Criminal Justice and Criminology M.S. (Emphasis in Criminal Justice)

Degree Requirements: 36 Credit Hours

Admission Standards

Regular Admission

Admission to this program is competitive. At a minimum, for regular admission the applicant must have:

1. A Bachelor’s degree from an appropriately accredited, four-year institution in criminal justice/criminology or related field (that adequately prepares students for success in this field. This application requirement will be waived for applicants who successfully complete the Post-Baccalaureate Cyber Certificate.)
2. A 2.75 cumulative grade point average or higher on completed requirements for a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution. (This application requirement will be waived for applicants who successfully complete the Post-Baccalaureate Cyber Certificate.)
3. Minimum GRE scores of 146 on the verbal section and 145 on the quantitative section or between a 3.5-4.0 on the analytical section. (This application requirement will be waived for applicants who successfully complete the Post-Baccalaureate Cyber Certificate.)
4. Letter of Application detailing: a) academic background and/or professional credentials, b) relevant research and work experience, c) career goals and reasons for enrollment in this program.
5. Two letters of recommendation addressing the applicant’s: 1) academic work; 2) professional experience, if any; 3) ability to handle master’s level curriculum, and 4) how the applicant can be expected to contribute to the program. (This application requirement will be waived for applicants who successfully complete the Post-Baccalaureate Cyber Certificate.)

Provisional Admission

Applicants who meet two out of the three requirements outlined for GPA and GRE scores may be granted provisional admission by the graduate faculty committee based on careful review of additional materials submitted.

Reclassification

A student may be reclassified with regular admission providing that they have completed three program or related courses (9 hours), approved by their advisor, with a grade of no less than B. Additional courses may be required to be completed prior to a student's reclassification that do not contribute to these nine hours (such as taking an undergraduate statistics course to prepare for graduate statistics). No more than nine hours may be earned under the provisional admission classification. After nine hours, the student must either be reclassified as a regular admission student or be removed from the program.

Prerequisites for Admission

While an undergraduate degree in criminal justice is not a prerequisite to admission, newly admitted students must be deemed adequately prepared for graduate study in this essentially multidisciplinary area. Students who lack the necessary background may be required to complete additional undergraduate coursework. For example, students who have not successfully completed an undergraduate statistics course may be required to do so prior to enrollment in graduate statistical analysis or research methods courses.

Program of Study

The program is offered via two different tracks. The traditional track primarily is offered in a seated format, with some opportunities to take hybrid or online courses. The online track allows students to complete the degree requirements utilizing an online delivery method. Students will opt into one of three emphases, depending on the track they select.

Credit Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Requirements</th>
<th>12</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRJU 7631 Criminological Theory</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CRJU 6801 Proseminar in Ethics and Criminal Justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRJU 6811 Criminal Justice Systems: Leadership, Management, and Policy</td>
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Select a research/analysis tools course (such as):

| CRJU 7434 Quantitative Research Design | |
| CRJU 7436 Qualitative Research Design | |
| CRJU 7437 Statistics for Social Science | |

or other analytical tools course as approved by advisor and program coordinator.

Advanced Work

Select a second research/analysis tools course (approved by advisor). 3

In conjunction with their advisor and program coordinator, select the final 15 hours of advanced coursework for the emphasis:

Criminal Justice Emphasis

Two criminal justice electives, one criminology elective, and two free electives (traditional and online tracks).

Capstone Options

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Students select from three capstone options to complete their final 6 hours of the program:

**Thesis Option:**
Recommended for students who seek to do research for public and non-profit agencies or who seek further educational opportunities, such as a Ph.D. Students must pass the thesis defense.

**Practicum:**
Recommended for students who seek employment in the justice system or adjacent systems’ agencies. Students will complete an internship, approved by their advisor and the program coordinator, completing all tasks associated with the internship option. Students will complete a comprehensive paper as part of this course, and must earn a passing score on this paper.

**Free Electives:**
Recommended for students who seek additional substantive information relative to their career track. Specific courses must be approved by their advisor and the program director. Students selecting this option must earn a passing grade on a comprehensive exam.

**Total Credit Hours:** 36

The M.S. Student Handbook describes additional relevant information for the degree requirements.