

FAQ ABOUT ADMISSIONS TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PH.D PROGRAM

“When should I apply?”

As soon as possible. We will start looking at applications towards the end of January.

“Should I submit a personal statement and if so, what should I say?”

Yes, we read personal statements with an eye towards 1) your professional aims, 2) your ability to communicate clearly, and 3) why you believe UC would be your first choice.

“Do I have to take the GRE even though I have a law degree, a Masters degree, and a certificate in cosmology?”

Yes, UC requires all graduate students to submit GRE scores.

“Ok, what are competitive GRE scores and how much do they count in the admissions process?”

Minimum scores are 500 verbal and 500 quantitative. Average scores are 550 verbal and 580 quantitative. Competitive scores are 600 verbal and 620 quantitative. Make no mistake about it, GRE scores count. We typically rank applicants on their GRE's prior to looking at all other criteria.

“Can I still get in if my scores are slightly below the minimums?”

On occasion we admit applicants who do not meet the minimum GRE scores. These applicants usually have other credentials that show clearly their ability to do advanced graduate work.

“What other factors count then in the admission process?”

We read and analyze letters of reference. We evaluate all writing samples, such as published articles, theses, and even papers submitted for coursework. We also look closely at your resume. We invest thousands of dollars in our graduate students so we want to make certain that the financial and personal investment will pay off.

“Ok, I submitted all of my materials. How long before I find out if I’m admitted or not.”

Tough question. Our plan is to admit highly qualified individuals early in the year and then make decisions every two weeks until our pool is full. If you are not admitted immediately, your application may be placed on hold for further reconsideration. Admission decisions under these circumstances may take a few months.

“Do you fund Ph.D. students? If so, how many and for how much?”

Almost all of our new Ph.D. students enter the program funded. Virtually all receive a tuition waiver (covers the costs of tuition) and almost all work for the program in some capacity. We have teaching assistants, research assistants, and assistants who work in our distance learning program. We also have various funding lines from research grants. Dollar amounts vary but range from \$14,000 to \$18,500. Depending on academic performance, students can expect to be funded through the division for 3 years. At the end of 3 years, they are expected to work on a grant or some other research project.

“Do you support graduate students in ways other than stipends?”

We are steadfastly committed to graduate education. We help pay for travel to conferences, we hold regular training sessions on statistical methods, we have noted scholars give talks about their research, and we publish with students. You will be fully trained upon leaving UC