

# Master of Science in Criminal Justice Studies

## Admission Requirements

In addition to the admission requirements of the School of Graduate Studies, the following requirements must be met by all applicants:

1. A bachelor's degree in criminal justice or allied field from an accredited college or university.
2. A cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 in all undergraduate coursework.
3. Submit a resume.
4. Submit a personal statement for evaluation describing academic and professional accomplishments; reasons for pursuing a graduate degree in Criminal Justice Studies; and any additional information the applicant would like the admissions committee to know.
5. Satisfy the School of Graduate Studies' English Language Proficiency requirements as published in the graduate catalog.

Outstanding applicants are evaluated on an individual basis and those with limited backgrounds in fields related to criminal justice but a distinguished record in another discipline, or a lower cumulative GPA but an otherwise strong application, may be accepted in a qualified or provisional status.

## Degree Requirements

1. Complete a minimum of 30 credit hours.
2. At least one-half of the credits must be at or above the 500-level.
3. A maximum of one-fourth of the credit hours may be transferred from another institution.
4. Maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0.

### Required Core Courses (15 credits):

Code	Title	Credits
CJ 501	Foundations in Crime and Criminal Justice	
CJ 502	Theories of Crime	
CJ 503	Research Methods in Criminal Justice	
CJ 504	Visualization and Interpretation of Criminal Justice Data	
CJ 505	Administrative Decision Making in Criminal Justice	

### Thesis or Non-Thesis Option (15 credits):

#### Thesis

Students successfully prepare and defend a Thesis (CJ 998 Thesis; 6 credits) and take 9 credits of electives.

#### Non-Thesis

Students successfully complete a Scholarly Project (CJ 995 Scholarly Project; 3 credits) and take 12 credits of electives.

Thesis students choose 9 credits from the following electives. Non-thesis students choose 12 credits from the following electives. CJ 540 and CJ 545 are repeatable to 9 credits when the course is differently subtitled. For example, topics related to policy will vary (e.g., with semesters focusing on Policing, Corrections, etc.).

Code	Title	Credits
CJ 507	Program Evaluation in Criminal Justice	
CJ 540	Seminar in Criminal Justice Policy	
CJ 545	Seminar in Rural Justice Issues	

CJ 555	Seminar in Tribal Justice Systems
CJ 565	Victimology

Students can substitute other graduate-level courses or 400-level courses approved for graduate credit if prerequisites are met or with permission from the instructor. Electives may include courses in other departments/programs, such as Psychology, Education Foundations and Research, Counseling, and Political Science and Public Administration, among others. They must be courses appropriate for the student's interests and program of study, chosen in consultation with the student's Advisory Committee/Graduate Director.