

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE (MS)



## Master of Science in Criminal Justice

Unit: College of Arts and Sciences (<http://louisville.edu/artsandsciences/>) (GA)

Department: Criminal Justice (<https://louisville.edu/justice/>)  
Program Webpage (<https://louisville.edu/justice/graduate-degree-programs/master-of-science-in-criminal-justice/>)

Academic Plan Code(s): JA\_ \_MS, JA\_ \_MS\_O, JA\_ \_MS\_ACC

## Program Information

The goals of the Department of Criminal Justice are for students to achieve a specialized understanding of the criminal justice system, criminal behavior, legal processes and the relationship of these phenomena to society. Graduate studies in the Department of Criminal Justice provide students with advanced social and behavioral science skills as well as a detailed and thorough understanding of crime, criminal justice and related processes. Graduates of this program are prepared to continue advanced studies in criminal justice or other social sciences and to assume mid and upper-level leadership positions within criminal justice programs and agencies.

The interdisciplinary nature of the program maintains the dynamic posture that allowed this crime-related discipline to emerge and to mature quickly and successfully. Graduate students are given latitude in choosing elective courses in the Master of Science in Criminal Justice. Elective courses related to the student's program of study are selected from the resources of the entire University. Courses in social work, public administration, law, business, and the various departments of the College of Arts and Sciences are possible electives that the student may consider. Electives outside the department must have the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies. With proper selection, the electives can complement the core criminal justice courses and produce a balanced, interdisciplinary program which is tailored to meet specific professional and career goals.

The combination of the degree programs and the Southern Police Institute makes the program in Criminal Justice a unique blend of theory and practice. The Southern Police Institute is one of the oldest, most respected police management and administration educational programs in the United States.

Our programs are offered in two formats:

- Evening courses on campus, and
- Online.

## General Requirements

The general requirements for the Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice are the completion of at least 36 graduate credit hours. The completion of these credit hours may include either thesis or non-thesis option. The thesis option requires the completion of 30 credit hours of graduate level courses and a thesis for a total of 36 credit hours. The non-thesis, professional paper option, requires the completion of 33 credit hours of graduate courses plus a professional paper for a total of 36 credit hours. A cumulative 3.0 grade point average must be maintained for all graduate coursework, grades of D must be repeated.

Students are advised to complete the Criminal Justice core courses prior to electives. Core or specific courses required for graduation total 15 credit hours with the remaining courses being electives. The composition of the list of elective courses will vary from student to student depending on the student's undergraduate major, aspirations and background. Electives outside of our department must have approval from the Director of Graduate Studies.

The degree is offered in two formats, our traditional on-campus classes and also online. Students interested in either format should see the department website (<http://louisville.edu/justice/>) for more information. Students may choose either format or a combination of both methods of delivery.

## Accelerated BS/MS in Criminal Justice

The Accelerated BS/MS degree program in Criminal Justice is designed to allow an undergraduate student to earn graduate hours in Criminal Justice during their Senior year. Students will be allowed to earn up to nine (9) credit hours that can be applied to both their undergraduate degree (BS) and their graduate degree (MS) in Criminal Justice.

Students admitted to the Accelerated Master of Science in Criminal Justice degree may enroll in a combination of the following core courses:

- CJ 621 The Criminal Justice System
- CJ 625 Legal Aspects in Criminal Justice Management
- CJ 643 Theories of Crime and Delinquency
- CJ 649 Applied Statistics in Criminal Justice
- CJ 650 Research Methods

Students in the Accelerated BS/MS program in Criminal Justice may only apply their graduate credits earned as an undergraduate at the University of Louisville toward our Master of Science in Criminal Justice degree program.

Students must apply for admission to the program no later than the end of their junior year to be eligible enroll in graduate coursework in their final year of the program. Applicants must have at least a 3.0 GPA at the time of application.

## Admission Requirements

Anyone seeking admission to the Master of Science in Criminal Justice degree program must submit an application to the Graduate School that includes the following:

- Transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work completed. The minimum requirement for admission is the Baccalaureate degree or its equivalent.
- Two letters of recommendation from individuals who can speak to the applicant's academic or professional capabilities.

- An original essay identifying the applicant's background, professional interests and goals. The essay should be 300-500 words and should allow the faculty to better understand the applicant's motivation and the potential for graduate work.
- Completed graduate application (<http://louisville.edu/graduate/futurestudents/apply-materials/application/>) to the Graduate School.
- Those applicants whose native language is not English and who do not hold a degree from a university where the language of instruction is English must also submit scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), with a minimum score of 80 on the Internet-based test (iBT) or 213 paper based test (PBT) or 550 (old test), IELTS score of 6.5 overall band score from the academic module exam or official Duolingo score of 105.

The Department of Criminal Justice is committed to providing an opportunity to a diverse range of students. The Department of Criminal Justice has adopted the Council of Graduate Schools recommendation for a holistic approach to our admission criteria. Successful applicants will typically have a strong undergraduate record, and excellent letters of recommendation that speak to the nominee's scholarly ability and potential to succeed in a doctoral program. However, candidates may have other documented strengths that speak to the potential for success as evidenced by: prior research experience; exceptional community engagement or service; leadership experience; evidence of creativity or resilience; standardized test scores (GRE); or unique experiences or background that will contribute to our program.

The holistic review of applications allows our faculty to select the best students who fit the research areas offered within the department. Application information that highly influences the decision to offer admission includes the previous institution attended, research interests, grade point average, letters of recommendation, personal statements and resumes, and the experience, background or qualities that make the applicant eligible for admission.

## Degree Requirements

A cumulative 3.0 grade point average must be maintained for all graduate coursework. Students may have no more than six (6) credit hours of grades of C and any grade of D must be repeated.

Students are advised to complete the Criminal Justice core courses prior to electives. Core or specific courses required for graduation total 15 credit hours with the remaining courses being electives or research.

### Thesis Option

Code	Title	Hours
CJ 621	The Criminal Justice System	3
CJ 625	Legal Aspects of Criminal Justice Management	3
CJ 643	Theories of Crime and Delinquency	3
CJ 649	Applied Statistics in Criminal Justice	3
CJ 650	Research Methods	3
Criminal Justice Electives - see list below		15
CJ 699	Thesis	6
<b>Minimum Total Hours</b>		<b>36</b>

### Professional Paper Option

Code	Title	Hours
CJ 621	The Criminal Justice System	3
CJ 625	Legal Aspects of Criminal Justice Management	3
CJ 643	Theories of Crime and Delinquency	3
CJ 649	Applied Statistics in Criminal Justice	3
CJ 650	Research Methods	3
Criminal Justice Electives - see list below		18
CJ 698	Professional Paper	3
<b>Minimum Total Hours</b>		<b>36</b>

### List of Approved Criminal Justice Electives - A minimum of three (3) credit hours must be 600+ level

Code	Title	Hours
CJ 500	Crime and Criminal Justice in the Cinema	3
CJ 505	International Terrorism	3
CJ 507	Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design	3
CJ 509	Crime Analysis	3
CJ 510	Managing Conflict, Change and Justice	3
CJ 516	Juvenile Justice Issues	3
CJ 517	Gangs in America	3
CJ 519	Domestic and Family Violence	3
CJ 520	Capital Punishment - WR	3
CJ 521	White Collar Crime - WR	3
CJ 522	Serial & Mass Murder	3
CJ 523	Race and Gender Issues in Criminal Justice - WR	3
CJ 530	Intro to Homeland Security	3
CJ 531	Covert Operations in Policing	3
CJ 576	Managing Organizational Performance	3
CJ 577	Trauma Informed Policing	3
CJ 578	Criminal Justice Leadership - WR	3
CJ 580	International Service Learning: Criminal Justice Seminar	3
CJ 596	Seminar in Criminal Justice	3
CJ 597	Ethics in Criminal Justice - WR	3
CJ 602	Criminal Justice History	3
CJ 605	Police and Society	3
CJ 606	Personnel Management in the Criminal Justice System	3
CJ 607	Seminar in Law and Justice	3
CJ 609	Economic Analysis of Crime	3
CJ 610	Theoretical Foundation of Corrections	3
CJ 611	Critical Issues in Corrections	3
CJ 612	Criminal Justice Administration: Police	3
CJ 613	Advanced Comparative Criminal Justice	3
CJ 614	Seminar in Policing	3
CJ 626	Emergency Management	3
CJ 627	Computer and Cyber Crime	3
CJ 630	Critical Infrastructure Protection and Resilience	3
CJ 644	Seminar in Juvenile Justice	3
CJ 652	Constitutional Issues in Criminal Justice	3
CJ 653	Communities and Crime	3

CJ 655	International Perspectives on Violence	3
CJ 656	Crime Mapping	3
CJ 665	Special Topics in Justice and Criminology	3
CJ 670	Directed Studies/Readings	3
CJ 690	Practicum	1-6

Electives from outside the Criminal Justice department must have the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies.