

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEGREE

<https://www.una.edu/criminaljustice/CJ-graduate-program.html>

Admission

In addition to the general requirements for Admission to Graduate Studies (see General Regulations and Procedures), admission to the MSCJ degree program also requires the following:

Unconditional Admission

1. Hold a master's or higher degree from a regionally accredited university. Official transcript must reflect that degree was awarded. No test scores are required.
or
2. Hold a bachelor's degree and possess a minimum GPA of 2.75 on all attempted undergraduate coursework;
3. Receive a minimum score of 286 [Verbal plus Quantitative] on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or a minimum score of 380 on the Miller Analogies Test (MAT);
4. Submit three letters of recommendation for entry into program; and
5. Submit a statement of purpose for entry into program.

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, and Law. 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.

Application Deadlines

Fall Semester: July 1.

Spring Semester: November 1.

Advisement

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

Degree and Program Plans

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

Code	Title	Hours
Required Core		
CJ 618	Crime in America	3
CJ 640	Methods of Research in Criminal Justice	3
CJ 650	Criminological Theory	3
Electives ¹		
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	Theory and Control of Crime
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

Select one from the following:

Thesis Option (p. 1)

Non-Thesis Option (p. 1)

Total Hours 30

- ¹ 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, and Law with prior approval from the Department of Politics, Justice, and Law.

Thesis Option¹

Code	Title	Hours
CJ 695	Thesis	6
Additional 500-600 level criminal justice electives		15
Total Hours		21

- ¹ 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.

Non-Thesis Option¹

Code	Title	Hours
CJ 698	Comprehensive Examination	0

- ¹ 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.