Criminal Justice

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Master of Science in Criminal Justice

Admissions Requirements
To be admitted into the Master’s degree program in Criminal Justice, a student must have earned:
1. a Bachelor’s degree in a relevant discipline from an accredited college or university,
2. a 3.0 GPA or higher during the last two years of the undergraduate program, and
3. GRE scores taken within the last five years.

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 general electives.

Core Requirements
All candidates must take five core courses (15 credits)
CCJ 6040 Comparative Crime and Criminal Justice Systems 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.

General Electives
Students 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 complete the five core courses, four electives in criminal justice, and three courses in general electives. A minimum graduate GPA of 3.0 is required.

Combined BS/MS in Criminal Justice
The combined BS/MS degree program allows qualified students to earn both degrees in a shorter amount of time than typically required for earning degrees sequentially. 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 and meet the admissions criteria for the graduate degree program. 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 12 credits may be applied toward both degrees.

Admission Requirements
1. Current enrollment in the Bachelor of Science program in criminal justice at FIU.
2. Current GPA of 3.2 or higher.
3. GRE scores taken within the last five years.

Completion Requirements
Completed Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice at FIU including up to 12 credits (4 courses) of graduate criminal justice courses completed with a "B" or higher grade.

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 requires a total of 60 credit hours (20 courses). Candidates are required to complete the 11 core courses (33 credits) included in the MSCJ and MPA programs (completing the graduate level statistics and research method classes as part of the MPA Core or the CJ Core), four criminal justice electives (12 credits), two public administration electives (6 credits) and three general electives (9 credits) which could be MSCJ, MPA, or other graduate level courses approved by the Graduate Advisor.

**Core Courses**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PAD 6053</td>
<td>Political, Social and Economic Context of Public Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAD 6306</td>
<td>Policy Analysis and Program Planning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAD 6417</td>
<td>Human Resource Policy and Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAD 6227</td>
<td>Public Finance and the Budgetary Process</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAD 6434</td>
<td>Leadership and Decision-making</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAD 6056</td>
<td>The Practice of Public Management</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCJ 6040</td>
<td>Comparative Crime and Criminal Justice Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>CCJ 6025</td>
<td>Theory in Administration of Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>CCJ 6485</td>
<td>Criminal Justice Policy Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>CCJ 6706</td>
<td>Data Analysis in Criminal Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAD 6701</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods in Public Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>CCJ 6705</td>
<td>Research Methods in Criminal Justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAD 6726</td>
<td>Applied Research Methods for Accountability in Public and Nonprofit Organizations</td>
<td>3</td>
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**Electives**

- Four criminal justice electives* | 12
- Two public administration electives | 6
- Three general electives (which could be MSCJ, MPA, or other graduate level courses approved by the student advisor) | 9

*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

**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 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 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 6040 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 6047 International Criminal Justice (3).** A study of international crimes, international criminal tribunals, and the prosecution and punishment of persons alleged to have committed international crimes.

**CCJ 6056 History of the American Criminal Justice System (3).** Focuses on the history and evolution of the American criminal justice system.

**CCJ 6079 Geospatial Crime Analysis (3).** Exploration and examination of patterns of crime through a geographical lens using the Geographic Information System (GIS) software.

**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 6489 Ethics in Criminal Justice (3).** This course is designed to introduce students to ethical decision-making in the criminal justice system.

**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 6696 Human Trafficking (3).** An investigation of the origins and current trends in the trafficking of humans for profit.

**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 applied introduction to multivariate statistical analysis in criminal justice research.

**CCJ 6741 Advanced Data Analysis in Criminal Justice (3).** An applied introduction to longitudinal analysis in criminal justice research. Prerequisite: CCJ 6706.

**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 6421, 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.

**CCJ 6935 Special Topics (3).** An intensive analysis of a particular topic in criminal justice. May be repeated for different topics.

**CCJ 7926 Dissertation Prospectus (3).** Doctoral students develop a research proposal under the direction of their major professor (pass/fail grading).

**CCJ 7960 Comprehensive Exams (3).** Doctoral students prepare for comprehensive exams under the direction of their major professor (pass/fail grading). Prerequisite: Completion of all coursework.

**CCJ 7980 Ph.D. Dissertation (3-12).** Supervised research on an original research project submitted in partial fulfillment of doctoral degree requirements (pass/fail grading). Prerequisites: Permission of major professor and doctoral candidacy.

**CJC 6320 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 6025 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 6418 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 6421 Legal Issues in Criminal Justice Administration (3). This course examines diverse and frequently debated legal topics from both legal and sociological perspectives.

CJL 6422 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 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.