

- Completion of a 1000 word essay detailing the applicant's reasons for pursuing the degree; and
- Original transcripts for all academic work taken at the undergraduate level.
- International students must submit official scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Unless the student has a degree from an U.S.A. institution of higher education.

*Program areas may establish additional admission requirements, for example required prerequisites for Juvenile Forensic Psychology are General Psychology, Personality and Abnormal Psychology.

The Ph.D. Program in Juvenile Justice

Admission criteria for the Ph.D. Program in Juvenile Justice, as established by the Program faculty, are as follows:

Required elements: (In order for an application to be considered, all elements below must be present in the applicant's file by the application deadline.)

- Baccalaureate degree conferred by a regionally accredited institution;
- Master's degree, prior to entering doctoral course work, conferred by a regionally accredited institution;
- Official scores on the general component of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) which consists of verbal, analytical and quantitative scores . An unofficial copy may be used by the Doctoral Admission Committee in initial screening. An application without GRE scores will not be reviewed;
- Original transcripts for all academic work taken at the undergraduate and graduate levels (unofficial copies may be used by the Doctoral Admission Committee in initial screening);
- Three letters of recommendation from professors with personal knowledge of the candidate's skills and potential for doctoral work;
- Original 1000 word essay as described in the doctoral application form *and* a copy of the master's thesis or other lengthy report or paper; and
- International students must submit official scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Unless the student has a degree from an U.S.A. institution of higher education. A score of 550 or higher is mandatory.

Preferences:

- Baccalaureate degree in juvenile justice, criminal justice, or criminology. A secondary preference is a directly related social science discipline (such as sociology) in which there is evidence of the study of crime-related phenomena;
- 3.0 Grade Point Average (GPA), or higher, on a four-point scale on all completed undergraduate course work;

- Master's degree in juvenile justice, juvenile forensic psychology, criminal justice or criminology. A secondary preference is a directly related social science discipline (such as sociology) in which there is evidence of the study of crime-related phenomena;
- 3.5 GPA, or higher, on a four-point scale in all completed graduate course work;
- Graduate research methods course (if not present, stem work must be completed);
- Graduate statistics course (if not present, stem work must be completed);
- Graduate Record Exam (GRE) verbal, quantitative and analytical scores in the higher percentiles;
- Evidence of a successfully completed master's thesis or published research paper;
- 1000 word essay demonstrating strong writing skills; an expressed desire to teach at college level, work as researcher in a juvenile justice agency, and/or assist in developing juvenile justice policy within a governmental environment; realistic expectation of the degree's value; evidence of commitment to completing the degree; strong rationale for wanting this specific Ph.D.; and a rationale expressing what the applicant will add to the field; and
- Letters of recommendation from faculty sufficiently acquainted with the student to be able to comment on the potential to successfully complete a doctoral program and demonstrate evidence of excellent critical thought, motivation, study skills, and writing skills. Preferred ratings would be primarily excellent in all categories with an overall rating in the top 3 to 10 percent of all graduate students

Enhancing qualities:

The committee will consider the following as information that will enhance an application:

- Three or more years of paid work experience in a juvenile justice agency (law enforcement, probation/parole, or correctional institution);
- Completion of a previous doctoral degree in any field;
- College-level teaching experience, either as a part-time or full-time instructor;
- Publication(s) in academic and/or scholarly outlets, with greatest emphasis on peer-reviewed publications;
- Paid research *work* experience (not that involved in the production of a thesis);
- Grant-writing experience; and
- Ability to attend courses as a full-time student (requires less than full-time outside employment).

Interview:

In the event the initial committee decision is favorable, applicants must submit to an interview with the Doctoral Committee prior to final acceptance. That interview may be either in person or via the equivalent of a telephone conference call, depending upon the distance and hardship involved in a personal interview. The student may pass or fail the interview based on the criteria established by the faculty which will focus on professional promise and interpersonal competence. However, a positive qualifying score and interview do not automatically result in admission to the Ph.D. program.