

**University of South Carolina
Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice
Doctor of Philosophy Theory & Methods Comprehensive Exam
Preparation and Reading Guide**

The Theory and Methods Comprehensive Exam measures a variety of competencies and skills that are required for the professional development of criminologists. Preparation for the exam begins with the program's core coursework but each student is expected to formulate an independent reading agenda beyond that coursework. The list below provides students with a foundational set of readings that cover significant issues and themes within the discipline. As a practical matter, students are expected to use the list as a starting point; any individual student's reading list should attend to his/her own strengths and weaknesses. Moreover, students are expected to regularly survey the field's major journals, reports, and edited volumes while staying apprised of current findings, methods, and controversies in the field. Although extensive reading preparation is necessary for successful performance on the comprehensive exam, students are also expected to: (1) demonstrate command of substantive content; (2) accurately interpret the relevant literature; (3) completely answer questions; (4) use appropriate sources from the relevant literature; and (5) write well.

Key Reading Venues:

Advances in Criminological Theory

Crime and Justice: A Review of Research

National Research Council Panel Reports

Oxford Handbooks in Criminology and Criminal Justice

Major Journals: *Criminology*, *Criminology & Public Policy*, *Justice Quarterly*, *Crime & Delinquency*, *Journal of Research in Crime & Delinquency*, *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, *Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology*, *Law & Society Review*, *Theoretical Criminology*, *Criminal Justice & Behavior*, *Journal of Criminal Justice*, *American Sociological Review*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Social Forces*, and *Social Problems*

Theory:

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Methods:

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Criminal Justice System:

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