

# Criminal Justice and Criminology MA

## Methodological and Statistical Competency

### Goal Description:

Enhance and develop student's methodological and statistical abilities.

**Providing Department:** Criminal Justice and Criminology MA

### RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

#### Competency In Employing Elements Of Qualitative And/or Quantitative Research Methods

##### Learning Objective Description:

Competency in employing elements of qualitative and/or quantitative research methods to design scientific-based projects in the field of criminal justice and criminology.

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

#### Successful Execution Of Study And Statistics

##### Indicator Description:

Students will successfully execute the methodology and statistical analyses needed for their thesis. They will also recognize the assumptions and limitations underlying the research methods and statistical techniques used and accurately interpret the results.

Attached Files

 [Thesis Evaluation Rubric.docx](#)

##### Criterion Description:

Students will score at least an 80% on each section of the methodological and statistical sections of the thesis rubric. These include 1. mode of inquiry, 2. execution of study, 3. interpretation of results, and 4. analysis.

##### Findings Description:

For AY 2021-2022 findings reveal that one of eight students scored below the 80% threshold for indicators relating to the methodological and statistical sections of the thesis rubric (Mode of Inquiry, Execution of Study, Interpretation of Results, and Analysis). This student also fell below the 80% threshold for overall score (mean score of 3.0/60%). All other students scored a minimum of 4/5 (80%) on all four indicators. The average scores are listed below.

	<b>AY 2021-2022</b>
Mode of Inquiry	4.75
Execution of Study	4.5
Interpretation of Results	4.31
Analysis	4.38

The average score was highest for Mode of Inquiry (4.75) & lowest for Interpretation of Results (4.31).

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

#### Successful Execution Of Study and Statistics

##### Action Description:

Program will continue to assess successfully execution of study and statistics using the thesis rubric. Criterion will be evaluated for next assessment cycle.

## Research Competence

### Goal Description:

Enhance and develop student's ability to conceptualize and deliver an original research paper.

**Providing Department:** Criminal Justice and Criminology MA

### RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

### Competency In Conducting Original Criminal Justice And Criminology Research

#### Learning Objective Description:

Students will demonstrate integration of knowledge, skills and abilities needed to conduct original research in criminal justice and criminology.

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

### Conceptualization And Delivery Of The Thesis

#### Indicator Description:

Successful conceptualization and delivery of an original research study as demonstrated by the defense of a Thesis using a faculty-developed rubric. The rubric uses a 1 (insignificant) to 5 (critically significant) rating of specific criteria pertaining to conceptualization and delivery of an original research paper. These elements include: choice of problem, theoretical framework, written presentation, originality of idea and/or approach, and contribution to the field.

Attached Files

 [Thesis Evaluation Rubric.docx](#)

#### Criterion Description:

Students will demonstrate their ability to conceptualize and write an original research study within the field of criminal justice or criminology by completing a thesis.

Students will score at least an 80% on each of the related elements of the faculty developed rubric.

#### Findings Description:

For AY 2021-2022 findings reveal that two of eight students scored below the 80% threshold for indicators relating to conceptualization and delivery of an original research study (Theoretical Framework, Written Presentation, Originality of Idea and/or Approach, Contribution to Field & Choice of Problem). One of the two students also fell below the 80% threshold for overall score (mean score of 3.0/60%). All other students scored a minimum of 4/5 (80%) on all five indicators. The average scores are listed below.

	AY 2021-2022
Originality of Idea and/or Approach	4.13
Contribution to Field	4.13
Written Presentation	4.63
Choice of Problem	4.38
Theoretical Framework	4.0

The average scores were highest for Written Presentation (4.63) & Choice of Problem (4.38). The average scores were lowest for Theoretical Framework (4.0).

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

### Conceptualization And Delivery Of The Thesis

#### Action Description:

Program will continue to assess students ability to conceptualize and write an original research study within the field of criminal justice or criminology by completing a thesis using the attached rubric. Criterion will be evaluated for next assessment cycle.

## **Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item**

### **Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):**

#### **Closing Summary**

Based on the results from the assessment cycle, there are a few actions that will be taken during the next assessment cycle which represent steps for continuous improvement:

1. GSAC will continue to closely monitor MA student competencies in statistics and research methodology. They will discuss whether it makes sense to move Stats II to the spring semester of the first year and then Stats I to the fall semester of the first year. Input from students about this change to the MA curriculum map will be collected and incorporated into conversations ahead of the MA self-study.
2. Despite several MA students expressing an interest in applying to our PhD program, GSAC will continue to work with media and other marketing entities to create ways to attract more interest in our nationally ranked doctoral program. Marketing campaigns will be rolled out by Victor Henson (Communication Specialist for the College of Criminal Justice at SHSU) during AY 2021-2022. It would be great to see almost all of our graduating MA students applying to our PhD program every year.
3. Connected to the first and second step, the Graduate Director and GSAC will try to create new ways for students to become more involved in the research process to enhance their learning of methods and statistics. This may take the form of further encouragement to apply for summer research fellowships, working with faculty on projects, or offering elective MA courses that focus on an aspect of research (e.g., qualitative research, evaluation research, advanced methods used by researchers and practitioners, etc.). This step will not only help reinforce principles from statistics introduced to MA student during their coursework, but also encourage them to consider continuing their education with a research intensive professional degree.

### **Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:**

The Dept of Criminal Justice and Criminology experienced a transitional period in Graduate Program Directors during the Fall 2021 term. A new Graduate Program Director was named, effective Spring 2022. While assessment data was collected during this time, many of the previously listed items are still under current review.

Marketing campaigns were rolled out in AY 2021-2022. 5 of 8 graduating MA students applied to the and enrolled in the PhD program.

## **New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item**

#### **Closing Summary:**

1. GSAC will continue to closely monitor MA student competencies in statistics and research methodology.
2. GSAC will continue to work with media and other marketing entities to create ways to attract more interest in our nationally ranked doctoral program.