

Non-Thesis Track M.A. Comprehensive Exam

Fall Semester 2018

Instructions

You must address one of the following three questions in your policy paper. Generally, each topic requires you to review, analyze, and synthesize the literature as it pertains to a particular policy area and draw conclusions or make recommendations based on your findings. Please be sure you read the entire question and address all parts of it.

The Fall 2018 exam is being distributed on Wednesday, September 12, 2018 by Ms. Shamauri Jenkins in the main office. Both a paper and electronic copy (pdf format) of your completed examination must be submitted to Ms. Shamauri Jenkins **by noon on Monday, November 12, 2018**. Late examinations will not be accepted and will result in a failing score. Please note that once you receive the comprehensive examination, you are required to submit an examination paper by the deadline; otherwise your exam will receive a failing score. If you experience extenuating circumstances that interfere with your ability to complete your comprehensive exam, you should notify the graduate program director immediately. Please make sure your exam complies with the following **submission requirements**:

- ✓ You have written a response to one of the three questions on the exam.
- ✓ Your submission contains FOUR parts: (1) an Executive Summary (2-3 pages briefly outlining the contents of your paper); (2) a Policy Paper (20-25 pages in length, not including the cover); (3) a separate List of References (which does not count against the page limit); and (4) a signed Honor Pledge. Please note that students receiving assistance from the University's writing center is considered a violation of the Honor Pledge.
- ✓ **You have not identified yourself anywhere within the document other than on the cover page.** You will be assigned an **identification code** for each question so your answers can be linked to your name after grading is complete.
- ✓ Your **identification code** is typed on both the cover page and the top right-hand corner (i.e., header) of each page of your answer. (*see attached example page*)
- ✓ You followed the APA format, with 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spacing, and 1-inch margins throughout your answer.
- ✓ You have checked your document to ensure that you have not plagiarized. Any finding of plagiarism will result in a failing score on the exam. If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, please see <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/> or <http://plagiarism.org/>.
- ✓ You provided a signed honor pledge indicating that you neither gave nor received assistance with the comprehensive examination.
- ✓ You used a well-developed list of academic sources (i.e., no Wikipedia and if necessary, no popular media sources except in a very limited way if needed).

When possible (i.e., when there are two or more test takers), your comprehensive examination will be graded in a double-blind manner – neither you nor the faculty graders will know each other’s identities. A committee of the entire regular graduate faculty (excepting faculty members on leave or on sabbatical) will grade all examination questions. To pass the exam, at least 2/3 of the grading faculty members must give your exam a passing score (a grade of “pass” or “high pass”). To earn a “high pass”, at least 90% of the grading faculty must assign a grade of “high pass.” Students who fail this examination are permitted to retake it one additional time.

Exam Questions (*Please Answer One*):

1. Domestic violence incidents rarely occur in isolation. Rather, any particular incident is typically located within a larger set of ongoing harassment, property damage, aggression, and other power and controlling behaviors. Often, children are involved in these incidents. Write an essay where you consider how domestic violence courts have evolved as a criminal justice system response to this phenomenon and what is currently known about the effectiveness of those courts at reducing recidivism and addressing the needs of people involved in domestic violence situations.
2. The state of South Carolina recently authorized the spending of \$2 million dollars to expand the use of School Resource Officers (SRO) to 38 schools in the state. The South Carolina Department of Education announced that it aims to have an SRO in every school state-wide by 2020. What are the criminological theories that support the case for the presence of SROs increasing school safety? What is known about research on the effectiveness of SROs in increasing school safety? What are the collateral consequences of deploying SROs to schools?
3. California recently overturned its cash-based bail system and replaced it with a “risk-based” system. Evaluate the benefits and drawbacks of such a system. What theories in criminology would provide support for this transition? What theories in criminology would oppose it?



DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY AND
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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Honor Pledge – Fall 2018

Your Exam Identification Code: _____

Honor Pledge: In accordance with the ideals set forth in the Carolinian Creed, I hereby pledge that I neither gave nor received assistance on this examination.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____