Texas State University

Department of Criminal Justice

Ph.D. Admissions Brochure 2013-14

For more information regarding our program, please see our website at
http://www.cj.txstate.edu/degrees-programs/doctoral.html

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions:
Mark C. Stafford, Ph.D., Doctoral Program Director
School of Criminal Justice
600 University Drive
San Marcos, TX 78666
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# Table of Contents

Introduction................................................................................................................................. 3  
The City of San Marcos .................................................................................................................. 4  
Texas State University-San Marcos............................................................................................... 4  
The Graduate School ..................................................................................................................... 5  
The Department of Criminal Justice ............................................................................................... 5  
Faculty ........................................................................................................................................... 6  
Doctor of Philosophy in Criminal Justice ..................................................................................... 7  
Financial Aid.................................................................................................................................. 8  
Graduate Admission Requirements ............................................................................................... 9  
FAQ ............................................................................................................................................... 10  
Lodging and Directions ................................................................................................................ 11
Greetings,

We are proud to be in the fifth year of the Ph.D. program in Criminal Justice at Texas State University. We currently have about 40 students. They consist of (1) criminal justice professionals who seek advanced education and (2) students who will pursue academic appointments at colleges and universities in Texas and around the nation. The mix of students with diverse backgrounds creates a synergistic environment where students learn from the experiences and skills of other students.

Most courses are offered in the evenings or on weekends. Students are classified as either full-time (nine hours per semester) or part-time. All students will be given the opportunity to initiate, complete, present, and publish original research. Full-time students who accept a Doctoral Teaching/Research Assistantship receive remuneration of about $26,000 for the academic year.

There are 23 full-time faculty members in the School of Criminal Justice with backgrounds in criminology/criminal justice, law, psychology, and sociology. The School administers several institutes and centers, including the Center for Geospatial Intelligence and Investigation, which is headed by Dr. Kim Rossmo, who is one of the world’s leading geographic profilers.

Texas State University is located in the heart of the central Texas corridor, near sixteen state criminal justice offices and thirteen Texas counties, including Travis (Austin) and Bexar (San Antonio). The university's geographic proximity to state criminal justice agency headquarters for law enforcement, criminal courts, and corrections, and to managers and executives in these agencies, makes it an ideal location for offering a doctoral-degree program.

Please visit our website at http://www.cj.txstate.edu/degrees-programs/doctoral.html to learn more about our Ph.D. program or contact me.

Sincerely,

Mark C. Stafford, Ph.D.
Professor and Doctoral Program Director
tsucjdoctoral@txstate.edu
512 245-4868
The City of San Marcos

Texas State's main campus is in San Marcos, a growing community of 50,000 people about halfway between Austin and San Antonio. Located on the edge of the Texas Hill Country, where black land prairies roll into beautiful hills, Texas State enjoys a setting that is unique among Texas universities.

The beauty of the crystal-clear San Marcos River and the stately cypress and pecan trees on the campus add to the charm of the university’s picturesque setting. Our location on the banks of the San Marcos River provides recreational activities for students throughout the year.

Texas State University

Texas State's 34,229 students come from around the globe, and our student body is diverse. Forty-three percent of Texas State students are ethnic minorities. In fact, Texas State is ranked 20th in the nation for the number of degrees granted to Hispanic undergraduates and recently received designation as a Hispanic Serving Institution.

Our Mission

The noblest search is the search for excellence. — Lyndon B. Johnson - Thirty-Sixth President of the United States, 1963-1969, Texas State University Class of 1930

Texas State University is a public, student-centered, doctoral-granting institution dedicated to excellence in serving the educational needs of the diverse population of Texas and the world beyond.

San Marcos Campus

Completed in 1903, the red-roofed, castle-like landmark called Old Main was Texas State's first building. As the university's student population has grown — from 303 in 1903 to 34,229 in 2013 — our San Marcos campus, too, has expanded. Today it consists of a 457-acre main campus and 4,777 additional acres in recreational, instructional, farm and ranch land.

Alkek Library

The Alkek Library Collection Includes:
- More than 1.4 million printed volumes
- 97,000+ electronic journals
- 155,000 e-books
- 300+ databases
- Over a half-million microform & audio-visual materials

Alkek Library is a selective depository for U.S. and Texas government documents by receiving 60% of federal publications and a wide variety of state publications.
The Graduate School

The Graduate College offers more than 100 graduate master’s and doctoral programs in the following colleges: Applied Arts, Education, Fine Arts and Communication, Health Professions, Liberal Arts, McCoy College of Business Administration and Science.

The School of Criminal Justice

The School of Criminal Justice consists of an exceptionally diverse faculty and offers concentrations in policing, juvenile crime, female offending, crime mapping, criminological theory, and management and organization. Through the integration of academic and real-world experiences, the criminal justice faculty aims to teach their students necessary skills to use theoretical approaches in practical situations.

The School of Criminal Justice has been positioning itself to be among the premier academic programs in the country. The School, which has nearly doubled in faculty size in the past few years, has attracted scholars of national and international repute.

These scholars strongly position Texas State University to begin producing the finest criminologists and criminal justicians in the country. The School has also proudly attracted doctoral students who are among the brightest in the country. Both the School and university emphasize academic excellence and integrity, and provide the necessary support for teaching, research, and practice at all levels. Welcome to the School of Criminal Justice, a Rising Star at Texas State University.

School Centers & Institutes

- **The Texas State University Center for Geospatial Intelligence and Investigation (GII)** studies how to improve our response to crime problems and homeland security threats, both foreign and domestic. Our research uses geospatial and other forms of tactical information to develop information management models. GII provides specialized training for law enforcement, intelligence, and military agencies. Operational assistance for government agencies is also available in certain situations.

- **The Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT)** mission is to teach law enforcement officers, specifically the true first responders, to safely and effectively respond to and stop an active shooter.

- **Texas School Safety Center (TxSSC)** is a central location for safety and security information pertaining to all independent school districts and junior college districts in the state of Texas. Services provided include training, research, and technical assistance related to successful safety and security programs. In addition, TxSSC provides services and resources to encourage and support healthy students and communities. Also, TxSSC collects a variety of health and safety data for the purpose of state reporting.

- **Institute for Criminal Justice Studies (ICJS)** provides quality, state-of-the-art, scientific research-based, interactive crime prevention curricula and training. They work with the Texas Department of Homeland Security and TCLEOSE to design training and assist communities and schools in mitigating, preparing for, responding to and recovering from a myriad of threats.

- **The Texas Justice Court Training Center** represents the longest-running university/grant relationship, as well as one of the largest grants on the TSU campus. JPCA contracts with the university for financial and programmatic administration; thus, Training Center employees are
employees of the university. Day-to-day program operations are subject also to the Conditions of Grant issued by the Court of Criminal Appeals.

Faculty

- **Blair, J. Pete; Ph.D.**, Michigan State; Associate Professor; Investigations, Interviewing, Interrogation, False Confessions, Deception, Active Shooters.
- **Bowman, Scott W.; Ph.D.**, Arizona State; Assistant Professor; Juvenile Justice, Race/Ethnicity.
- **Cancino, Jeffrey M.; Ph.D.**, Michigan State; Associate Professor; Homicide.
- **Chamlin, Mitchell B.; Ph.D.**, SUNY-Albany; Professor; Death Penalty, Crime Trends and Rates, Cross-National Research.
- **Jamieson, Jay D.; Ph.D.**, Sam Houston State; Professor; Comparative Criminal Justice and Deviant Behavior.
- **Felson, Marcus F.; Ph.D.**, University of Michigan; Professor; Environmental Criminology.
- **Henson, Verna J.; Ph.D.**, University of Missouri; Assistant Professor; Victimization and Sexual Assualt.
- **Martinez, Pablo; Ph.D.**, Sam Houston State; Associate Professor; Corrections, Probation and Parole, and Juvenile Justice.
- **McLaren, John M.; J.D.**, University of Texas Law School; Associate Professor; Criminal Procedure and Law of Civil Rights.
- **Mijares, Tomas C.; Ph.D.**, University of Michigan; Professor; Police Procedures, Tactics and Use of Force.
- **Mullins, Wayman C.; Ph.D.**, University of Arkansas; Professor; Hostage Negotiations.
- **Perkins, David B.; J.D.**, University of Texas Law School; Professor; Criminal Procedure.
- **Pollock, Joycelyn; Ph.D.**, SUNY-Albany; Professor; Female Criminality/Corrections, Ethics in Criminal Justice System, and Prisons.
- **Rossmo, Kim; Ph.D.**, Simon Fraser University; Research Professor; Criminal Investigations, Policing, Geography of Crime, and Offender Profiling.
- **Sanders, Beth A.; Ph.D.**, University of Cincinnati; Associate Professor; Police Officer Selection, Field Training, and Promotion. Gender Differences in Attitudes Toward the Death Penalty, Sociology of Health.
- **Sellers, Christine S.; Ph.D.**, University of Florida; Professor/School Director; Criminological Theory, Intimate Partner Violence, and Juvenile Delinquency..
- **Stafford, Mark C.; Ph.D.**, University of Arizona; Professor/PhD Director; Criminological Theory, Juvenile Delinquency and Juvenile Justice, and Quantitative Methods.
- **Stone, William E.; Ph.D.**, Sam Houston State; Professor; Criminology and Corrections.
- **Summers, Lucia; Ph.D.**, University of London; Assistant Professor; Environmental Criminology, Quantitative Methods.
- **Supancic, P. Michael; Ph.D.**, UT-Austin; Assistant Professor; Police Systems.
• **Vandiver, Donna; Ph.D.,** Sam Houston State; Associate Professor; Sex Offenders.
• **Vasquez, Bob E.; Ph.D.,** SUNY-Albany; Assistant Professor; Research Process, Criminological Theory, Peer Influence, Policy Analysis.
• **Withrow, Brian L.; Ph.D.,** Sam Houston State; Associate Professor; Racial Profiling, Police Systems and Practices, Crime Rates and Patterns.

**Doctoral of Philosophy in Criminal Justice**

The Ph.D. in Criminal Justice requires students to complete, at minimum, 53 credit hours. Below is a list of required courses:

- Proseminar (3 hours required)
- Doctoral Criminal Justice Core (12 hours required)
- Research Tools (12 hours required):
  - Qualifying Electives (6 hours)
  - Doctoral Development Electives (9 hours)
- Dissertation (12 hours required)

Students must complete the Proseminar, Doctoral Criminal Justice Core, Research Tools, and Qualifying Electives prior to taking their comprehensive examinations. After completing the comprehensive examination, doctoral students are required to complete three additional courses totaling nine credit hours from Doctoral Development Electives. These courses will be chosen with the assistance and approval of the Doctoral Program Director and the student’s dissertation advisor.
Financial Aid

Scholarships and graduate assistantships for graduate students are handled primarily through the Office of the Graduate College or through the School of Criminal Justice. Students who are not Texas residents and receive a Texas State competitive scholarship of at least $1,000 may be eligible to pay resident tuition.

Financial Aid and Scholarships process student loans and a limited number of need-based grants and scholarships for graduate students. Awards are based on financial need. Early completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid will enhance your ability to receive assistance.

Application for Financial Aid. A student must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be considered for aid during the academic year (fall and spring). The FAFSA is available online at http://www.fafsa.ed.gov. Please remember to include Texas State by adding our school code 003615.

Scholarships

The scholarships listed below are competitively-based and are available to qualified students, who are regularly admitted, through the Graduate College.

Texas State Graduate Scholars Program and Texas State Celebrity Classic Scholarships. Scholarships are awarded competitively each year through the Texas State Graduate Scholars Program and the Texas State Celebrity Classic Scholarships. A minimum enrollment of six graduate hours of course work per semester is required. Awards range from $1,000 to $2,500 per semester. Eligibility requirements are posted on the Graduate College website and the application deadline is March 1.

College Graduate Scholarships. The seven academic colleges have scholarships available to qualified graduate students as selected by a committee from each college. A minimum enrollment of six graduate hours of course work per semester is required. Awards range from $1,000 to $2,000 per semester. Eligibility requirements and application deadlines vary by college. For additional information regarding scholarship eligibility, criteria, application deadlines, and the application process, visit our website at http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/scholarships.html.

Graduate Assistantships

Doctoral Teaching Assistants and Doctoral Instructional Assistants are employed by the School of Criminal Justice. Doctoral Teaching Assistants must hold a master’s degree in the teaching discipline or 18 graduate semester hours in the teaching discipline.

Doctoral Research Assistants are employed by any department or office of the university and may be paid from grant or university funds. If employed on a grant, the work performed must directly relate to the objectives of the grant.

Doctoral Research Assistants, Doctoral Teaching Assistants, and Doctoral Instructional Assistants are eligible for out-of-state fee waivers.
Graduate Admission Requirements

General Requirements
Applicants to Texas State's doctoral program in Criminal Justice must have the following:

- Completed a master's degree in Criminal Justice or closely related field
- GPA of 3.5 or higher on all completed master's work
- Completion of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE)
- Combined verbal and quantitative score of 1000 or higher on old GRE or 300 on new GRE.

NOTE: Applicants for spring and fall, 2014 will need to take the new (revised) GRE unless they have taken the old GRE within the last 5 years.

Required Documents
To apply, submit the following materials to the Graduate Admissions Coordinator in the Texas State Graduate College:

- An official Texas State Graduate College doctoral online application (Domestic AND International application): Application for Admission
- A $40 application fee (check or money order in U.S. currency should be made payable to Texas State or payable during online application). A $50 (U.S. currency) international/evaluation fee is required if the application is considered for admission based on foreign credentials.
- One official transcript from each senior-level post-secondary institution attended. Transcripts must be mailed directly from the university or college attended or submitted in a sealed university envelope with the university's registrar's signature on the back of the envelope. (If you are a Texas State University-San Marcos degree recipient or are currently enrolled, you need to request transcripts from any colleges NOT listed on your Texas State transcript. The Graduate College will provide Texas State transcripts.)
- Official scores of your Graduate Record Exam (GRE).
- Three letters of recommendation indicating your skills and capacity to be successful in the Ph.D. program.
- Letter outlining your personal history and life goals that are relevant to obtaining a doctoral degree.

If you are an international applicant, please visit the International Student web page at http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/Prospect_Students/Intl_Info.html for other admission requirements that may apply to this program.
FAQs

Q: Why should I pursue a Ph.D. in Criminal Justice?
A: The Ph.D. degree is not for everyone. Ph.D. programs, including our program at Texas State University, train students to be cutting-edge researchers so they can generate and use new knowledge. This may be accomplished as a (1) professor in a college or university, or (2) researcher/administrator in an applied setting, such as a local, state, or federal criminal justice agency.

Q: Do I have to take the GRE?
A: Yes

Q: Do I have to score at least 1000 on the old GRE or 300 on the new GRE (combined verbal and quantitative) to be admitted into the Ph.D. program?
A: The GRE is only one bit of information that we use in making admission decisions. We also look at your undergraduate and graduate grades, letters of recommendation, and letter outlining your personal history and goals.

Q: Who should write my letters of recommendation?
A: We prefer that letters of recommendation be written by professors from whom you have taken courses and/or with whom you have worked closely on a research project. Professors should be best able to tell us about your academic abilities and likelihood of success in a rigorous Ph.D. program. We are especially interested in learning what professors have to say about your mastery of basic research skills.

Q: Why do you have me write a letter outlining my personal history and life goals?
A: This is an important bit of information we use in making admission decisions. We read your letter to judge your motivation to succeed and the fit between your interests/goals and our department’s strengths. We want to learn from your letter why you are pursuing a Ph.D. in Criminal Justice at Texas State University and what you plan to do with the degree when you graduate.

Q: What is the application deadline?
A: There is a March 15th application deadline for fall admission into the Ph.D program. The application deadline for spring admission is October 15th. The deadlines for international students are March 1st and October 1st.

Q: When is the best time to apply?
A: We accept applications right up to the deadline. However, since there are often delays in getting all of the application materials to us, you are encouraged to apply early.

Q: Do you admit new Ph.D. students for the spring semester?
A: Yes

Q: What are “related fields” as far as application to the Ph.D. program is concerned?
A: Related fields are: Sociology, Psychology, Social Work, Political Science, Public Administration, Criminology, Justice Studies, Economics, Law, Anthropology, and Administration of Justice.

Q: How many doctoral courses taken at other universities can I count toward the Ph.D. degree at Texas State?
A: A doctoral student can transfer in up to six credit hours as long as the student received a grade of B or better in each course.
Q: If I took doctoral-level courses while a master’s student can I count those courses toward the Ph.D. degree?
A: Yes, with the approval of the department’s Doctoral Executive Council. However, a master’s student cannot count doctoral courses toward the Ph.D. degree if those courses were used to complete the degree requirements for the master’s degree.

Q: What is a full course load for a Ph.D. student?
A: Nine hours a semester

Q: Can Ph.D. students go part-time?
A: Yes. About half of our Ph.D. students are part-time. Most of our courses are offered at night or on weekends to accommodate the schedules of working professionals. While full-time students must register for nine or more hours a semester, part-time students usually enroll for six.

Q: Are any of your courses currently taught online?
A: No, all of our courses currently are taught on campus in San Marcos.

Q: Do you have assistantships for Ph.D. students and, if so, what do they pay?
A: Yes, we have both Doctoral Teaching Assistantships where Ph.D. students teach their own courses and Doctoral Instructional Assistantships where they assist in a professor’s class. Students with 20-hour a week assistantships are paid about $26,000 over the nine-month academic year, and those with 10-hour a week assistantships are paid half that.

Q: How long does it take to complete the Ph.D. program?
A: Full-time students should be able to complete the Ph.D. program in 3-4 years, and part-time students usually will take a little longer.

Q: What is the cost of living in San Marcos, Texas?
A: San Marcos is a very affordable city with reasonable rents and other costs. San Marcos’ cost of living is 12% below the national average. Texas and San Marcos have endured recent national economic problems better than most other states and cities, making this a good place to be.
Lodging and Directions

San Marcos has many nearby hotels. The list provided below is not conclusive, and we do not recommend any specific hotel or lodging.

Comfort Suites
104 IH-35 North
San Marcos, Texas
512-392-1006

Econo Lodge San Marcos
811 South Guadalupe Street
San Marcos, Texas 78666
512-353-5300

Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites
108 IH-35 North
San Marcos, Texas 78666
512-754-6621

La Quinta Inn-San Marcos
1619 I-35 South
San Marcos, Texas 78666
512-392-8800

Directions

FROM IH-35 NORTH (Austin)
Take exit 206, travel West on Aquarena Springs. After crossing the San Marcos River you will come to a traffic light. Turn right onto Sessom Drive. Go to the top of the hill and turn left at Comanche Street. Turn left at the first street (Student Center Drive). Turn right before the stop sign to enter the public parking garage. For a detailed map to the parking garage go to the Student Center Parking Garage campus map.

FROM IH-35 SOUTH (San Antonio)
Take exit 206, travel West on Aquarena Springs. After crossing the San Marcos River you will come to a traffic light. Turn right onto Sessom Drive. Go to the top of the hill and turn left at Comanche Street. Turn left at the first street (Student Center Drive). Turn right before the stop sign to enter the public parking garage. For a detailed map to the parking garage go to the Student Center Parking Garage campus map.

FROM HWY. 123 (Seguin)
When you reach the Interstate, take IH-35 North and exit at 206. Follow the directions above from San Antonio.

From HWY. 80 & IH-10 (Houston)
When you reach the interstate, take IH-35 North and exit at 206. Follow the directions above from San Antonio.