

# 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 \(2\).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 2022-2023, findings reveal that one of two students scored below the 80% threshold on the methodological and statistical sections of the thesis rubric (Execution of Study, Interpretation of Results, Mode of Inquiry, & Analysis). This student also fell below the 80% threshold for overall score (67%). The remaining student scored a minimum of 4/5 (80%) on all four indicators. The average scores are listed below, in descending order.

#### AY 2022-2023

Mode of Inquiry	5
Execution of Study	4
Analysis	4
Interpretation of Results	3.5

The average score was highest for Mode of Inquiry (5) & lowest for Interpretation of Results (3.5).

Attached Files

 [Thesis rubric results.xlsx](#)

### 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 \(2\)\\_\(2\).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 2022-2023 findings reveal that one of two 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). This student also fell below the 80% threshold for overall score (mean score of 67%). The remaining student scored a minimum of 4/5 (80%) on all five indicators. The average scores are listed below.

	<b>AY 2022- 2023</b>
Choice of Problem	4.5
Originality of Idea and/or Approach	4
Contribution to Field	4

Written Presentation	3
Theoretical Framework	3

The average score was highest for Written Presentation (4.5). The average scores were lowest for Written Presentation (3) and Theoretical Framework (3).

Attached Files

 [Thesis rubric results.xlsx](#)

#### 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

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.

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

Program has continued to collect data for MA student theses and methods/statistics. We will continue to recruit highly qualified MA students into the PhD program. This AY an external program review of the MA program will be conducted. As a part of this review, feedback from the review regarding strengths and areas for improvement will be incorporated into the assessment plan.

## 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.
3. Program will incorporate external review feedback into assessment plan.