

MS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Total units required for MS: 30

Program Description

The Master of Science program in Criminal Justice is designed to provide broad knowledge and understanding of the field of criminal justice, law enforcement, legal processes, and rehabilitation of offenders. It also provides an extensive academic foundation for a growing variety of professional opportunities and facilitates professional development in preparation for positions of increasing responsibility. Curriculum objectives are based on the philosophy that the function of the professional criminal justice practitioner and educator is to aid the orderly development of society, to contribute significantly to the improvement of the quality of services, and to advance the criminal justice system. Students who anticipate pursuing graduate studies should prepare themselves for work on this level by selecting undergraduate courses which provide competence in the following areas: statistical analysis, behavioral science methodology, independent library research, and the writing of research papers.

The University's location in the state capital provides direct access to many local, federal, and state agencies through internship and fieldwork opportunities. All graduate students should consult the Criminal Justice Graduate Coordinator when planning their program of courses for each upcoming semester.

All work toward the degree must be completed within a seven-year period. The general University requirements for graduate degrees are explained in the "Graduate Studies (<http://catalog.csus.edu/graduate-degree-requirements>)" section of this Catalog.

Admission Requirements

Admission as a classified graduate student in Criminal Justice requires:

- a baccalaureate degree from an institution accredited by a regional accrediting association;
- a minimum 3.0 GPA in the last 60 units attempted and a 3.0 GPA in the major field;
- a score of 4 or more in the Analytical Writing Section of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test;
- a letter outlining in some detail the applicant's **interests, goals, and expectations** in pursuing the MS in Criminal Justice; and
- three letters of recommendation from individuals who can evaluate the applicant's potential for graduate study.

In addition, applicants are expected to have an undergraduate major in Criminal Justice or its equivalent. Whatever the applicant's undergraduate major, however, it is essential that each student have adequate preparation for graduate study. For this reason, some applicants (regardless of their undergraduate program) may be asked to remove deficiencies in their education by taking courses from the undergraduate curriculum before being admitted as a classified graduate student. In such cases, conditionally classified graduate status may be granted subject to completion of these courses with grade "B" or better. The number of units required to remove deficiencies will total no more than 15 and these must be taken in addition to the 30 units required for the MS. Any deficiencies will be noted on a written response to the admission application.

Admission Procedures

Applications are accepted as long as space for new students is available. If applications for graduate admissions exceed the capacity of the Department, the Department will limit admissions. Applicants will be rank ordered for admission based on an evaluation of the academic record, GRE scores, professional and life experience, references, proposed academic plan and potential for diversifying, and enriching the Criminal Justice graduate program. *For more admissions information and application deadlines, please visit <http://www.csus.edu/gradstudies/>.*

All prospective graduate students, including Sacramento State graduates, must provide the following:

- an online application for admission;
- two sets of official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended, *other than Sacramento State; and*
- Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores.
- a letter outlining in some detail the applicant's interests, goals, and expectations in pursuing the MS in Criminal Justice; and
- three letters of recommendation from individuals who can evaluate the applicant's potential for graduate study.

Approximately six weeks after receipt of all items listed above, a decision regarding admission will be emailed by the University to the applicant.

Minimum Units and Grade Requirement for the Degree

Units required for the MS: 30

Minimum Cumulative GPA: 3.0

Advancement to Candidacy


Each student must file an application for Advancement to Candidacy for the master's degree indicating the proposed program of graduate study. This procedure should begin as soon as the classified graduate student has:

- removed any deficiencies in admissions requirements;
- completed at least 12 units in the graduate program with a minimum 3.0 GPA; and
- taken the Writing Placement for Graduate Students (WPG) or taken a Graduate Writing Intensive (GWI) course in their discipline within the first two semesters of coursework at California State University, Sacramento or secured approval for a WPG waiver.

Students may not enroll in CRJ 502 before they are advanced to candidacy.

Advancement to Candidacy forms are available on the Office of Graduate Studies website. The student fills out the form after planning a degree program in consultation with the Criminal Justice Graduate Coordinator. The completed form should then be returned to the Office of Graduate Studies for approval.

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Units
Required Courses (18 Units)		18
CRJ 201	Advanced Research Design and Data in Criminal Justice	3
CRJ 200	Research Methods in Criminal Justice 	3
CRJ 255	Crime, Criminology and Criminal Justice	3

CRJ 260	Management of Complex Justice Organizations	3
Select two of the following:		6
CRJ 210	Critical Examination of Law and Justice	
CRJ 231	Graduate Seminar in Corrections	
CRJ 240	Contemporary Issues in Policing	
CRJ 262	Administration of Juvenile Justice	
Electives (6-9 Units)		
Select six units for the thesis/project option and nine units for the comprehensive exam option:		6 - 9
CRJ 205	Criminal Justice Policy Analysis	
CRJ 207	Criminal Justice Research and Program Evaluation	
CRJ 210	Critical Examination of Law and Justice	
CRJ 220	Politics of Crime Legislation	
CRJ 230	The Prison	
CRJ 231	Graduate Seminar in Corrections	
CRJ 233	Psychodynamics of Confinement	
CRJ 240	Contemporary Issues in Policing	
CRJ 250	Comparative Analysis of the Criminal Justice System	
CRJ 251	White-Collar Crime	
CRJ 252	Violence and Victims	
CRJ 256	Historical Analysis of the American Criminal Justice System	
CRJ 257	The Nature Of Terrorism	
CRJ 262	Administration of Juvenile Justice	
CRJ 266	Personnel Administration in Justice Organizations	
CRJ 267	Criminal Justice Issues in Collective Bargaining and Arbitration	
CRJ 289	Criminal Justice Systems of the Future	
CRJ 295	Internship	
CRJ 296 series course		
CRJ 299	Special Problems	
Culminating Experience (3-6 Units) ¹		
CRJ 500	Culminating Experience	3 - 6
or CRJ 501 & CRJ 502	Culminating Experience: Thesis/Project Development Culminating Experience: Thesis or Project	
Total Units		30-33

¹ Students requiring more than one semester to complete their culminating experience must re-enroll in CRJ 502 .