

The College seeks a diverse group of qualified students with backgrounds in various disciplines committed to improving the life experiences of youths involved in the juvenile justice system.

**Master of Science Degree in Juvenile Justice**

The Master of Science degree program in Juvenile Justice offers a curriculum that enables students to critically evaluate and confront the humanistic, technical, and scientific aspects of criminal justice as applicable to juvenile crime and delinquency. This program is web based.

The primary objectives of the Master of Science degree in Juvenile Justice are to:

- Enhance students' knowledge, skills, and resourcefulness related to detained and institutionalized juveniles in the juvenile justice system;
- Increase students' knowledge of theoretical explanations and the etiologies of delinquency and juvenile crime;
- Assure that students engage in the humanistic, technical, and scientific aspects of delinquency and juvenile crime;
- Increase students' knowledge concerning effective methods to intervene and prevent delinquency;
- Increase students' skills in how to conduct research and evaluate programs related to delinquency; and
- Expand students' knowledge of programs and policies related to delinquency.

Since there are no comparable degree programs in the nation, graduates will have a unique opportunity to acquire specialized skills and competencies that should positively impact the lives of troubled youth across the state of Texas.

**Master of Science Degree in Juvenile Forensic Psychology**

The Master of Science degree in Juvenile Forensic Psychology is a unique program in the State of Texas, and probably the only degree of its kind in the world. Its creation is in keeping with the intent of the timely and insightful action of the Texas Legislature in its determination to focus on children in the creation of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center at Prairie View A&M University.

The student in the graduate program of Juvenile Forensic Psychology at Prairie View A&M University will study psychological theories of behavior, misbehavior, and deviance.

The primary objectives of the Master of Science degree in Juvenile Forensic Psychology are to:

- Enhance students' knowledge of how psychology interacts with the law and the legal system;
- Increase students' knowledge of theoretical explanations of juvenile delinquency, juvenile crime, and juvenile aggression, especially from the viewpoint of psychological theories;

- Provide students with skills in research methodology and statistics;
- Enhance students' knowledge of the cognitive and personality development of youth especially as it pertains to aggression in various stages;
- Enhance students' knowledge of the psychological dynamics of family violence such as child abuse, spouse abuse, incest, and other forms of interfamilial violence;
- Provide students with knowledge and skills pertaining to the assessment, classification, and treatment of juvenile offenders; and
- Provide students with skills in psychological assessment and evaluation.

**Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Juvenile Justice (Ph.D.)**

The goal of the Ph.D. program is to provide doctoral training in juvenile justice research. General objectives include the development of new knowledge, juvenile crime prevention, improvement in the juvenile justice system, and dissemination of knowledge gained. The specific intention of the program is to produce scholars with three characteristics: First, graduates will have superior empirical skills. Second, they will be specialists in the subject matter of the juvenile justice discipline. Third, they will be generalists in the subject matter of criminal justice. The program produces scholars to teach in criminal justice and criminology departments in colleges and universities and researchers to work in federal, state, and large local agencies.

**Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Clinical Adolescent Psychology (Ph.D.)**

The goal of the Ph.D. program is to offer education and training that will emphasize the scientist/practitioner model. The course work, clinical practica and other educational experiences will give students broad exposure to theoretical models, clinical skills, and professional roles that prepare them for current and future practice of psychology.

The curriculum is organized around competency areas fundamental to the practice of psychology: theories, relationships, assessment, intervention, basic science, research, and evaluation. Attention to issues of cultural and individual diversity is an integral part of this curriculum. Students will demonstrate competencies as they proceed through course work and clinical practica training.

**The Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center**

In 1997, the Texas Legislature authorized the creation of the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center (Texas JCPC) at Prairie View A&M University. This resulted in the creation of the College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology. The Texas JCPC is unique in the State of Texas and the nation and is committed to assisting with the reduction of juvenile crime and delinquency among youth.