“Established in 2009, the Ph.D. program in the School of Criminal Justice has a large number of excellent students, both full time and part time. The Ph.D. program enjoys the full support of the university and the College of Applied Arts, of which it is a part. While other Ph.D. programs in criminal justice have been retrenching, we have been thriving and we will continue to thrive.”

— Dr. Christine Sellers, Director

The School of Criminal Justice at Texas State University offers a doctoral program designed for criminal justice professionals who seek advanced education as well as students who will pursue academic appointments at colleges and universities in Texas and around the nation.

Texas State’s location makes it an ideal site for a doctoral program in criminal justice. Situated in the heart of Central Texas, the university is near the state criminal justice agencies for law enforcement, criminal courts and corrections, along with the managers and executives in these agencies.

The doctoral program is part of a vibrant department with approximately 1,200 bachelor’s students and 100 master’s students. Twenty full-time faculty members are involved in a wide range of research. A list of faculty and their research interests is available on our website. The School of Criminal Justice also administers a number of institutes and centers, including the Center for Geospatial Intelligence and Investigation.
Course Work
Doctoral students complete a minimum of 53 hours including:
• 24 hours of core and research courses
• 17 hours of additional course work
• 12 hours of dissertation research

Each student develops an appropriate degree plan to meet that individual’s career and academic goals. The degree plan will include a mix of theoretical, analytical and elective courses that will prepare students to work independently and in multidisciplinary teams.

Most courses are offered in the evenings or on weekends for the convenience of working professionals. Students are classified as either full time (nine hours per semester) or part time. All students will be given the opportunity to initiate, complete, present and publish original research.

Admission Policy
Admission to the doctoral program requires completion of a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited university and a master’s degree in criminal justice or a related field from a regionally accredited university. Applicants must have a 3.5 GPA or higher for completed courses that are applied toward the master’s degree. Applicants must have taken the Graduate Record Exam (GRE).

Each applicant should submit the following to the Graduate College:
• the online Graduate College application through ApplyTexas
• application fee
• one official transcript from each senior-level, post-secondary institution attended
• official Graduate Record Exam (GRE). See www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/cjp.html for details about GRE requirements.

• three letters of recommendation indicating your skills and capacity to be successful in the doctoral program
• statement of purpose outlining personal history and life goals that are relevant to obtaining a doctoral degree

Visit www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply for access to an online application, where to submit application documents and additional details. Students are admitted for the fall semester with a March 15 deadline and the spring semester with an October 15 deadline.

Career Options
Most Ph.D. graduates from the School of Criminal Justice at Texas State will become professors in colleges and universities or researchers in local state or federal agencies. People already in the criminal justice field, such as police officers, should experience job advancement.

Financial Assistance
Full-time doctoral students may receive either an instructional or a research assistantship. All doctoral assistants qualify for resident tuition fees. Contact the doctoral coordinator in the School of Criminal Justice for more information about applying for doctoral assistantships.

For more information about scholarships, financial aid and application deadlines, visit the Graduate College website at www.gradcollege.txstate.edu and click on Financing Your Graduate Education. Please note that program admission priority deadlines must be met in order to be considered for scholarships, fellowships and assistantships.

Contact
Doctoral Coordinator
School of Criminal Justice
Texas State University
601 University Drive
San Marcos, TX 78666-4684
Phone: 512.245.5410
Fax: 512.245.4525
E-mail: ms75@txstate.edu