



# Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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## Proposal for a New Degree Program

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### I. Information and Rationale

#### A. Primary Contact Information

Institution: University of Alabama  
Contact: André Denham  
Title: Associate Dean, Graduate School  
Email: [adenham@ua.edu](mailto:adenham@ua.edu)  
Telephone: 205-348-1731

#### B. Program Information

Date of Proposal Submission: April 2024  
Award Level: Doc Research (IPEDS 17)  
Award Nomenclature (e.g., BS, MBA): Ph.D.  
Field of Study/Program Title: Criminology and Criminal Justice  
CIP Code (6-digit): 45.0401  
Proposed Delivery Method: Main Campus

#### C. Implementation Information

Proposed Program Implementation Date: 8/1/2026  
Anticipated Date of Approval from Institutional Governing Board: 9/13/2024  
Anticipated Date of ACHE Meeting to Vote on Proposal: 9/13/2024  
SACSCOC Sub Change Requirement (Notification, Approval, or NA): Approval  
Other Considerations for Timing and Approval (e.g., upcoming SACSCOC review):

#### D. Specific Rationale (Strengths) for the Program

List 3 – 5 strengths of the proposed program as specific rationale for recommending approval of this proposal.

1. The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice has one of the largest undergraduate programs at The University of Alabama and has had a strong Master's program for many decades. Every year, some of these students are interested in earning a Ph.D., but they have to leave the state because Alabama does not have a doctoral program. We will give excellent students with Bachelor's degrees a chance to jump right into our PhD program (and earn their Master's en route), and excellent students with Master's degrees a chance to build on their knowledge and earn a terminal degree. By earning a Ph.D., Alabama students will better serve the state, will make themselves more competitive for top jobs, and can increase their earning potential by more than \$10,000 per year according to the United States GS-11 pay scale.



## Alabama Commission on Higher Education

*Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.*

2. The state of Alabama would benefit from having an internal pool of highly educated and well-trained experts with a Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice. These people will serve as the next generation of post-secondary educators, intelligence analysts, digital forensics analysts, social scientists, and more—all of which can strengthen Alabama's intellectual capital, crime-control efforts, law enforcement agencies, and corporations. The Governor of Alabama has specifically emphasized that, when it comes to Alabama's criminal justice system, more sophisticated analysis is required: "The challenges we face are multifaceted, and in turn, a multifaceted solution driven by data is necessary."
3. The University of Alabama is nationally ranked as one of our nation's "R1 - Doctoral Universities – Very high research activity," but it does not yet have a doctoral program in criminology and criminal justice. With the assistance of Ph.D. students, The University of Alabama's Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice will become more competitive for external funding and research grants from The National Institute of Justice, The National Science Foundation, and other federal, state, and local sources, because data collection for major research projects often benefits from the involvement of Ph.D. students.
4. The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice already has faculty members with nationally and internationally recognized research accomplishments. Adding Ph.D. students as research assistants would further increase the department's research productivity. According to Academic Analytics data, 85% of top-20 criminology programs in the United States have a Ph.D. program, and 76% of programs ranked above UA's program (which is currently #38) offer a doctorate. To improve its national competitiveness, The University of Alabama's Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice needs to add a Ph.D. program. This is consistent with the recommendations from the Department's most recent Academic Program Review (in 2015), based on the External Consultant Report from Dr. Thomas Blomberg, Dean of the College of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Florida State University. The Report's recommendations included that for this department, The University of Alabama should "Implement a Ph.D. program over a 5-year span."

List external entities (more may be added) that may have supplied letters of support attesting to the program's strengths and attach letters with the proposal at the end of this document. (external letters of support are not required, but encouraged)

1. Auburn University
2. Hays Webb, District Attorney, Tuscaloosa
3. University of North Alabama
4. Jacksonville State University
5. Ronald Abernathy, Sheriff, Tuscaloosa County
6. John Jay College of Criminal Justice
7. Indiana University



# Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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8. University of California, Irvine
9. Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center

## II. Background with Context

### A. Concise Program Description

- a. Briefly describe the purpose of the proposed program.

There is a need for sophisticated study and data-driven analysis of crime issues that not only harm the nation, but also the state of Alabama. Highly educated and well-trained experts with a Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice could serve as the next generation of post-secondary educators, intelligence analysts, digital forensics analysts, social scientists, and more—all of which would strengthen Alabama's intellectual capital, crime-control efforts, law enforcement agencies, and corporations. Unfortunately, there is not a single doctoral program related to criminology or criminal justice in the state. The proposed program will allow students to earn a Ph.D. in criminology and criminal justice, which is a terminal degree in this field. Students will focus on one of three areas—violent crime, courts and corrections, or global criminology—for which they will gain a comprehensive understanding of the leading scholars, most significant work, and unanswered questions on subtopics for future study. This will serve The University of Alabama's mission and goals to "advance the intellectual and social condition of the people of the state, the nation, and the world through the creation, translation and dissemination of knowledge."

- b. Describe, if applicable, general opportunities for work-based and/or experiential learning within the proposed program. N/A
- c. Prove a brief statement regarding how the program's purpose is related to the mission and goals of the department, college, and University.

By educating Ph.D. students who will learn how to conduct original research on important socio-culture issues involving crime, the program will also fit the following goals of the College of Arts & Sciences and the department:

1. Produce top-tier research, scholarship, and creative activity by conducting original studies and publishing peer-reviewed journal articles and scholarly books.
2. Provide stimulating learning communities, locally and globally, where students may grow intellectually and personally.
3. Enhance quality of life in our communities by improving contemporary understanding of strategies to reduce violent crime, to properly manage challenges involving courts and corrections, and to respond to global criminological issues.

### B. Student Learning Outcomes

List four (4) to seven (7) of the student learning outcomes of the program.

1. Theories and Previous Knowledge: Students will formulate original research questions and hypotheses that are commensurate with the level of a Ph.D. researcher and are directly informed by their knowledge of criminological theories and previous academic scholarship.



## Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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2. **Research Methods:** Students will create original research designs commensurate with the level of a Ph.D. researcher and employ quantitative and/or qualitative methods for hypothesis testing and/or inductive analyses.
3. **Specialization:** Students will develop expertise in a specialized area for which they have a comprehensive understanding of the leading scholars, most significant work, and unanswered questions for future study.
4. **Oral Presentation:** Students will communicate sophisticated ideas and academic research clearly and compellingly to large and small groups in pedagogical settings, and to audiences at regional or national academic conferences.
5. **Writing:** Students will write clear and well-organized manuscripts that demonstrate cogent and sophisticated arguments that are of publishable quality in peer-reviewed journals.

### **C. Administration of the Program**

Name of Dean and College: Joseph Messina, College of Arts & Sciences

Name of Department/Division: Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Name of Chairperson: Adam Lankford

### **D. Similar Programs at Other Alabama Public Institutions**

List programs at other Alabama public institutions of the same degree level and the same (or similar) CIP codes. If no similar programs exist within Alabama, list similar programs offered within the 16 SREB states. If the proposed program duplicates, closely resembles, or is similar to any other offerings in the state, provide justification for any potential duplication.

No similar programs (i.e., Ph.D. programs related to Criminology or Criminal Justice) exist in Alabama.

The following Ph.D. programs in this general field or similar ones (albeit with different areas of specialization) exist in the 16 SREB states:

- University of Florida
- Florida State University
- Florida International University
- University of Central Florida
- University of South Florida
- Georgia State University
- University of Mississippi
- University of Arkansas Little Rock
- University of South Carolina
- University of Texas – Dallas
- Texas State University
- Prairie View A&M University
- Sam Houston State University
- University of Delaware
- University of Maryland



# Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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- George Mason University

## E. Relationship to Existing Programs within the Institution

1. Is the proposed program associated with any existing offerings within the institution, including options within current degree programs? Yes  No

(Note: Most new programs have some relationship to existing offerings, e.g., through shared courses or resources). If yes, complete the following table. If this is a graduate program, list any existing undergraduate programs which are directly or indirectly related. If this is a doctoral program, also list related master's programs.

Related Degree Program Level	Related Degree Program Title	Explanation of the Relationship Between the Programs
Bachelors	Criminology and Criminal Justice	Courses, resources, and current faculty will support the proposed Ph.D. program
Masters	Criminology and Criminal Justice	Courses, resources, and current faculty will support the proposed Ph.D. program

2. Will this program replace any existing programs or specializations, options, or concentrations? Yes  No

If yes, please explain.

3. Will the program compete with any current internal offerings? Yes  No

If yes, please explain.

*If applicable, attach a letter of support from the competing or overlapping department(s)*

## F. Collaboration

- Have collaborations with other institutions or external entities been explored? Yes  No

If yes, provide a brief explanation indicating those collaboration plan(s) for the proposed program.

- Have any collaborations within your institution been explored? Yes  No

If yes, provide a brief explanation indicating those collaboration plan(s) for the proposed program.

## G. Specialized Accreditation

1. Will this program have any external accreditation requirements in addition to the institution's SACSCOC program requirements? Yes  No

If yes, list the name(s) of the specialized accrediting organization(s) and the anticipated timeframe of the application process.





# Alabama Commission on Higher Education

*Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.*

2. Does your institution intend to pursue any other non-required accrediting organizations for the program?\* Yes  No

If yes, list the name(s) of the organization(s) and the purpose of the pursuit.

If there are plans to pursue non-required external accreditation at a later date, list the name(s) and why the institution is not pursuing them at this time.

**Note: Check No to indicate that non-required external accreditation will not be pursued, which requires no explanation.**

## H. Admissions

- Will this program have any additional admissions requirements beyond the institution's standard admissions process/policies for this degree level? Yes  No

If yes, describe any other special admissions or curricular requirements, including any prior education or work experience required for acceptance into the program.

## I. Mode of Delivery

Provide the planned delivery format(s) (*i.e.*, in-person, online, hybrid) of the program as defined in policy along with the planned location(s) at which the program will be delivered (*i.e.*, on-campus and/or at specific off-campus instructional site(s)). Please also note whether any program requirements can be completed through competency-based assessment.

Main Campus (in-person). No program requirements can be completed through competency-based assessment.

## J. Projected Program Demand (Student Demand)

Briefly describe the primary method(s) used to determine the level of student demand for this program using evidence, such as enrollments in related coursework at the institution, or a survey of student interest conducted (indicate the survey instrument used), number and percentage of respondents, and summary of results.

To determine student demand for a Ph.D. program among Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCJ) students at The University of Alabama, The Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice surveyed CCJ Masters students who are currently in the program. Students were asked to rate the likelihood that they would consider getting their Ph.D. after they graduate, and 76% responded that it was "very likely" or "likely" that they would consider earning their doctorate. This does not even include the pool of students who would come directly from our large bachelor's program.

Additionally, potential doctoral students may come from throughout the state and beyond. One natural pool would be the more than 170 master's students attending Alabama universities and colleges. If this recent trend of increased interest from master's students at UA extends to other master's students across the state, The Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice could expect as many as 50 students in the state of Alabama to be interested in Ph.D. programs on an annual basis.

Student demand across Criminology and Criminal Justice Ph.D. programs can also be ascertained from the annual reports from the Association of Doctoral Programs in Criminology & Criminal Justice (ADPCCJ). According to the annual reports between 2016



# Alabama Commission on Higher Education

*Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.*

and 2020, there is evidence of consistent annual demand for Ph.D. programs. Between 36 to 38 programs have responded, and there have been consistently more than 1000 applicants annually (average of 1181) that sustain an overall Ph.D. population of more than 1100 students annually (average of 1201).

### III. Program Resource Requirements

#### A. Proposed Program Faculty\*

##### Current Faculty and Faculty to Be Hired

Complete the following **New Academic Degree Proposal Faculty Roster** to provide a brief summary and qualifications of current faculty and potential new hires specific to the program.

**\*Note:** Institutions must maintain and have current as well as additional faculty curriculum vitae available upon ACHE request for as long as the program is active, but CVs are **not** to be submitted with this proposal.

Current Faculty			
1	2	3	4
CURRENT FACULTY NAME (F, P)	*COURSES TAUGHT including Term, Course Number, Course Title, & Credit Hours (D, UN, UT, G, DU)	ACADEMIC DEGREES and COURSEWORK Relevant to Courses Taught, including Institution and Major; List Specific Graduate Coursework, if needed	OTHER QUALIFICATIONS and COMMENTS Related to Courses Taught and Modality(ies) (IP, OL, HY, OCIS)
Dr. Adam Lankford, F	220 Law Enforcement 3 hours UN 420 Seminar Law Enforcement UN 422 Terrorism 3 hours UN 427 Homicide 3 credit hours UN 506 Terrorism G 520 Seminar Law Enforcement G	Ph.D., American University, Justice, Law & Society	IP, OL, HY
Dr. Brittany VandeBerg, F	428 Human Trafficking UN 490 Maritime Crime & Justice UN 590 Maritime Crime & Justice G 590 Immigration and Crime G 590 Global Criminology G 590 Law and Social Control G	Ph.D., University of Toronto, Geography	IP, OL, HY
Dr. Jane Daquin, F	280 Research Methods UN 270 Corrections UN 300 Survey of Criminal Theories UN 381 Statistics UN 570 Correctional Policy G 581 Application Stats in CJ G 590 ST Crime Mapping G	Ph.D., Georgia State University, Criminology and Criminal Justice	IP, OL, HY
Dr. Susan Dewey, F	425 Domestic Violence UN 470 Mass Incarceration UN 586 Research in CJ Process G 590 Prostitution & Trafficking G	Ph.D., Syracuse University, Anthropology	IP, OL, HY
Dr. Timothy Dickinson, F	300 Survey of Criminal Theories UN 430 Drugs, Crime, and Policy UN 584 Criminal Theory G	Ph.D., University of Missouri-St. Louis, Criminology and Criminal Justice	IP



# Alabama Commission on Higher Education

*Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.*

Current Faculty			
1	2	3	4
CURRENT FACULTY NAME (F, P)	*COURSES TAUGHT including Term, Course Number, Course Title, & Credit Hours (D, UN, UT, G, DU)	ACADEMIC DEGREES and COURSEWORK Relevant to Courses Taught, including Institution and Major; List Specific Graduate Coursework, if needed	OTHER QUALIFICATIONS and COMMENTS Related to Courses Taught and Modality(ies) (IP, OL, HY, OCIS)
Dr. Matthew Dolliver, F	100 Intro Criminal Justice UN 280 Research Methods UN 300 Criminal Theories UN 381 Statistics UN 402 Digital Forensic Inves. UN 421 Forensic Science UN 584 Criminal Theory G 590 White Collar Crime G 590 Forensic Science G	Ph.D., Northeastern University, Criminology and Criminal Justice	IP, OL, HY
Dr. Adam Ghazi-Tehrani, F	201 Cyber Criminology UN 301 Cyber Law and Policy UN 403 Blockchain and Crypto UN 430 White Collar Crime UN 424 Hate Crimes UN 586 Research Methods G 590 Cyber Criminology G	Ph.D., University of California, Irvine, Criminology, Law & Society,	IP, OL, HY
Dr. Jihoon Kim, F	280 Research Methods UN 300 Criminal Theory 381 Statistics UN 440 Seminar in Juvenile Delinquency UN 490 Life Course & Developmental Criminology UN 590 Life Course & Developmental Criminology UN	Ph.D., University of Florida, Criminology	IP, OL, HY
Dr. Matthew Valasik, F	490 Gangs UN 590 Crime and Justice Policy UN 590 ST Crime Mapping G 590 Social Networks & Social Capital G 680 Proseminar G	Ph.D., University of California, Irvine, Criminology, Law & Society,	IP, OL
Dr. Michael Barton, F	280 Research Methods UN 300 Criminal Theory UN 584 Criminal Theory G 590 Ecology of Crime (Macro Criminology) G 680 Proseminar G	Ph.D., University of Albany, SUNY, Sociology	IP, OL





# Alabama Commission on Higher Education

*Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.*

Current Faculty			
1	2	3	4
<b>CURRENT FACULTY NAME (F, P)</b>	<b>*COURSES TAUGHT</b> including Term, Course Number, Course Title, & Credit Hours (D, UN, UT, G, DU)	<b>ACADEMIC DEGREES and COURSEWORK</b> Relevant to Courses Taught, including Institution and Major; List Specific Graduate Coursework, if needed	<b>OTHER QUALIFICATIONS and COMMENTS</b> Related to Courses Taught and Modality(ies) (IP, OL, HY, OCIS)
Dr. Yuliya Zabyelina, F	CJ 100 Intro to Criminal Justice UN CJ 280 Research Methods UN 435 Global Perspectives on Crime and Justice UN 590 Corruption and the Global Economy G 590 Transnational Crime G 590 Comparative Criminal Justice Systems G	Ph.D., University of Trento, Italy, International Studies	IP, OL
Position one, F (hiring in progress)	CJ 681 Advanced Quantitative Analysis G CJ 684 Criminological Theory II (Advanced) G CJ 687 Special Topic in Statistics G	Ph.D., Criminology and Criminal Justice	IP
Position two, F (hiring in progress)	CJ 686 Criminal Justice Policy G CJ 685 Advanced Qualitative Methods G CJ 688 Special Topic in Methods G	Ph.D., Criminology and Criminal Justice	IP

Abbreviations: (FT, PT): Full-Time, Part-Time; (D, UN, UT, G, DU): Developmental, Undergraduate Nontransferable, Undergraduate Transferable, Graduate, Dual: High School Dual Enrollment  
 Course Modality: (IP, OL, HY, OCIS): In-Person, Online, Hybrid, Off-Campus Instructional Site  
 Courses Taught/To be Taught – For a substantive change prospectus/application, list the courses *to be taught*, not historical teaching assignments.



# Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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## B. All Proposed Program Personnel

Provide all personnel counts for the proposed program.

Employment Status of Program Personnel		Personnel Information		
		Count from Proposed Program Department	Count from Other Departments	Subtotal of Personnel
<b>Current</b>	Full-Time Faculty	13		13
	Part-Time Faculty			
	Administration			
	Support Staff	2		2
<b>**New To Be Hired</b>	Full-Time Faculty			
	Part-Time Faculty			
	Administration			
	Support Staff			
			<b>Personnel Total</b>	<b>15</b>

\* The department is in the midst of hiring two new faculty members, in hires that have already been approved by the UA Provost's office, for a start date of August 2024.

**\*\*Note: Any new funds** designated for compensation costs (Faculty (FT/PT), Administration, and/or Support Staff to be Hired) **should be included** in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**. Current personnel salary/benefits (Faculty (FT/PT), Administration, and/or Support Staff) **should not be included** in the **Business Plan**.

Provide justification that the institution has proposed a sufficient number of faculty (full-time and part-time) for the proposed program to ensure curriculum and program quality, integrity, and review.

All members of the tenured and tenure-track faculty are research active and productive scholars who regularly publish their work in appropriate peer-reviewed journals based on demonstrated expertise in their respective areas of specialization. They already have experience mentoring graduate students and can provide high quality mentoring for new doctoral students.

Once the Ph.D. program begins, each semester the department can reassign several tenured and tenure-track faculty who are currently teaching undergraduate courses and have them teach Ph.D. courses instead. Those undergraduate courses will then be taught by full-time and part-time instructors who are already employed in the department or who have taught for the department in the past.

## C. Equipment

Will any special equipment be needed specifically for this program?

Yes  No

If yes, list the special equipment. Special equipment cost should be included in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.



# Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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## D. Facilities

Will any new facilities be required specifically for the program? Yes  No

If yes, list only **new** facilities. New facilities cost should be included in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file.**

Will any renovations to any existing infrastructure be required specifically for the program? Yes  No

If yes, list the renovations. Renovation costs should be included in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file.**

## E. Assistantships/Fellowships

Will the institution offer any assistantships specifically for this program? Yes  No

If yes, how many assistantships will be offered?

22. As we have discussed with the Dean of Arts & Sciences, the department is requesting a total of 6 new assistantship lines and will cover the remaining 16 assistantship lines with reallocations from our Master's program and/or extramural funds. The Dean has also discussed our proposal with the Provost and he supports the proposed program.

The expenses associated with any *new* assistantships should be included in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file.**

## F. Library

Provide a brief summarization (one to two paragraphs) describing the current status of the library collections supporting the proposed program.

The University of Alabama's library collections are currently sufficient for the development and maintenance of a doctoral program. Most published research that appears in scientific journals can be accessed through the library's online databases, and faculty and students can request books or other materials through Interlibrary loan (ILL), which provides free access to materials needed for coursework and research not available in the UA Libraries.

Will additional library resources be required to support the program? Yes  No

If yes, briefly describe how any deficiencies will be remedied, and include the cost in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file.**

## G. Accreditation Expenses

Will the proposed program require accreditation expenses? Yes  No

If yes, briefly describe the estimated cost and funding source(s) and include cost in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file.**

This new degree program will require SACSCOC approval, which entails the submission of a prospectus to SACSCOC for approval. SACSCOC charges \$500 to review a prospectus.



# Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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## H. Other Costs

Please explain any other costs to be incurred with program implementation, such as marketing or recruitment costs. Be sure to note these in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.

## I. Revenues for Program Support

Will the proposed program require budget reallocation? Yes  No

If yes, briefly describe how any deficiencies will be remedied and include the revenue in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.

Will the proposed program require external funding (e.g., Perkins, Foundation, Federal Grants, Sponsored Research, etc.)? Yes  No

If yes, list the sources of external funding and include the revenue in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**.

Please describe how you calculated the tuition revenue that appears in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file**. Specifically, did you calculate using cost per credit hour or per term? Did you factor in differences between resident and non-resident tuition rates?

We estimated tuition revenue by multiplying the number of students that we expect to have enrolled for each year by the full-time rate by semester for both Fall and Spring. We hypothesized that 50% of our students will be residents and 50% will be non-residents. We added a modest amount to estimate changes in tuition rates over time.

## IV. Employment Outcomes and Program Demand (Industry Need)

### A. Standard Occupational Code System

Using the federal Standard Occupational Code (SOC) System, indicate the top three occupational codes related to post-graduation employment from the program. A full list of SOCs can be found at <https://www.onetcodeconnector.org/find/family/title#17>.

A list of Alabama's *In-Demand Occupations* is available at <https://www.ache.edu/index.php/policy-guidance/>.

List the SOC and description.

**SOC 1 (Required)** - 25-1111.00 Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Teachers, Postsecondary

**SOC 2 (required)** - 19-3099 Social Scientists and Related Workers

**SOC 3 (required)** - 33-3021.06 Detectives and Criminal Investigators

Briefly describe how the program fulfills a specific industry or employment need for the State of Alabama. As appropriate, discuss alignment with Alabama's Statewide or Regional Lists of In-Demand Occupations (<https://www.ache.edu/index.php/policy-guidance/>) or with emerging industries as identified by Innovate Alabama or the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama (EDPA).



## Alabama Commission on Higher Education

*Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.*

As recommended by the Governor of Alabama, by Alabama's Innovation Commission, and by the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama, the state of Alabama needs to keep its best students in the state, instead of sending them to Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina, Mississippi, and other rivals.

Governor Kay Ivey has addressed this specific issue. As quoted in the *Tuscaloosa News* on March 22, 2019, the Governor addressed an audience of UA students thus: "I just implore all of you – don't leave Alabama after you graduate." Similarly, Alabama's Innovation Commission concluded, "Alabama must develop its knowledge to prepare for the innovation and digital economy. The Economic Development Partnership of Alabama made similar recommendations in its 2021 "Retain Alabama" report: "We hear from companies every day that they are struggling to find the talent that they need and that they need to build pipelines of talent for the future. But unfortunately, these students are leaving."

Governor Ivey has also specifically addressed the importance of criminal justice issues being the focus of sophisticated study and data-driven analysis. As she explained in July 2019, "The people of Alabama are not unaware of the complexities that face our state's prison system, which take a toll on their hard-earned dollars and negatively impact public safety. The challenges we face are multifaceted, and in turn, a multifaceted solution driven by data is necessary... I am looking to see data driving us to even further reforms in the system" [emphasis added].

More recently (in December 2022), Governor Ivey emphasized the need to do more to combat violent crime and better support those who are victimized. In particular, she awarded more than \$5.6 million to help multiple agencies in Alabama assist victims of crime in their communities and underscored that, "We stand with victims of crime and are proud to aid in their recovery."

The proposed Criminology and Criminal Justice PhD program would help to meet these state needs to enhance postsecondary education on these subjects, improve the criminal justice system, and reduce violent crime victimization. If our graduate students do not have to go elsewhere for their doctoral education, Alabama's large criminal justice and court systems and related sectors are likely to absorb graduates to meet the many needs in this field.

According to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE), In-Demand Occupations for 2023 include the following:

- Postsecondary Teachers (average annual openings = 1,855; median salary = \$68,981)
- Information Security Analysts (average annual openings = 220; median salary = \$81,744)
- Detectives & Criminal Investigators (average annual openings = 90; median salary = \$59,244)

In the past year, we have also seen open jobs advertised for a range of relevant state positions with entities that include the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, The Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences, and the Alabama Securities Commission. We have also seen jobs advertised for postsecondary instructors in criminology or criminal justice departments that include The University of Alabama, Auburn University at Montgomery, Troy University, and The University of Alabama at Birmingham.

### **B. Employment Preparation**





# Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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Describe how the proposed program prepares graduates to seek employment in the occupations (SOC codes) identified. Be specific in how the proposed program is related to the SOC codes listed above.

## **SOC 1 (Required) - 25-1111.00 Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Teachers, Postsecondary**

Having the credential of a Ph.D. is typically required for employment as a postsecondary instructor with expertise in criminology, criminal justice, or law enforcement, because it demonstrates that the individual has advanced knowledge and expertise in their field of study. People with these jobs are responsible for teaching students at a higher education level and conducting research in their field. A PhD program requires several years of coursework, research, and dissertation writing, which helps doctoral students to develop in-depth knowledge and expertise in their chosen field.

## **SOC 2 (required) - 19-3099 Social Scientists and Related Workers**

Having the credential of a Ph.D. is typically expected for employment as a social scientist, because it demonstrates that the individual has advanced knowledge and expertise in their field of study. People with these jobs are responsible for conducting research using a range of methodologies, such as secondary data analysis, survey research, ethnography, and various quantitative and qualitative approaches. A PhD program requires several years of coursework, research, and dissertation writing, which helps doctoral students to develop in-depth knowledge and expertise in their chosen field.

## **SOC 3 (required) - 33-3021.06 Detectives and Criminal Investigators**

Although a Ph.D. is not required for criminal investigation, a doctoral education would provide students with specialized knowledge of techniques for analyzing evidence, examining criminal behavior patterns, or engaging in critical thinking so one can gather and analyze data to make informed, evidence-based decisions.

### **C. Professional Licensure/Certification**

Please explain if professional licensure or industry certification is required for graduates of the proposed program to gain entry-level employment in the occupations selected. Be sure to note which organization(s) grants licensure or certification.

N/A

### **D. Additional Education/Training**

Please explain whether further education/training is required for graduates of the proposed program to gain entry-level employment in the occupations selected.

No further education or training is required for graduates of the proposed program to gain entry-level employment.

## **V. Curriculum Information for Proposed Degree Program**

- A. Program Completion Requirements:** Enter the credit hour value for all applicable components (enter N/A if not applicable).



# Alabama Commission on Higher Education

*Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.*

Curriculum Overview of Proposed Program	
Credit hours required in <b>general education</b>	N/A
Credit hours required in <b>program courses</b>	27
Credit hours in <b>program electives/concentrations/tracks</b>	N/A
Credit hours in <b>free electives</b>	15
Credit hours in <b>required research/thesis</b>	18
<b>Total Credit Hours Required for Completion</b>	<b>60</b>

Note: The above credit hours **MUST** match the credit hours in the *Curriculum Components of Proposed Program* table in Section V.G.

- B. Maximum number of credits that can be transferred in from another institution and applied to the program: Up to 21 hours can be transferred or counted from prior graduate study, contingent on department and UA graduate school approval.
- C. Intended program duration in semesters for full-time students: 4-6 years (8-12 semesters)
- D. Intended program duration in semesters for part-time students: 5-7 years (10-14 semesters)
- E. Does the program require students to demonstrate industry-validated skills, specifically through an embedded industry-recognized certification, structured [work-based learning](#) with an employer partner, or alignment with nationally recognized industry standards? Yes  No   
If yes, explain how these components fit with the required coursework.
- F. Does the program include any concentrations? Yes  No   
If yes, provide an overview and identify these courses in the *Electives/Concentrations/Tracks* section in the Curriculum Components of Proposed Program Table in Section V.G.
- G. Please provide all course information as indicated in the following table. Indicate new courses with "Y" in the associated column. If the course includes a required work-based learning component, such as an internship or practicum course, please indicate with a "Y" in the WBL column.

<b>Program Name:</b>	<b>Criminology and Criminal Justice</b>			
<b>Program Level:</b>	<b>Ph.D.</b>			
Curriculum Components of Proposed Program				
Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	New? (Y)	WBL? (Y)
General Education Courses (Undergraduate Only)				
Program Courses				
CJ 581	Applied Statistics In CJ	3		
CJ 584	Criminological Theory	3		





## Alabama Commission on Higher Education

*Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.*

Instructions and definitions are provided in the Excel file. **The New Academic Degree Program Business Plan should be uploaded as an Excel file (.xlsx) in the Academic Program Review (APR) Portal.**

**NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY**

*INSTITUTION: The University of Alabama*

*PROGRAM: Criminology & Criminal Justice*

*Select Level: Doctorate*

**ESTIMATED \*NEW\* EXPENSES TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSED PROGRAM**

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	TOTAL
FACULTY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
STAFF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FACILITIES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LIBRARY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ASSISTANTSHIPS	195000	236000	238000	240000	242000	244000	246000	1641000
OTHER	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>195500</b>	<b>236000</b>	<b>238000</b>	<b>240000</b>	<b>242000</b>	<b>244000</b>	<b>246000</b>	<b>1641500</b>

**\*NEW\* REVENUES AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT**

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	TOTAL
REALLOCATIONS	0	119000	314000	509000	587000	626000	628000	2783000
EXTRAMURAL	30000	40000	50000	60000	70000	100000	100000	450000
TUITION	92000	207000	330000	450000	506000	530000	532000	2647000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>122000</b>	<b>366000</b>	<b>694000</b>	<b>1019000</b>	<b>1163000</b>	<b>1256000</b>	<b>1260000</b>	<b>5880000</b>

**ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS**

*Note: "New Enrollment Headcount" is defined as unduplicated counts across years.*

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	AVERAGE
FULL-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	9	14	19	21	22	22	17.83333333
PART-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	0	1	2	2	2	2	1.5
TOTAL HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	9	15	21	23	24	24	19.33333333
NEW ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

**DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS**

*Note: Do not count Lead "0"s and Lead 0 years in computing the average annual degree completions.*

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	AVERAGE
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS	Year 1 - No data reporting required	0	0	3	4	5	5	2.4



# THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

## Resolution

### **Granting Initial Approval of and Permission to Submit to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) a Proposal for a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice (CIP Code 45.0401) in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice in the College of Arts and Sciences**

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees approved the Notification of Intent to Submit a Proposal (NISP) for the Criminology and Criminal Justice (Ph.D.) program on February 2, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Alabama has called for multifaceted solutions driven by research and data to address challenges associated with criminal justice, prisons, and violent crime; and

WHEREAS, The University of Alabama is nationally ranked among “R1 - Doctoral Universities – Very high research activity” but does not have a doctoral program in criminology or criminal justice befitting that status; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice has one of the largest undergraduate programs at The University of Alabama and a strong Master’s program; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice has a young cadre of strong faculty members with nationally and internationally recognized research accomplishments who could mentor the next generation of experts; and

WHEREAS, the highest levels of education are required to train the next generation of post-secondary educators, intelligence analysts, digital forensics analysts, social scientists, and criminal justice practitioners;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama that it grants initial approval of and permission to submit to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) a Proposal for a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice (CIP Code 45.0401) in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice in the College of Arts and Sciences at The University of Alabama.

February 21, 2024

Chancellor Finis E. St. John IV  
The University of Alabama System  
500 University Boulevard East  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

Dear Chancellor St. John:

I am pleased to endorse the recommendation from Executive Vice President and Provost James Dalton and Deans Susan Carvalho of the Graduate School and Joseph Messina of the College of Arts and Sciences in recommending for approval the attached proposal for a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Criminology and Criminal Justice. The proposed Criminology and Criminal Justice Ph.D. will be the first doctoral program in this field in the state of Alabama. Graduates from the proposed program could serve as the next generation of post-secondary educators, intelligence analysts, digital forensics analysts, social scientists, and more--all of which can strengthen Alabama's intellectual capital, crime-control efforts, law enforcement agencies, and corporations.

If you approve of this proposal, I would appreciate you forwarding this request to the Board of Trustees for their approval.

Sincerely,



Stuart R. Bell  
President

Enclosures

c: Executive Vice President and Provost James Dalton  
Dean Susan Carvalho  
Dean Joseph Messina



February 21, 2024

President Stuart R. Bell  
The University of Alabama  
203 Rose Administration Building  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

Dear President Bell:

I join Deans Susan Carvalho of the Graduate School and Joseph Messina of the College of Arts and Sciences in recommending for approval the attached proposal for a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Criminology and Criminal Justice. The proposed Criminology and Criminal Justice Ph.D. will be the first doctoral program in this field in the state of Alabama. Graduates from the proposed program could serve as the next generation of post-secondary educators, intelligence analysts, digital forensics analysts, social scientists, and more--all of which can strengthen Alabama's intellectual capital, crime-control efforts, law enforcement agencies, and corporations.

If you approve of this proposal, I would appreciate you forwarding this request to the Chancellor at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



James T. Dalton, Ph.D.  
Executive Vice President and Provost

Enclosures

c: Dean Susan Carvalho  
Dean Joseph Messina

February 20, 2024

Provost James Dalton  
The University of Alabama  
Office for Academic Affairs  
254 Rose Administration Building  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

Dear Provost Dalton:

I join Dean Joseph Messina in recommending the approval of the attached Proposal for a Ph.D. Degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice (CIP: 45.0401) offered through the College of Arts and Sciences. This proposed graduate degree program meets specific needs, and the proposed program will attract new graduate enrollments.

The proposal was recommended for approval by the Graduate Council of The University of Alabama at its meeting on November 1, 2023. We ask for timely handling of this item so that it may be considered at the April 2024 Board of Trustees meeting before being submitted to ACHE and the Alabama Council of Graduate Deans for comment by other institutions in the State.

If you approve of this proposal, please forward this request to President Bell at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Dr. Susan Carvalho  
Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

cc.: Dr. Andre Denham, Associate Dean, Graduate School

April 5, 2023

Dr. Jim Dalton  
Executive vice President and Provost  
Office of Academic Affairs  
Box 870114  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

Dear Dr. Dalton:

As Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, I am very pleased to provide this letter in support of a new PhD program in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. I believe this program will enhance the education mission of The University of Alabama, support the needs and interests of our students, and provide a benefit to the state as a whole.

The action has been carefully considered and recommended by the chair and faculty of the department, as is made evident by the materials included in this proposal. It has my strong support as well.

The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice currently offers a BA degree in Criminal Justice and an MS degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice. It is one of our most popular undergraduate programs with more than a thousand majors, who are attracted to both the theoretical and the applied nature of its curriculum. Its master's program attracts practitioners in the field of criminal justice as well as students who go on to seek doctoral degrees.

Currently, there is no PhD program in Criminology and Criminal Justice in the state of Alabama. Alabama students interested in a doctorate leave the state to pursue their studies, and often don't return. The state of Alabama would benefit from this program's graduates, as they would serve the state as employees, educators and experts in state agencies and the field.

This new program will serve our students, our communities, and the state, while it also will enhance the prestige and research capacities of the department and College. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Joseph P. Messina, Ph.D.  
Dean and Professor







April 14, 2023

Alabama Commission on Higher Education  
100 North Union Street  
Montgomery Alabama 36104

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of a proposed Ph.D. program in Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Alabama.

In 2018 Auburn began an undergraduate major in Law and Justice (LAWJ) to expose students who intended to go to law school to some of the courses and case law they would find there as well as to help them develop useful skills in legal research, writing, and other areas. It has become one of the fastest growing programs on campus with over 350 majors as of last month. With that growth has come a realization that many of those LAWJ students do not intend to go to law school. In fact, we conservatively believe that approximately ten percent are actually interested in corrections and criminal justice.

Twenty years ago, Auburn had a successful undergraduate program in criminology, which it jettisoned for reasons unknown to me. Faculty in the Sociology department currently have a proposal to resurrect that major and I am sure it will again be very successful if approved by our Board of Trustees. That department also has a couple of very popular criminology classes but students who wish for further training in the state really have nowhere to go. I share these things simply to point out the fact that there is currently and has been throughout my 25-year career at Auburn a strong interest in criminology and criminal justice. I believe Alabama's proposed graduate program will immediately draw the attention of many Auburn students who will eagerly apply.

I am sure many graduates of the proposed Ph.D. program will go on to work at other schools, but I hope some will consider coming to Auburn. Our LAWJ major is a problem (a good problem, but a problem nonetheless) because of its rapid and continuing growth. We currently rely heavily upon adjuncts to help us with our classes. Our current and future criminal law and criminal procedure classes would gain much from trained Ph.Ds. Our adjuncts are awesome but academic rigor has been lost in some classes in the past by attorneys who simply want to share "war stories." Having qualified and trained Ph.D. faculty would greatly benefit our LAWJ majors too.

Beyond that, I think it is important to consider what this graduate program could do for the state of Alabama as a whole. It is no secret that our corrections system needs reform. Who better to assist with that than individuals with advanced training in criminology and criminal

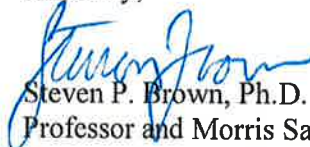
Alabama Commission on Higher Education  
April 14, 2023  
Page Two

justice? I personally think that many graduate programs provide little benefit outside of academia, but Alabama's proposed Ph.D. program has the potential to make a truly meaningful difference.

I want you to know of the great respect Auburn University has for the University of Alabama (football aside!). I think it would be wonderful for us to be able to encourage our students who are deeply interested in issues pertaining to criminology and criminal justice but who also love this state and wish to remain here to look to Tuscaloosa for their graduate work. Alabama does such a great job in so many areas and would undoubtedly quickly establish a well-regarded reputation for its Criminology and Criminal Justice graduate program.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter of support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steven P. Brown".

Steven P. Brown, Ph.D.  
Professor and Morris Savage Endowed Chair  
Director, Law and Justice Program

# HAYS WEBB

**Assistant District Attorneys:**

Paula Whitley, Chief Assistant  
Beth Crutchfield  
Shannon Lynch  
Paige Elliott  
Corey Seale  
John Halcomb  
Thomas Marshall



**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
Sixth Judicial Circuit of Alabama  
714 Greensboro Avenue, Suite 410  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401-1894  
205-349-1252

Kymerly Porter  
Maegan Smalley  
Lyndsie Curry  
Ashley Ross  
Benjamin H. McGough  
Kevin B. Durick  
Judson T. Sills

April 11, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

Please accept this letter in support of the Ph.D. program proposal put forth by the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCJ) at The University of Alabama.

There are currently no universities in the entire state of Alabama offering a Ph.D. in this important field, putting state and community agencies that want to hire well-trained data analysts at a disadvantage. A Ph.D. program in Criminology and Criminal Justice at the state's flagship institution will bolster Alabama's abilities to engage in evidence-based justice practices.

Abundant job opportunities exist in the field of Criminology and Criminal Justice in Alabama and throughout the South more generally, virtually guaranteeing a wide array of options to students who obtain a Ph.D.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hays Webb", is written over a faint, larger version of the signature.

Hays Webb  
District Attorney



*Department of POLITICS, JUSTICE,  
LAW, and PHILOSOPHY*

April 15, 2023

Dear ACHE and SACS Program Decision Officials,

I take this time to express support for the University of Alabama Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice's proposal for the establishment of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program in Criminology/Criminal Justice. Given the relative lack of available programs both within the State of Alabama and within the Southeast US region, we believe that this program will provide an excellent opportunity for our students and alumni who desire to continue their graduate education without having to travel too far from home.

Additionally, having CJ academics and scholars who have a tie to the state will be beneficial in recruiting and retaining quality faculty members who are invested in the area and the region. While our undergraduate and Master of Science in Criminal Justice programs are primarily practitioner based, we do have a subset of our students who are propensed to continue on toward their terminal degree and we would likely have on average two students each year who would be so inclined.

Myself and my Criminal Justice colleagues, as well as our administration look forward to the creation and development of this opportunity and will be sure to advocate for the program to our students who would be interested in and qualified for such a program. I am happy to discuss our support if desired and can be contacted at [wpbergeron@una.edu](mailto:wpbergeron@una.edu) or 256 765-5022.

Sincerely I remain,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne P. Bergeron". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Wayne P. Bergeron  
Lieutenant Colonel (retired) US Army  
Director, North Alabama Center for Public Service Training  
Associate Professor,  
Criminal Justice and Security and Emergency Management



**DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
& FORENSIC INVESTIGATION**  
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

March 26, 2023

MEMO

To: Whom it may concern

From: Dr. H. Dean Buttram, III

I have spoken to Dr. Adam Lankford about the potential Ph.D. in Criminal Justice degree program at The University of Alabama. It would be the only such degree in the State of Alabama and would be an excellent opportunity for master's degree recipient students, with a research-based background, to continue their work at the doctoral level. Further, it would also be an excellent way for criminal justice department's, such as ours, to have recently qualified PhD graduates as potential candidates for faculty or instructor positions. As the department head of a master's degree granting program, within the state, I am in favor of the degree proposal being put forth by the University of Alabama. Please let me know if there's anything else I can do to assist in the process.

Sincerely,

---

Dr. H. Dean Buttram, III  
Department Head & Professor  
The Center for Applied Forensics  
The Center for Best Practices in Law Enforcement





714 1/2 Greensboro Avenue  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

Ronald S. Abernathy, Sheriff  
Tuscaloosa County

Phone: (205) 752-0616  
Fax: (205) 752-6985

April 3, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

Please accept this letter in support of the Ph.D. program proposal put forth by the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCJ) at The University of Alabama. There are currently no universities in the entire state of Alabama offering a Ph.D. in this important field, putting state and community agencies that want to hire well-trained data analysts at a disadvantage. A Ph.D. program in Criminology and Criminal Justice at the state's flagship institution will bolster Alabama's abilities to engage in evidence-based justice practices.

Abundant job opportunities exist in the field of Criminology and Criminal Justice in Alabama and throughout the South more generally, virtually guaranteeing a wide array of options to students who obtain a Ph.D.

Thanks in advance for your consideration of this much needed Ph.D. program.

Sincerely,

Ronald S. Abernathy, Sheriff



*Henry N. Pontell, Ph.D.  
Distinguished University Professor  
Department of Sociology  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice  
Doctoral Faculty, The Graduate Center  
The City University of New York  
524 West 59th Street  
New York City, NY 10019  
hpontell@jjay.cuny.edu*

April 3, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing in full support of the Ph.D. program proposal put forth by the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCJ) at The University of Alabama.

With an increasingly strong presence in the field with high-caliber faculty, the University is in an excellent position to offer this degree. Moreover, and as noted by my colleagues, there are currently no universities in Alabama offering a Ph.D. in criminology/criminal justice, which puts state and community agencies at a severe disadvantage in hiring well-trained data analysts and researchers who are familiar with the local terrain. A Ph.D. program in Criminology and Criminal Justice at the state's flagship institution provides a major opportunity for the University and the State to engage in evidence-based justice practices, and in turn significantly enhance public safety while continually improving responses by the criminal justice system, both of which can serve citizens in the best and most cost-effective ways.

Abundant job opportunities exist in the field of Criminology and Criminal Justice nationally, in Alabama, and throughout the South more generally, virtually guaranteeing a wide array of options to students who obtain a Ph.D. As the leading academic institution in the State, and with a very strong faculty who can execute this degree program at the highest level, I fully support this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Henry N. Pontell". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Henry N. Pontell, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice  
Professor Emeritus, University of California, Irvine



# INDIANA UNIVERSITY

## SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Department of Curriculum and Instruction  
Bloomington

April 3, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

Please accept this letter in support of the Ph.D. program proposal put forth by the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCJ) at The University of Alabama.

There are currently no universities in the entire state of Alabama offering a Ph.D. in this important field, putting state and community agencies that want to hire well-trained data analysts at a disadvantage. A Ph.D. program in Criminology and Criminal Justice at the state's flagship institution will bolster Alabama's abilities to engage in evidence-based justice practices.

Abundant job opportunities exist in the field of Criminology and Criminal Justice in Alabama and throughout the South more generally, virtually guaranteeing a wide array of options to students who obtain a Ph.D. For example, I regularly collaborate with individuals in the field of Criminal Justice, as many incarcerated individuals have been identified for special education services in their past. As a past president of the Correctional Education Association, I can attest to the need for qualified Criminal Justice professionals, especially in the area of research.

I urge you to approve the Ph.D. program proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Roberts".

Susan Roberts, Ed.D.  
Assistant Clinical Professor  
Special Education

4/5/2023

Dear Dr. Valasik

I am writing in response to your request for my perspective on the merits of the proposed Criminology and Criminal Justice PhD program at The University of Alabama. I am writing in my role as Chair of the Department of Criminology, Law and Society at the University of California, Irvine. In addition, I have served as a faculty member in the PhD-granting Department of Criminology at the University of Pennsylvania.

Overall, I think this should be a no-brainer, as a PhD Program would provide clear benefits to the state. Based on my work with law enforcement and with courts, Criminology and Criminal Justice PhDs are in high demand. Advancements in technology have dramatically increased the expectation that these organizations “do something” with the massive amounts of information available on suspects, victims, and defendants. The skills required to learn from data currently collected exceeds what is taught in police academies, law schools, or Criminology Master’s programs. In-house analysts with PhDs in Criminology and Criminal Justice can not only help Alabama agencies understand and use their own data. In addition, due to their PhD training, these highly trained researchers facilitate collaboration with external researchers at Alabama institutions and research organizations. Ultimately, this will improve the safety of Alabama residents and the ability of law enforcement and court officers to do their jobs safely, effectively, and fairly.



Criminology, Law and Society  
2340 Social Ecology II  
Irvine, CA 92697-7080

(949) 824-7929  
(949) 824-3001 (FAX)  
egowens@uci.edu

[www.uci.edu](http://www.uci.edu)

There are a relatively small number of institutions offering PhDs in Criminology and Criminal Justice, and I think that the program at University of Alabama would immediately be highly ranked, given the stature of the institution. As Chair, I can say that our top undergraduate students would be highly interested in applying to this PhD program, and the opportunity to work with Criminology PhD students would also attract our top PhD candidates to positions at the University.

Finally, in terms of attracting and retaining highly skilled criminal justice professionals, a PhD program would also benefit to the state. Here, I can speak to the experience of PhD students at my current and previous institutions, where there is always a strong desire to find a job that allows the graduate to maintain the local connections developed over the course of their doctoral program.

Sincerely,



Emily Owens



Criminology, Law and Society  
2340 Social Ecology II  
Irvine, CA 92697-7080

(949) 824-7929  
(949) 824-3001 (FAX)  
egowens@uci.edu

[www.uci.edu](http://www.uci.edu)



April 17, 2023

Dear Professor Lankford,

I write in support of the Ph.D. program proposal put forth by the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCJ) at The University of Alabama.

Alabama is a state sorely in need of research and reform about the criminal legal system. Yet, no universities in Alabama offer a Ph.D. degree in criminology. This greatly disadvantages state and community agencies that want to hire well-trained data analysts who are sensitive to local Alabama needs. A Ph.D. program in Criminology and Criminal Justice at your flagship institution will bolster Alabama's abilities to engage in evidence-based justice practices.

Abundant job opportunities exist in the field of Criminology and Criminal Justice in Alabama and throughout the South more generally, virtually guaranteeing a wide array of options to students who obtain a Ph.D. At my own criminal justice reform center, we are constantly in search of new talent. Growing new graduates in Alabama will serve your community to the fullest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pam Metzger".

Professor Pamela R. Metzger  
Director, Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center





## Board Rule 502 New Program Proposal Supplement

In addition to the items ACHE has requested for program proposals, please include the following additional items when developing and submitting academic program proposals to the System Office and the Board of Trustees for approval.

### 1. Institution:

- UA

### 2. Program Identification

<b>Program Name:</b>	Criminology and Criminal Justice
<b>Degree Nomenclature:</b>	Ph. D.
<b>Date of NPP Submission:</b>	NISP 2/2/2024

### 3. CIP Code

<b>2-digit CIP Code:</b>	45 SOCIAL SCIENCES
<b>4-digit CIP Code:</b>	45 SOCIAL SCIENCES ~ 45.04 Criminology
<b>6-digit CIP Code:</b>	45 SOCIAL SCIENCES ~ 45.04 Criminology ~ 45.0401 Criminology

### 4. Executive Summary (not to exceed two pages)

In recent years, the Governor of Alabama has addressed the need for sophisticated study and data-driven analysis of criminal justice issues that not only plague the nation, but also the state. As she explained in July 2019, “The challenges we face are multifaceted, and in turn, a multifaceted solution driven by data is necessary.” More recently (in December 2022), the Governor emphasized the need to do far more to combat violent crime and better support those who are victimized.

The state of Alabama would benefit from having an internal pool of highly educated and well-trained experts with a Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice. These individuals could serve as the next generation of post-

secondary educators, intelligence analysts, digital forensics analysts, social scientists, and more—all of which can strengthen Alabama’s intellectual capital, crime-control efforts, law enforcement agencies, and corporations.

Unfortunately, there is not a single doctoral program related to criminology or criminal justice in the State of Alabama, so students who wish to earn a Ph.D. in this field must go elsewhere.

As the flagship, The University of Alabama is well positioned to fill this need. The University of Alabama is nationally ranked among “R1 - Doctoral Universities – Very high research activity” but does not have a doctoral program in criminology or criminal justice befitting that status. Fortunately, its Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice has one of the largest undergraduate programs at The University of Alabama and a strong Master’s program.

The proposed doctoral program in criminology and criminal justice would give excellent students with Bachelor’s degrees a chance to jump right into the Ph.D. program (and earn their Master’s en route), and excellent students with Master’s degrees a chance to build on their knowledge and earn a terminal degree. By earning a Ph.D., Alabama students will better serve the state, will make themselves more competitive for top jobs, and can increase their earning potential by more than \$10,000 per year according to the United States GS-11 pay scale.

The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice already has a young cadre of strong faculty members with nationally and internationally recognized research accomplishments. Adding Ph.D. students as research assistants would further increase the department’s research productivity. According to Academic Analytics data, 85% of top-20 criminology programs in the United States have a Ph.D. program, and 76% of programs ranked above UA’s program (which is currently #38) offer a doctorate. To improve its national competitiveness, The University of Alabama’s Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice needs to add a Ph.D. program.

## **5. Steps taken to determine if other UA System institutions might be interested in collaborating in the program.**

There is no current plan to collaborate with other UA System institutions. We are open to conversations on future prospects that would benefit both institutions.

**6. Summary of other campus comments, internal to the UA System or external (if any), regarding your plans for developing this program. Please include substantive feedback from the pre-proposal process.**

Regarding its proposal to create a Ph.D. program, the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at The University of Alabama received letters of supports from Auburn University, the University of North Alabama, Jacksonville State University, the University of California Irvine, Indiana University, and John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York.

**7. Describe the process that will be used by your institution for routine internal and/or external program review.**

All departments at The University of Alabama undergo academic program review (APR) approximately every eight years. The APR process includes a departmental self-study, an on-site visit by a review team with internal and external members, and a department-created strategic action plan informed by the review team's recommendations.

**8. Describe the process that will be used in assessing program outcomes (to include student learning outcomes).**

All academic programs are required to submit annual assessment reports that includes student learning outcomes, measures to collect data, analysis of data, and plans for the use of data for continuous improvement.

Students completing the Criminology and Criminal Justice (Ph.D.) program will be able to:

1. Theories and Previous Knowledge: Students will formulate original research questions and hypotheses that are commensurate with the level of a Ph.D. researcher and are directly informed by their knowledge of criminological theories and previous academic scholarship.
2. Research Methods: Students will create original research designs commensurate with the level of a Ph.D. researcher and employ quantitative and/or qualitative methods for hypothesis testing and/or inductive analyses.
3. Specialization: Students will develop expertise in a specialized area for which they have a comprehensive understanding of the leading scholars, most significant work, and unanswered questions.

**Other pertinent information, if any.**

The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice's most recent Academic Program Review (in 2015) received an External Consultant Report from Dr. Thomas Blomberg, Dean of the College of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Florida State University.

The Report's Recommendations included that for this department, The University of Alabama should "Implement a Ph.D. program over a 5 year span."

The External Consultant further summarized that, "The program is comparable to a number of the better criminal justice programs across the country that do not include a Ph.D. program... It is my professional judgement that UA could successfully build a nationally recognized Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice within 10 years. Clearly, the state of Alabama would benefit from having such a program of research distinction at its flagship University, as would its undergraduate and graduate students."