

Criminal Sentencing and Sentencing Advocacy (Graduate Certificate)

PPCSAGRCT

Social media and nightly news are filled with events that influence the justice system. Develop the skills you'll need to serve confidently as a practitioner and advocate with advanced expertise.

Program description

Degree awarded: Certificate Criminal Sentencing and Sentencing Advocacy (Certificate)

The certificate program in criminal sentencing and sentencing advocacy assumes that for any professional to function effectively, they must have a fundamental knowledge of the respective roles that sentencing professionals play during various phases of the criminal justice process.

In keeping with this viewpoint, all students are required to take courses for practice as both a presentence investigator and a sentencing advocate. Those courses are seminars in courts and sentencing, in presentence investigations and in alternatives to penal sanctions. After taking these required courses, students select an area of specialization to further their expertise as a probation professional, mitigation specialist or victim advocate. They take these courses from a range of electives available in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice and in the School of Social Work.

This interprofessional certificate program also provides participants with content on the relationship between mental disorder and crime, and the way in which differential sentencing frameworks affect the sentencing of offenders suffering from mental disorders.

This program is highly recommended for social workers who desire to practice as mitigation specialists and for criminal justice professionals responsible for making recommendations about the appropriateness of sentencing alternatives for persons with known mental disorders.

At a glance

- **College/School:** [Watts College of Public Service & Community Solut](#)
- **Location:** [Online](#)

Degree requirements

15 credit hours

Required Core (9 credit hours)

CRJ 513 Seminar in Courts and Sentencing (3)

SWG 528 Presentence Investigations (3)

SWG 529 Alternatives Penal Sanctions (3)

Electives (6 credit hours)

Additional Curriculum Information

For electives, students should see the academic unit for the approved course list.

Admission requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in social work, criminology, criminal justice or a related field, or if they are currently enrolled in the master of criminal justice program.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English must provide [proof of English proficiency](#) regardless of their current residency.

This program does not require admission examinations.

Tuition information

When it comes to paying for higher education, everyone's situation is different. Students can learn about [ASU tuition and financial aid](#) options to find out which will work best for them.

Attend online

ASU Online

ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may [view the program's ASU Online page](#) for program descriptions and to request more information.

Program learning outcomes

Program learning outcomes identify what a student will learn or be able to do upon completion of their program. This program has the following program outcomes:

- Apply professional evidence-based interventions when working with offenders in the criminal justice system.
- Demonstrate ability to write a Presentence Report from information provided, including police reports, victim statements and interested parties.

Career opportunities

Social workers, criminal justice professionals and recent graduates of psychology and other social and behavioral sciences programs perform a number of roles in the disposition and sentencing of public offenders. They also provide support for victims of crime during the criminal justice process.

Career examples include:

- mitigation specialist
- presentence investigator
- probation professional
- sentencing advocate
- victim advocate

Contact information

[School of Social Work](#) | UCENT 800
sswgradcerts@asu.edu | 602-496-0800