, including Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Sciences and Humanities (INSH), Political Science (POLS), Public Policy and Urban Affairs (PPUA), and Sociology (SOCL).