

# MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

## Admission

In addition to the general requirements for Admission to Graduate Studies (see General Regulations and Procedures), admission to the MSCJ degree program requires the submission of a letter of intent outlining the applicant's background, their reason for seeking acceptance into the program, and potential areas of research/study interest, and the following:

### Unconditional Admission

1. Hold a master's or higher degree from a regionally accredited university or a university recognized as an accrediting agency by the US Department of Education. Official transcript must reflect that degree was awarded.  
or
2. Hold a bachelor's degree and possess a minimum GPA of 2.75 on all attempted undergraduate coursework.

### Conditional Admission

Any applicant failing to meet the requirements for unconditional admission to the MSCJ program may be conditionally admitted with recommendations of the graduate faculty in the Department of Politics, Justice, Law, and Philosophy. Applicants granted conditional admittance must achieve a minimum GPA of 3.0 in the first nine hours (three courses) of completed graduate coursework. Failure to make this GPA requirement will result in the student being eliminated from the program.

## Advisement

Upon admission to the program, each student is assigned a faculty advisor who will provide continued supervision and guidance.

## Degree and Program Plans

The Master of Science in Criminal Justice Degree requires a minimum of 30 semester hours of credit, to include the following:

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Required Core</b>		
CJ 618	Crime in America	3
CJ 640	Methods of Research in Criminal Justice	3
CJ 650	Criminological Theory	3
<b>Electives</b> <sup>1</sup>		
Select from the following:		21
CJ 505	Criminal Investigation	
CJ 506	Forensic Investigation	
CJ 513	Public Organization and Bureaucratic Theory	
CJ 515	Ethics in Administrative Leadership	
CJ 530	Criminal Evidence	
CJ 534	Criminal Procedure	
CJ 550	Criminal Justice, Public Policy, and Administration	
CJ 580	Psychological Dimensions of Criminal Justice Practice	
CJ 591	Special Topics	
CJ 606	Contemporary Issues in Juvenile Justice	

CJ 610	Nature and Function of the American Judicial System
CJ 614	Management and Policy in Criminal Justice Organizations
CJ 622	Contemporary Issues in Corrections
CJ 630	Victimology
CJ 634	Advanced Criminal Procedure
CJ 645	Advanced Statistical Applications
CJ 660	Comparative Criminal Justice
CJ 690	Contemporary Issues in Law Enforcement
CJ 691	Special Topics
CJ 695	Thesis
CJ 698	Comprehensive Examination
CJ 699	Independent Study/Research

### Thesis or Non-Thesis Option - select one from the following:

<b>Thesis Option</b> <sup>2</sup>	
CJ 695	Thesis
15 hours of 500-600 level criminal justice electives	
<b>Non-Thesis Option</b> <sup>3</sup>	
CJ 698	Comprehensive Examination

**Total Hours** **30**

<sup>1</sup> A maximum of 15 hours can be taken at the 500-level. Students are not permitted to receive credit for a 500-level course if they received credit for the comparable senior-level undergraduate course. Up to six hours of electives may be taken outside the Department of Politics, Justice, Law, and Philosophy with prior approval from the Department Politics, Justice, Law, and Philosophy.

<sup>2</sup> Students choosing the Thesis Option must complete a minimum of 6 semester hours of Thesis (CJ 695), in addition to 9 semester hours of core and 15 additional semester hours of 500-600 level criminal justice electives.

<sup>3</sup> Students choosing the Non-Thesis Option must, in the last semester in which all other course requirements are expected to be completed, register for Comprehensive Examination (CJ 698) in order to take a written comprehensive examination prior to graduation in order to complete the program.