Master of Arts in Criminal Justice

This program was designed to develop and sharpen skills appropriate to beginning or continuing practitioners in the criminal justice system. Professionals in the fields of law enforcement, corrections, or the court system can utilize this degree to seek career advancement or personal enrichment. The program consists of 10 courses for a total of 30 credits.

**PROGRAM GOALS**
- Foster greater awareness and understanding of complex issues and problems within the field of criminal justice
- Advance students’ problem-solving abilities by developing analytical and critical research skills
- Enhance students’ practical capabilities by emphasizing a professional orientation to the criminal justice field

The program’s capstone course applies knowledge and practical skills to a specific justice-related issue or problem and sharpens students’ writing, research, and communication skills, thereby preparing them either for doctoral-level study or for professional growth and advancement. Students have conducted research on such topics as school shootings, social-structural consequences of incarceration, the relationship between drug use and violent crime, the effectiveness of halfway houses, and the truth behind religious conversion in prisons. Close collaboration and consultation with a faculty mentor allow students to work independently and to tailor the amount of supervision received to their individual needs.

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**
Graduate students seeking full admission to the Master of Arts program must submit an application to the Office of Graduate Admissions and meet the following requirements:

- Submit application with statement of goals
- Submit official transcripts from all institutions attended
- Submit two letters of reference
- Submit an example of scholarly writing, such as an undergraduate paper or an article authored by the applicant
- Submit a $25 application fee

Once all the admission materials have been received, the application will be forwarded to the Graduate Chair in Criminal Justice for review.

**ACADEMIC PROGRAM**

**Core Requirements**
- CJMA 501 – The American Criminal Justice System: Theory and Practice
- CJMA 502 – Criminological Theory
- CJMA 503 – Research Methods in Criminal Justice
- CJMA 504 – Data Collection and Analysis in Criminal Justice
- CJMA 520 – Ethics in Criminal Justice

**Elective Credits Required**
(Choose four courses)
- CJMA 510 – Juvenile Delinquency
- CJMA 511 – Planning, Program Development, and Evaluation in Criminal Justice
- CJMA 512 – Understanding Violence in Schools
- CJMA 515 – History of Crime and Crime Control
- CJMA 521 – Terrorism and Counterterrorism
- CJMA 522 – Juvenile Justice
- CJMA 523 – Race and Crime
- CJMA 525 – Correctional Management
- CJMA 530 – Women, Law, and Social Control
- CJMA 532 – Police Administration
- CJMA 535 – Public Policy and Criminal Justice
- CJMA 540 – Serial and Mass Murder
- CJMA 545 – Crime, the Media, and Moral Panics
- CJMA 550 – Philosophy of Law

**Capstone Course**
- CJMA 562 – Professional Seminar—Culminating Experience