**Criminal Justice PhD Program’s Learning Goals**

Students completing the PhD Program in Criminal Justice will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the (i) key classical, positivist, critical and cultural conceptual frameworks that explain the causes and correlates of criminal behavior; (ii) methods of maintaining crime statistics, and (iii) key theories of punishments. Students will be able to read, discuss (orally and in writing) and critique the relevant literatures.

**Assessment:** The first examination (Criminology)

**Required Courses:** (i) CRJ 704; (ii) CRJ 705 (Criminology I & II)

2. Demonstrate knowledge of the key frameworks that explain the causes and correlates of the criminal justice system’s response to criminal behavior including how and why the police, courts and corrections systems function; and analyze the advantages and disadvantages of particular policies. Students will be able to read, discuss (orally and in writing) and critique the relevant literatures.

**Assessment:** The first examination (Criminal Justice Process & Policy)

**Required Courses:** (i) CRJ 706; (ii) CRJ 707 (Criminal Justice Process & Policy I & II)

3. Demonstrate the ability to identify the strengths and weaknesses of different research designs used in criminology and criminal justice, identify under what circumstances specific research designs are appropriate, and analyze and interpret empirical research.

**Assessment:** The first examination (Statistics & Research Methods).

**Required Courses:** (i) CRJ 700; (ii) CRJ 701 (iii) CRJ 702 (iv) CRJ 703(Statistics I & II and Research Methods I & II)

4. Develop a scholarly specialization that provides a foundation for dissertation research. Explore a variety of subjects and methodologies that spark further and deeper inquiry.

**Assessment:** Complete elective courses.

**Elective Courses:** Students may choose doctoral-level elective courses in subjects broadly related to criminology and/or criminal justice offered in any department of the CUNY Graduate
Center, including the program in Criminal Justice, or courses from the consortium of doctoral programs of other universities located in the New York City metropolitan area.

(5) Demonstrate the ability to formulate an original research project that satisfies ethics requirements, identify pertinent data sources or present an innovative conceptual framework and construct an appropriate research design or conceptual argument for a written proposal.

Assessment: The dissertation proposal defense

Learning Opportunity: A series of professional development seminars for the Criminal Justice doctoral students is offered each spring semester. The nine-part colloquium is mandatory for first year doctoral students and voluntary for other students. Topics include writing the dissertation proposal, the IRB process, writing the dissertation and research ethics and accountability. Students are assigned a mentor for their first year in the program and subsequently mentored by their dissertation advisor and members of the dissertation committee.

(6) Demonstrate the ability to write an original scholarly work, using primary or secondary sources; or present an original conceptual framework, or extend an existing conceptual framework in an innovative way and thereby make a unique and significant contribution to the field.

Assessment: The dissertation defense

Learning Opportunity: A series of professional development seminars for the Criminal Justice doctoral students is offered each spring semester. The nine-part colloquium is mandatory for first year doctoral students and voluntary for other students. Relevant topics include writing a dissertation proposal, writing the dissertation, and getting published. Students are assigned a mentor for their first year in the program and subsequently mentored by their dissertation advisor and members of the dissertation committee.