Students completing the PhD Program in Criminal Justice’s POA specialization will:

(1) Demonstrate knowledge of: (i) causes and correlates of criminal behavior; (ii) methods of assessing levels and risks of crime and corruption, and (iii) key policy, oversight and administrative theories and frameworks. Students will be able to read, discuss (orally and in writing) and critique the relevant literatures.

Assessment: The first examination (Policy, Oversight and Administration)

Required Courses: Criminology and Public Policy

(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 conduct empirical research in policy analysis, that satisfies professional ethics requirements, by identifying policy issues, research questions and data sources, and constructing and implementing quantitative or qualitative research designs, and presenting results orally (e.g., at conferences) and in writing (research reports, articles or book chapters) through professional outlets for this research.

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

Required Courses: (i) CRJ 700 (Statistics I); (ii) CRJ 701 (Research Methods); (iii) CRJ 841 (Advanced Policy Analysis)
(4) Demonstrate the ability to formulate an original research project, 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.

(5) 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.