

Non-Thesis Track M.A. Comprehensive Exam Spring Semester 2023

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 Spring 2023 exam is being distributed on Monday, January 23, 2023 at 9:00am by Dr. Metcalfe through a password-protected electronic copy. You will confirm receipt of the exam through email between 9:00am and 12:00pm, and upon confirmation, receive a password to open the exam. An electronic copy (pdf format) of your completed examination must be submitted to Dr. Metcalfe between 9:00am and 12:00pm on Friday, March 24, 2023. Late examinations will not be accepted and will result in a failing score. Please note that once you receive the password to open the comprehensive examination document, 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 **formatted using APA** (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 (XXXX)** 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.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/using_research/avoiding_plagiarism/is_it_plagiarism.html or <http://plagiarism.org/>.
- ✓ You provided a signed honor pledge indicating that you neither gave nor received assistance with the comprehensive examination. Please email the signed honor pledge as a separate attachment.

- ✓ You used a well-developed list of academic sources (i.e., no Wikipedia and 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 three-member committee of graduate faculty will grade all examination questions. To pass the exam, at least 2 of the 3 grading faculty members must give your exam a passing score (a grade of “pass” or “high pass”). To earn a “high pass”, all grading faculty members 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. A notable percentage of incarcerated women are also mothers. The current paper will focus on incarcerated mothers and how their presence influences the corrections system. Specifically, write a policy paper that addresses the following: (1) Discuss incarcerated mothers and important aspects of this population, and (2) Identify and explain how incarcerated mothers do (or should) impact prison facilities and community reentry (e.g., programming, policies, services, staff /management, etc.).
2. Gun violence has been considered an epidemic in the United States. Present the multi-dimensional argument of why gun violence could be defined as an epidemic. Consider how firearm violence is nested within a broader literature on violence. Who are the victims and offenders of gun violence? What are criminological theories used to explain gun violence and what are some leading criminal justice policies used to address gun violence? How does research on criminology and public health intersect on this issue?
3. Recidivism is a key issue in our field of criminology and criminal justice. Write a policy paper that addresses the following aspects of recidivism: (1) Identify the various ways that recidivism is measured in the research literature, (2) Discuss the scope of the problem of recidivism rates over the last several decades, and finally, (3) Review the literature on what might explain recidivism leading to state or national policy implications.

XXXX



Your 4-digit ID
always goes
here, as
shown

[Example of Cover Sheet]

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Spring 2023

“Topic”

Student Name

Executive Summary