

General syllabus for third-cycle programmes in criminology, 120 and 240 credits.

The general syllabus for third-cycle programmes in criminology was adopted by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Stockholm University on 31 May 2007. Latest revision: 17 December 2013.

The syllabus has since been revised. The updated version has of yet not been translated, but is available in Swedish. However, the revised version is in large essence similar.

General provisions regarding third-cycle programmes can be found in Chapters 6 and 7 of the Higher Education Ordinance (HF).

1. Subject description

Criminology is an interdisciplinary field in which various aspects of crime and punishment are studied. Through criminological research, we can gain diverse knowledge of crime and other related social phenomena.

Criminology analyses the structure, extent, and variations of crime through time and space and between populations, as well as explanations of criminal and lawful behaviour at the individual, group, and community levels. Crime policy is another important research area, which includes processes that lead to criminalisation or decriminalisation and other responses to crime, such as crime prevention, police operations, and treatment. The justice system, including the police, prosecution authorities, courts, and correction facilities, are, of course, important in criminology. Other institutions and organisations involved in issues related to crime prevention, legal certainty, and personal integrity are also relevant. A relatively new area within criminology is victimology (the study of crime victims), which deals with victimisation processes, causes of victimisation, and measures to prevent victimisation.

2. Programme objectives

For a Degree of Doctor in criminology, doctoral students must:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate broad knowledge of criminology and a systematic understanding of the research field, as well as advanced and up-to-date specialist knowledge in a limited area of this field;

- demonstrate familiarity with research methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular.

Skills and abilities

- demonstrate an ability to engage in scholarly analysis and synthesis, as well as in independent, critical review and assessment of new and complex phenomena, issues, and situations;
- demonstrate an ability to critically, independently, creatively, and with scholarly precision identify and formulate issues, and to plan and, using appropriate methods, conduct research and other qualified tasks within specified time limits, and to review and evaluate such work;
- demonstrate, in a thesis, the ability to make a significant contribution to the development of knowledge through their own research;
- demonstrate an ability, in both national and international contexts, orally and in writing, to present and discuss research and research findings authoritatively in dialogue with the scholarly community and society in general;
- demonstrate an ability to identify needs for further knowledge;
- demonstrate the potential to contribute to social development and support the learning of others, both in the fields of research and education and in other qualified professional contexts.

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate intellectual independence and scholarly integrity, as well as an ability to make assessments of research ethics;
- demonstrate specialised insight into the potential and limitations of research, its role in society, and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used.

For a Degree of Licentiate, doctoral students must:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the field of research, including current specialist knowledge in a limited area of this field, as well as specialised knowledge of research methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular.

Skills and abilities

- demonstrate an ability to critically, independently, creatively, and with scholarly precision identify and formulate issues, and to plan and, using appropriate methods, complete a limited research project and other qualified tasks within specified time limits, so as to contribute to the development of knowledge and to evaluate this work;
- demonstrate an ability, in both national and international contexts, orally and in writing, to present and discuss research and research findings in dialogue with the scholarly community and society in general;
- demonstrate the skill required to participate independently in research and development work and to work independently in other qualified contexts.

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate an ability to make assessments of ethical aspects of their own research;
- demonstrate insight into the potential and limitations of criminology, as well as its role in society;
- demonstrate an ability to identify their own needs for further knowledge and to take responsibility for their own learning.

3. Prerequisites and entry requirements

Admission to third-cycle programmes requires that the applicant meet the general entry requirements as well as the specific entry requirements, in addition to being otherwise capable of completing the training (see HF 7:35).

3.1. General entry requirements

A person meets the general entry requirements for third-cycle courses and study programmes if he or she has:

1. been awarded a second-cycle qualification;
2. satisfied the requirements for courses comprising at least 240 credits, of which at least 60 credits were awarded in the second-cycle; or
3. acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in another way in Sweden or elsewhere.

Anyone who has met the general entry requirements for third-cycle courses and study programmes by 1 July 2007 will subsequently be considered to have general eligibility; however, no longer than until the end of June 2015.

In accordance with HF 7:39, the department board may grant an exemption from the general entry requirements for an individual applicant under special circumstances.

3.2. Specific entry requirements

A person meets the specific entry requirements for third-cycle courses and programmes in criminology if he or she has:

1. satisfied the requirements for at least 60 credits from the second cycle in criminology or another relevant subject, of which at least 15 credits comprise a thesis or equivalent *degree project*, or
2. acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in another way in Sweden or elsewhere,
3. sufficient knowledge of Swedish and/or English in order to be able to benefit from the training.

4. Admission

Vacancies for third-cycle programmes in criminology are advertised once a year. The deadline for applications is 31 March. The number of doctoral students admitted is dependent on available resources. Where appropriate, externally funded positions may be appointed through a special announcement in the autumn, where the deadline for applications is 31 October. Information on this will be available on the department's website. Applications should be submitted using a special form that can be downloaded from www.su.se

Detailed instructions regarding what documents the applicants need to provide will be published on the department's website in connection with the announcement.

Funding for the entire training period (equivalent to four years of full-time studies) should be secured prior to admission. The funding will be documented in a financial plan that is to be adopted by the department board in consultation with the applicant and the supervisors. An admissions committee appointed by the department board is responsible for admissions.

5. Selection

The following selection criteria will be used in the assessment of applicants:

- independence in the analysis and planning of previous degree projects;

- problem definition and cogency, both in previous projects and in the research plan;
- scholarly maturity;
- previously demonstrated ability to complete tasks within specified time limits;
- subject-specific knowledge of relevance to criminology.

6. Programme content and structure

6.1. Programme structure

The third-cycle programme in criminology will lead to a Degree of Licentiate or a Degree of Doctor.

The licentiate degree comprises 120 credits, of which 45 credits must constitute third-cycle courses and 75 credits must constitute a research project. The licentiate degree must include at least 7.5 credits from theory courses and 7.5 credits from method courses. A licentiate degree may be upgraded to a doctoral degree by obtaining additional course credits and expanding the licentiate thesis into a doctoral thesis.

The doctoral degree comprises 240 credits, of which 75 credits must constitute third-cycle courses and 165 credits must constitute a doctoral thesis. The doctoral degree must include at least 15 credits from theory courses and 15 credits from method courses.

The thesis project is the most important component of the third-cycle programme. The thesis should be based on an individual research project in the field of criminology.

The third-cycle programme includes participation in the research seminars held at the department. The doctoral student is expected to participate actively in as many seminars as possible. Within one year, the doctoral student should present a draft (PM) at a seminar. The draft should include a description of the methods, data, and theory used in the thesis. About six months prior to the planned public defence seminar, the doctoral student should hold a final seminar. The course component of the training should be completed before the public defence. The research committee, on delegation from the department board, will determine whether the department is in favour of scheduling a public defence seminar.

6.2. Supervision and study and career guidance

Each doctoral student should be assigned at least two supervisors, at least one of which should have received training in supervision or be considered by the faculty board to have corresponding qualifications. Whenever possible, at least one supervisor should also have experience of supervising a doctoral student up until his or her defence. One of the principal supervisors should be employed at the doctoral student's department. All supervisors should

hold a doctoral degree, and at least one of them should hold the rank of associate professor or higher. The supervisors should be assigned at the beginning of the training.

The doctoral student is entitled to supervision during the time considered necessary to complete the training comprising 240 credits for a doctoral degree and 120 credits for a licentiate degree.

The director of studies for third-cycle programmes is responsible for informing new doctoral students of the terms and conditions of the research training in the first semester.

Doctoral students should be provided with study and career guidance throughout their training. The responsibility for this lies with the supervisors.

6.3 Individual study plan

At the beginning of the training, the doctoral student and the supervisors will draw up an individual study plan that covers the entire training period (please refer to the faculty website for a template: www.samfak.su.se). The study plan should include a timetable for the training, a description of the obligations of the doctoral student and the department, and anything else required for the studies to be pursued in an effective manner. The study plan should be accompanied by a financial plan that specifies how the training will be funded each year until graduation. The study plan will be adopted after consultation with the doctoral student and his or her supervisors. The individual study plan should be signed by the doctoral student, the supervisors, and the chair of the department board.

The doctoral student is expected to keep in regular contact with the supervisors throughout the training, and vice versa. The individual study plan should be reviewed and updated at least once a year. It is the supervisors' responsibility to ensure that these meetings take place. Both the doctoral student and the supervisors are entitled to propose changes to the study plan. The head of department should be informed in case of major changes. At least once a year, the supervisors should inform the department board of how the training progresses. The doctoral student is entitled to receive a written assessment of his or her performance from the supervisor once a year.

More detailed instructions concerning the individual study plan are provided in Chapter 6 of the Higher Education Ordinance and in the guidelines issued by the Faculty of Social Sciences at Stockholm University.

7. Courses and credits

The course component comprises 45 credits in a licentiate degree and 75 credits in a doctoral degree. The doctoral degree must include at least 15 credits from theory courses and 15 credits from method courses. If one or more of these mandatory courses have already been

completed when the student is admitted to the third-cycle programme, they will be replaced by non-mandatory courses of equal extent.

In both the licentiate and the doctoral degree, a maximum of 15 credits may consist of a literature course. The literature course should not consist of literature in direct connection to the thesis, but aim to add versatility to the criminology training. Other academic work, such as reports and articles that are not part of the thesis, may also count as a literature course. The literature course will be established in consultation with the supervisors.

A course in teaching and learning in higher education worth a maximum of 5 credits may be included in the training.

Courses provided by another department or university may, upon the supervisors' approval, also be included in the degree. Courses will be selected in consultation with the supervisors. Individual examinations, both oral and written, will be organised in connection with each course. Courses will be examined using the grades Pass or Fail.

Students who have previously completed courses in the second cycle may transfer these credits to the third-cycle programme, provided that the courses are not part of the entry requirements. Credit transfer will take place at the doctoral student's initiative. The department's research committee will perform an individual review to determine whether the course credits can be transferred. The courses must be relevant to the doctoral student's training. The doctoral student may transfer up to 60 credits. Half of the transferred credits will be deducted from funding and supervision. This means that funding and supervision in the third-cycle programme may be shortened by up to six months, the equivalent of 30 credits.

8. Thesis and public defence

8.1. Thesis

Work on the doctoral thesis should correspond to 165 higher education credits. The thesis is the most important component of the training and consists of an individual project in the field of criminology. The project will be planned in consultation with the supervisors.

A doctoral thesis in criminology may be written as a monograph or as a compilation of academic papers accompanied by an introductory chapter and a conclusion ("kappa"). Requirements concerning the quality and scope of the research are the same for both types of theses. A compilation thesis should comprise a number of academic papers, each of which should be of such quality and scope that it could, according to the research committee, be accepted for publication in an academic journal with peer review. In cases where people other than the author of the thesis have contributed to one or more papers, the author's efforts must correspond to 165 credits. More detailed guidelines for what a compilation thesis should look like are available from the director of studies for third-cycle programmes. These guidelines have been approved by the department board.

The licentiate thesis corresponds to 75 higher education credits and may be written as a monograph or compilation thesis in accordance with the quality requirements listed above.

8.2. Public defence seminar

The doctoral thesis must be defended at a public defence seminar as prescribed in Chapter 6 of the Higher Education Ordinance. The thesis will be awarded a grade of Pass or Fail. The grading process will consider both the content and the defence of the thesis.

Regulations regarding the examining committee, etc., can be found in the Higher Education Ordinance and in instructions issued by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Stockholm University www.samfak.su.se. The faculty examiner and examining committee will be appointed by the faculty board, based on proposals from the relevant subject representative. The examining committee consists of three members: one member from the doctoral student's department, one member from another department and discipline within the same faculty, and one member from another faculty or university. All members must be associate professors or professors. The faculty examiner should be an associate professor or professor; however, under special circumstances, a person without qualifications as an associate professor may be appointed. The faculty examiner should have no affiliation with the doctoral student or the thesis.

8.3. Licentiate seminar

The academic thesis should, at a seminar taking place during the semester, be reviewed by a faculty examiner with at least a doctoral degree or equivalent, and who has good expertise in relevant fields and methods. The thesis should be available at the department and the university library for at least two weeks before the seminar.

The thesis will be graded by a professor or possibly an examining committee consisting of three teachers, at least one of which is a subject representative; the other members should hold at least a doctoral degree. The subject representative should not be the same person who acted as a supervisor. The faculty examiner and grading teacher or examining committee will be appointed by the department board or the head of department, based on proposals from the relevant subject representative. The thesis will be awarded a grade of Pass or Fail. The thesis grade should be reported to the faculty board.

9. Degree requirements

A doctoral degree comprises 240 credits, of which 75 credits must constitute third-cycle courses and 165 credits must constitute a doctoral thesis. The thesis project should relate to all degree objectives.

A licentiate degree comprises 120 credits, of which 45 credits must constitute third-cycle courses and 75 credits must constitute an academic thesis. The thesis project should relate to all degree objectives.

10. Additional information



Stockholms
universitet

For additional information, please refer to current legislation, guidelines at Stockholm University and the Faculty of Social Sciences, as well as local regulations. Information on current regulations is available at www.samfak.su.se.