

Teddy Wilson

AY 2016-17 All-S.T.A.R. Fellow

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Doctoral Candidate (5th year), RA



My service as both a graduate assistant and a graduate student at the University of Maryland has been integral to my professional development and directly enriched both my department and the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences as a whole. I am currently serving my second year as a member of the Dean's Graduate Student Advisory Council (DGSAC) and am completing my term as chairperson of that council. As chair of DGSAC, I have overseen and developed the Graduate Resources for the Outside World (GROW) initiative, bringing BSOS alumni panelists

back to the university to discuss issues related to transitioning from graduate school to the workforce with our graduate students. We have successfully held two of these panels to date. My primary research questions pertain to investigating decision making styles among criminal offenders and criminal justice practitioners. This body of research focuses upon the various factors that offenders consider when deciding to commit crime, as well as the weight and functional form of those factors. With regard to criminal justice practitioners, my research has sought to examine both the magnitude and combined effects of offender demographics and case characteristics in shaping court decisions and dispositional outcomes. My dissertation seeks to explore the nature of offender decision-making, and is based upon data collected as part of a National Institute of Justice grant awarded to Professor Paternoster at the University of Maryland. The totality of these experiences has broadened my character and ability as a researcher, academic, and professional. I look forward to continued opportunities to serve the University of Maryland, the College, and the department as I complete my graduate education.