

DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND SOCIOLOGY

Program of Criminology and Justice Services

The Master of Arts degree in Criminology and Justice Services is designed to create a cadre of education and policy makers in the area of Criminal Justice. The primary focus of the program is on providing a strong theoretical and methodological foundation for those individuals desiring to restructure and plan for change in the contemporary justice system. The student is expected to demonstrate knowledge of the key theories as well as critical theoretical crime and justice perspectives within the progression of the humanistic spectrum. The curriculum includes significant strategies, issues and themes on the dimensions of planned change throughout the justice system.

Program Objectives

- ❶ To prepare students for studies beyond the master degree focusing on planned change.
- ❷ To provide studies in theory, analysis of varied criminal justice systems, management and research sufficient to prepare students for career development in the field.
- ❸ To provide courses to enhance the performance and employment potential of individuals in criminal justice agencies.

Admission Requirements

Students must meet all admission, testing and graduation requirements of the Graduate School at Jackson State University. Students must submit a satisfactory score on the Graduate Record Examination, GRE, three letters of recommendation and a statement of purpose.

Students without a background in Criminal Justice, Criminology, Juvenile Justice or Administration of Justice must take competency courses before taking courses in the degree program.

Applicants will only be admitted once a year during the Fall Semester. The department requires that students have a 3.0 grade point average.

Transfer Credits

A maximum of nine (9) hours of credit may be transferred from an accredited graduate school provided the courses are significantly related to those required for the M.A. in criminal justice and the student has approval from the director of the program.

Degree Requirements

The Department offers two-degree options at the Masters' level: THESIS and NON-THESIS.

1. **THESIS:** A total of 36 semester hours are required for the M.A. Each student must complete twelve (12) semester hours of core courses, eighteen (18) semester hours of criminal justice electives and six (6) semester hours of thesis writing. A written comprehensive examination must be taken **and successfully passed** following the completion of the core courses. A student must write and defend a thesis to the Thesis Committee for approval.
2. **NON-THESIS:** A total of 36 semester hours are required for the M.A. Each student must complete twelve (12) semester hours of core courses, twenty-one (21) semester hours of criminal justice electives and three (3) semester hours of writing a policy paper. A written comprehensive examination must be taken **and successfully passed** following the completion of the core courses.

Master of Arts Criminology and Justice Services (Thesis Option)

| Course | Title | Semester Hours |
|--------------------|--|----------------|
| CJS/SOC 502 | Theoretical Criminology | 3 |
| CJS/SOC 513 | Statistics | |
| CJS 515 | Research Methods | 3 |
| CJS 526 | Criminal Justice Organization and Management | 3 |
| | Criminal Justice Electives | 18 |
| CJS 600 | Thesis | 6 |
| Total Hours | | 36 |

Master of Arts Criminology and Justice Services (Non-Thesis Option)

| Course | Title | Semester Hours |
|--------------------|--|----------------|
| CJS/SOC 502 | Theoretical Criminology | 3 |
| CJS/SOC 513 | Statistics | |
| CJS 515 | Research Methods | 3 |
| CJS 526 | Criminal Justice Organization and Management | 3 |
| | Criminal Justice Electives | 18 |
| CJS 601 | Policy Paper | 6 |
| Total Hours | | 36 |

Criminal Justice Electives

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|-------------|--|
| CJS 520 | Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice |
| CJS 525 | Designing New Criminal Justice Delivery Systems |
| CJS 530 | Implementing Behavioral Strategies for Planned Change |
| CJS 535 | Assessment and Evaluation of Criminal Justice Policies and Practices |
| CJS 540 | Comparative Justice Systems |
| CJS 580 | Special Topics |
| CJS 599 | Independent Study |
| CJS/SOC 504 | Sociological Jurisprudence |
| CJS/SOC 506 | Seminar in Juvenile Justice |
| CJS/SOC 591 | Seminar in Police Administration |
| CJS/SOC 620 | Community Analysis |
| CJS/SOC 622 | Research and Statistics |
| CJS/SOC 635 | Crime and Urban Community |