

Criminal Justice

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Master of Science in Criminal Justice

Admissions Requirements

Applicants to the Master of Science in Criminal Justice program must have earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with a minimum GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in all upper division coursework. For those students not meeting the 3.0 GPA requirement, conditional admission to the program may be granted if the student has a minimum GPA of 2.8 in all upper division undergraduate coursework or a combined verbal and quantitative score of 1000 or higher on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Those conditionally admitted must complete 12 graduate credits (including CCJ 6706) within two semesters of conditional admission and achieve a minimum graduate GPA of 3.25.

Degree Credit Requirements

The Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice requires 36 credit hours (12 courses). All students entering the program are required to complete five courses (15 credits) of core requirements, four electives (12 credits) in criminal justice, and three courses (9 credits) in a public administration specialization or general electives.

Core Requirements

All candidates must take five core courses (15 credits)

CJL 5421	Legal Issues in Criminal Justice Administration	3
CCJ 6025	Theory in Administration of Justice	3
CCJ 6705	Research Methods in Criminal Justice	3
CCJ 6706	Data Analysis in Criminal Justice	3
CCJ 6485	Criminal Justice Policy Analysis	3

Criminal Justice Electives

Four courses (12 credits). All elective credits must be earned at the graduate level in criminal justice (i.e., course numbers of 5000 and higher with the prefixes CCJ, CJC, CJE, CJJ, CJL, DSC).

Doctoral studies preparation: Advanced students intending to enroll in a doctoral degree program should complete CCJ 6915 Supervised Research.

College teaching certification: Students interested in college teaching should complete the Graduate Teaching Certificate Program offered by the Academy for the Art of Teaching and CCJ 6926 Supervised Teaching.

Public Administration Specialization

Three courses (9 credits). This specialization is highly recommended for administrators or future administrators in the criminal justice system.

Select three of the following public administration courses:

PAD 6053	Political, Social and Economic Context of Public Administration	3
PAD 6227	Public Finance and the Budgetary Process	3
PAD 6605	Administrative Law and Procedures	3
PAD 6306	Policy Analysis and Program Planning	3
PAD 6434	Leadership and Decision Making	3

General Electives

Students not enrolling in the public administration specialization must select three additional elective courses (9 credits). These courses may be taken outside of criminal justice, if no credits have been transferred in from another degree program or included in a joint degree program. All courses taken from outside fields must be relevant to criminal justice and approved by the Graduate Advisor. All elective credits must be earned at the graduate level (i.e., course numbers of 5000 and higher).

Graduation Requirements

To receive the Master's degree in Criminal Justice, a student must satisfy all University regulations governing graduate study. All students must be admitted to candidacy and complete the five core courses, four electives in criminal justice, and three courses in public administration specialization or general electives. A minimum graduate GPA of 3.0 is required.

Combined BS/MS in Criminal Justice

The combined bachelor's/master's degree program is designed for superior undergraduate students who have the ability to pursue an accelerated program in criminal justice leading to the Master of Science in Criminal Justice. The main feature of the program is that up to 12 semester hours of approved graduate level criminal justice courses (i.e., course numbers of 5000 and higher) may be used as dual credit for both the undergraduate and graduate degree. All other requirements for both the bachelor's degree and the master's degree must be met.

To be considered for admission to the combined bachelor's/master's degree program, students must have completed at least 75-90 credits in the bachelor's degree program at FIU and meet the admissions criteria for the graduate degree program to which they are applying. Students need only apply once to the combined degree program, but the application must be submitted to Graduate Admissions before the student starts the last 30 credits of the bachelor's degree program. A student admitted to the combined degree program will be considered to have undergraduate status until the student applies for graduation from their bachelor's degree program. Upon conferral of the bachelor's degree, the student will be granted graduate status and be eligible for graduate assistantships. Only 5000-level or higher courses, and no more than the number of credits specified by the program catalog, may be applied toward both degrees.

1. Completion of at least 24 hours at FIU (including at least 12 semester hours of Criminal Justice) with a GPA of 3.2 or better,
2. Obtain a letter of recommendation from a faculty member at FIU or a supervisor, and
3. Demonstrate graduate level writing competency by submitting an essay three to five pages in length that addresses personal and career goals.

Admission to the program will be determined jointly by the Program Director, the Dean, or designee.

After admission into the accelerated program, students will:

1. Obtain approval by the Program Director of a proposed program of study to fulfill the requirements for both the B.S. and M.S. degrees, which may include up to 12 semester hours of approved graduate level course work as dual credit toward both degrees, and
2. Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or better in all course work, and a GPA of 3.2 or better in criminal justice course work.

Juris Doctor/Master of Science in Criminal Justice Joint Degree Program

The faculties of the College of Law and the Department of Criminal Justice at Florida International University have approved a joint degree program culminating in both a Juris Doctor degree (JD), awarded by the College of Law, and a Master of Science in Criminal Justice degree (MSCJ), awarded by the Department of Criminal Justice. Under the joint degree program, a student can obtain the degrees in significantly less time than it would take to obtain both degrees if pursued consecutively. Essential criteria relating to the joint degree program are as follows:

1. Candidates for the program must meet the entrance requirements for and be accepted by both programs. Both programs must be informed by the student at the time of application to the second program that the student intends to pursue the joint degree.
2. The joint degree program is not open to students who have already earned a JD or a MSCJ.
3. For law students, enrollment in the MSCJ program is required no later than the completion of 63 credit hours in the JD program. For MSCJ students, enrollment in the JD program is required no later than the completion of 24 credit hours in the MSCJ program.
4. A student must satisfy the curriculum requirements for each degree before either degree is awarded. The Department of Criminal Justice will allow 12 credit hours of College of Law criminal law and jurisprudence courses to be credited toward both the MSCJ and JD degrees. These 12 credit hours of law classes will be in lieu of four elective courses. Reciprocally, law students may receive 9 hours of credit toward the satisfaction of the JD degree for courses taken in the MSCJ curriculum upon completion of the MSCJ degree with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher. Subject to prior approval, law school students are normally allowed 6 credit hours from graduate level courses offered by other units of the University as counting toward the JD degree.

5. A full-time law student enrolled in the joint degree program may spend the first year in either the College of Law or the Department of Criminal Justice. A part-time law student enrolled in the joint degree program may begin the student's studies in either program, but must take the first three semesters of law study consecutively. Students admitted to one program may enter the second program thereafter without once again qualifying for admission so long as they have notified the second program before the end of the first week of the first semester in the second program and are in good academic standing when studies commence in the second program.
6. A student enrolled in the joint degree program will not receive either degree until the student has satisfied all of the requirements for both degrees, or until the student has satisfied the requirements of one of the degrees as if the student had not been a joint degree candidate.
7. Students in the joint degree program will be eligible for the graduate teaching assistantships and research assistantships in the Department of Criminal Justice on the same basis as other MSCJ students, subject to the guidelines and restrictions set by the Department of Criminal Justice.

Master of Science in Criminal Justice/Master of Public Administration Joint Degree Program

The Department of Criminal Justice and the Department of Public Administration have a joint degree program culminating in both a Master of Science in Criminal Justice (MSCJ) and a Master of Public Administration (MPA). The joint degree program prepares graduate students for overlapping careers in criminal justice and public management. It is intended to prepare students for positions in public, private, and nonprofit organizations that require both criminal justice and management knowledge. Under the joint degree program, a student can obtain both degrees in significantly less time than it would take to obtain both degrees if pursued consecutively. Important criteria relating to the joint degree program are as follows:

1. Candidates to the joint degree program must meet the entrance requirements established by each individual program. Candidates must indicate in the application their intention to pursue the joint degree option. Students deciding to pursue the joint degree option after having been admitted to one program will indicate this intention only on their second application.
2. Applicants for a joint degree will not be accepted from candidates who have already completed either degree. MSCJ or MPA students must apply and be admitted by no later than the second to last semester in which they are expected to complete their original degree requirements.
3. Joint degree candidates will not receive either degree until all requirements for both programs have been satisfied. Students deciding against completing a second degree must satisfy all first degree program requirements as if the student had never been a joint degree candidate.
4. The joint degree required a total of 60 credit hours (20 courses). Candidates are required to complete the 14

core courses (42 credits) included in the MSCJ and MPA programs, four criminal justice electives (12 credits), and two general electives (6 credits). Advanced students intending to enroll in a doctoral degree program are strongly encouraged to complete CCJ 6915 Supervised Research. General electives taken from outside fields must be relevant to criminal justice or public administration and approved by the Graduate Advisor.

Course Descriptions

Definition of Prefixes

CCJ-Criminology and Criminal Justice; CJC-Corrections; CJE-Law Enforcement; CJJ-Juveniles; CJL-Law and Process; DSC-Domestic Security; PAD-Public Administration

CCJ 5040 Comparative Crime and Criminal Justice Systems (3). This course provides a cross-national survey of crime and criminal justice. Emphasis will be on crime rates, forms of criminality, police, courts, and corrections.

CCJ 5056 History of the American Criminal Justice System (3). Focuses on the history and evolution of the American criminal justice system.

CCJ 5479 Seminar in Administration of Justice (3). This course provides students with a critical understanding of the responses to crime. Emphasis is placed on theory and research relating to the effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

CCJ 5489 Ethics in Criminal Justice (3). This course is designed to introduce students to ethical decision-making in the criminal justice system.

CCJ 5525 Seminar in Juvenile Delinquency (3). This course focuses on the nature, scope, and causes of delinquency and considers problems of assessment and measurement of delinquency.

CCJ 5669 Minorities in Justice Administration (3). This course focuses on current research and theories of racial, ethnic, and gender discrimination within America's criminal justice system.

CCJ 5935 Special Topics (3). An intensive analysis of a particular topic in criminal justice. May be repeated for different topics.

CCJ 6025 Theory in Administration of Justice (3). The study of theoretical and research issues related to the nature and causes of crime and the administration of justice.

CCJ 6362 Death Penalty (3). This course examines legal, empirical, and policy issues related to the death penalty in the United States.

CCJ 6485 Criminal Justice Policy Analysis (3). An overview of the formation, implementation, quantitative and qualitative evaluation, and ethical aspects of policy making in the criminal justice system. Prerequisite: Must be taken the final semester in the program.

CCJ 6620 Immigration and Crime (3). This course explores the relationship between immigration and crime and the nature and extent of crime in immigrant communities.

CCJ 6665 Victimology and the Criminal Justice System (3). An examination of the relationship between victims and offenders and the manner in which the criminal justice system responds to victims of crime.

CCJ 6676 Transnational Crime and National Security (3). Examination of the nature of transnational crime and the manner in which it relates to national security.

CCJ 6705 Research Methods in Criminal Justice (3). An intensive introduction to the methods used in criminal justice research.

CCJ 6706 Data Analysis in Criminal Justice (3). An intensive introduction to statistical techniques used in criminal justice research.

CCJ 6915 Supervised Research (3). Graduate students engage in research in criminal justice under the direction of a faculty member. Requires permission of instructor and Chair. May be repeated for a total of six credits. Prerequisites: CCJ 5479, CJL 5421, CCJ 6025, CCJ 6705, and CCJ 6706.

CCJ 6926 Supervised Teaching (3). Students engage in undergraduate teaching in criminal justice under the direction of a faculty member. Requires permission of instructor and Chair. Corequisite: Students must be enrolled in the Graduate Teaching Certificate Program offered by the Academy for the Art of Teaching.

CJC 5320 Correctional Administration (3). The course focuses on current critical issues and problems in the administration and management of adjudicated offenders in correctional systems.

CJE 5024 Violent Crime & Criminal Behavior (3). This course deals with violent criminal behavior and the criminal justice system's reaction to violence.

CJE 5025 Police Administration (3). Analysis of the organization and administration of police departments and their effects on police behavior.

CJJ 6040 Juvenile Justice Administration and Policy Analysis (3). This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the juvenile justice system administration and the various cases and legislative initiatives that have affected juvenile justice.

CJL 5418 Law and Social Control (3). This course examines law as an instrument of social control. It explores the effectiveness of law in controlling criminal behavior and its impact on the criminal justice system.

CJL 5421 Legal Issues in Criminal Justice Administration (3). This course examines diverse and frequently debated legal topics from both legal and sociological perspectives.

CJL 5422 Advanced Seminar in Criminal Law and Procedure (3). This course presents an intensive study of case law and procedure as they relate to the administration of criminal justice.

CJL 5568 Advanced Seminar in Courts (3). Presents an analysis and evaluation of courts and the roles and interactions of decision-makers in the criminal justice system.

CJL 6558 Legal Issues in Juvenile Justice (3). This course covers landmark cases that define the legal rights

of youth within the juvenile justice process and then focuses on the legal rights of youth at school.

DSC 6020 Terrorism and Homeland Security (3). This course focuses on the domestic and international threats of terrorism and the basic security issues that surround terrorism today.

PAD 6053 Political, Social and Economic Context of Public Administration (3). Examines the context in which public organizations operate, stressing the relationship between such organizations and their multifaceted environment. Emphasis is on examining relevant social and cultural mores and patterns, political values and processes, governmental institutions, economic systems, resource availability, and other environmental factors currently significant to public organizations.

PAD 6227 Public Finance and the Budgetary Process (3). Examines the theory and practice of public budgeting and its relationship to the administrative processes of control, management and planning. Special emphasis will be given to the social balance question; the kinds and scope of government expenditures; the fiscal role of government in a mixed economy; sources of revenue available to government; administrative, political and institutional aspects of the budget and the budgetary process; and problems and trends in intergovernmental financial relations.

PAD 6306 Policy Analysis and Program Planning (3). This course presents techniques and tools for the practice of policy analysis in public, nonprofit, and health organizations, with emphasis on constructing policy analysis useful to decision makers. Prerequisites: PAD 6701 or equivalent.

PAD 6434 Leadership and Decision-making (3). Readings and case studies examine how effective leaders in the public and non-profit sectors make decisions in fluid and challenging environments.

PAD 6605 Administrative Law and Procedures (3). Emphasizes the responsibilities public administrators have under local, state, and federal laws. Explores such concepts as client responsiveness under the law; the regulatory process; state administrative law systems; the executive order process; the relationship between administrative law and the checks-and-balances system; discretionary justice; and others.