



UNIVERSITY OF
**DETROIT
MERCY**

GRADUATE PROGRAM

Master of Arts Criminal Justice Major

Your Career in Criminal Justice Starts at Detroit Mercy

The Master of Arts with a major in Criminal Justice is designed for professionals in the fields of law enforcement or corrections and others who desire to further their knowledge of this field. The program provides an opportunity for the professional worker to broaden and deepen his or her perspective in the criminal justice profession. Problem solving, leadership, critical thinking and the prudent application of theory to practice are skills that this program is designed to foster.

This graduate program is developed to meet the need for specialized training for criminal justice suited to its unique function. This program can be pursued on a full- or part-time basis. Close faculty-student contact is maintained to assist each student in formulating realistic individual objectives and in selecting coursework to attain them. Program arrangements are flexible so that individual needs can be served.

At least 50 percent of students enrolling in the criminal justice master's program are employed full-time, often in the field they are pursuing. Course scheduling and specific, individualized programs are designed to take advantage of students' backgrounds and to permit students to pursue the master's degree at the pace most reasonable to themselves. Courses are generally offered in the late afternoon and/or evening.

Students interested in a generalist's approach to criminal justice will find this course of study appropriate. Law enforcement and corrections personnel acquire a

broad background in administrative theory and current concerns of the criminal justice system.

Degree Requirements

The Master of Arts with a major in Criminal Justice program requires completion of a minimum of 36 credit hours of approved graduate work with a final grade point average of at least 3.0 (B). Prescribed core courses are listed below. In addition to coursework, all candidates for the master's degree must complete a research component. This is done in one of three ways: (a) a master's thesis, which also conveys six credit hours; (b) two major review papers, or "Plan B" papers, which do not convey course credit; or (c) a master's research paper, which conveys three credit hours. The research component must receive a grade of B or better. In addition, a final comprehensive essay is written during the last semester before the degree is awarded. The master's essay is content-oriented across the 36 hours of the course sequence.

Submit Your Application Online

Go to udmercy.edu/apply

Website: udmercy.edu/criminaljustice

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Curriculum*

Core Requirements

Twenty-one of the 36 hours are to include the following core courses:

CJS 5000 Research Methodology
CJS 5400 Criminal Justice Process & Criminal Law OR
CJS 5410 Trends in Constitutional Law
CJS 5550 Deviance and Social Control
CJS 5700 Socialization and Social Control
CJS 5800 Theory of Law Enforcement
CJS 5850 Seminar in Criminology
CJS 5970 Justice Seminar

Based on the student's undergraduate work and career experience, substitutions for the above courses may be made with the approval of the department chair.

Electives (Choose 5) 15 credits

The remaining 15 credit hours (5 courses) may be selected from graduate level Criminal Justice, Security Administration, and Intelligence Analysis courses*:

CJS 5000-5999
INT 5000-5999
SEC 5000-599

*In addition, other graduate courses can be taken according to areas of need, specialization and formal preparation including (but not limited to) courses in addiction studies, business administration, counseling, education, liberal studies and psychology with the approval of the student's advisor.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college and must have demonstrated intellectual competence for graduate study. Selection is based on such factors as previous academic record (at least a 2.7 GPA) and/or relevant experience. Acceptance on a probationary status is allowed in some cases where academic standards are not fully met but competence has been indicated by the level of the applicant's professional advancement. Also, as prerequisites, applicants must have had at least 15 hours of basic coursework in the behavioral/social sciences and should solicit three letters of

Program Faculty

Robert Homant, Ph.D.
Professor of Criminal Justice Studies & Department Chair

Erick Barnes
Lecturer, Criminal Justice Studies and Director of the Master of Science in Intelligence Analysis Program

Charles Wilson, J.D.
Associate Professor of Criminal Justice

You May Also Be Interested in These Graduate Programs

Contact us to learn more about these programs or visit our website: udmercy.edu/criminaljustice.

- Master of Science in Security Administration
- Master of Science in Intelligence Analysis

*Curriculum may change. Refer to the most recent edition of the Detroit Mercy Catalog: udmercy.edu/catalog

Website: udmercy.edu/criminaljustice



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COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CJS 5000 Research Methodology

The basic methods of empirical research design. The formulation and testing of hypotheses. Sampling, collection, analysis, and interpretation of data.

CJS 5400 Criminal Justice Process & Criminal Law

The philosophical and historical development of present law enforcement systems. Criminal law as an agency of formal social control and as an integrative mechanism. Court functions and procedures, adversarial and parental. Administrative and technical problems.

CJS 5410 Trends in Constitutional Law

An analysis of recent appellate and U.S. Supreme Court decisions as they bear on criminal justice practice. The impact of current issues on present and future legal considerations. The impact of social and legal literature on judicial consideration.

CJS 5550 Deviance and Social Control

Theories pertaining to selected specific areas: crime, substance abuse, suicide, and sexual deviance. Response of social control agencies to deviance.

CJS 5700 Socialization and Social Control

The ways in which members of any system become committed to group values and norms and the methods designed to regulate general community behavior.

CJS 5800 Theory of Law Enforcement

A comparative analysis of theories of law enforcement as they have been applied in terms of time and place. Historical trends and current applications in selected areas of the world.

CJS 5850 Seminar in Criminology

An opportunity to analyze and appraise major issues in criminology. The relative explanatory powers of biological, psychological, and sociological factors, as incorporated in various criminological theories, are examined.

CJS 5970 Justice Seminar

This is a “terminal seminar” course for graduate students in criminal justice and security administration. The course reviews the major concepts and theories of criminal justice from the perspective of social justice. Certain central questions provide focus for the course: To what extent is the criminal justice system responding equitably to the requirements of society? Regarding the issue of legitimacy, what requirements that must be met for a legal system to command the moral allegiance of its citizenry? What would an “ideal” criminal justice look like? How might Rawls’ “veil of ignorance” and other conceptions of justice be used to design an ideal system?

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