

Emphasis - Crim. Just. Policy & Practice

- [M.C.J. in Criminal Justice](#)
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M.C.J. in Criminal Justice Description

The Master of Criminal Justice (M.C.J.) promotes evidence-based policy and practice and prepares future leaders in the fields of criminal justice, emergency management, and homeland security by conducting relevant, innovative research and offering cutting-edge courses.

Minimum Total Credit Hours: 30 **Course Requirements**

The M.C.J. is a 30-graduate-hour program. All students must complete the 12 hours of core courses.

- CJ 600 - Criminal Justice Administration
- CJ 601 - Criminal Justice Statistics
- CJ 602 - Criminal Justice Research Methods
- CJ 624 - Theories of Criminal Behavior

Students will select an emphasis in either Criminal Justice Policy and Practice, Homeland Security and Emergency Management, or Criminal Justice Leadership.

Other Academic Requirements

The minimum requirements to graduate are: An overall graduate grade point average of 3.0 or higher; must complete a minimum of three (3) classes in their emphasis; and students must complete all core classes with a minimum grade of B-.

Completion option for the degree will vary by emphasis area.

Emphasis - Crim. Just. Policy & Practice Description

The M.C.J. with emphasis in criminal justice policy and practice prepares a graduate for a variety of criminal justice and related positions.

Course Requirements

In addition to the core, research and statistics, and the program completion option requirements, the M.C.J. degree with emphasis in criminal justice policy and practice requires completion of three of the following courses (i.e., 9 credit hours):

- CJ 620 - Criminal Justice in American Society: Policy & Practice
- CJ 621 - Seminar in Law Enforcement
- CJ 622 - Seminar in Courts and Sentencing
- CJ 623 - Seminar in Corrections
- CJ 624 - Theories of Criminal Behavior
- CJ 642 - Cyber Crime & Cybersecurity
- CJ 641 - Transnational Crime
- CJ 643 - Legal Issues in Criminal Justice
- CJ 646 - Special Topics in Criminal Justice
- CJ 649 - Independent Study
- CJ 661 - Criminal Justice Policy & Program Evaluation
- CJ 662 - GIS and Crime Mapping Analysis

Research and/or Statistics Electives:

Students must complete one (1) research or statistics elective course. The following list of courses meet this requirement. Each course is 3 credit hours. Students may take a research or statistics course outside of these options (including courses outside the department) with Graduate Program Coordinator approval.

- CJ 661: Criminal Justice Policy & Program Evaluation
- CJ 662: Emergency Management and Homeland Security Policy Evaluation
- CJ 663: Special topics in Criminal Justice Statistics & Research
- CJ 664: GIS and Crime Mapping Analysis

Degree Culmination Options:

Student must complete one of the following options to complete their degree. All students must obtain approval from the Graduate Program Coordinator prior to enrolling in degree culmination credits.

- CJ 693: Capstone Course; 3 credits. Students must complete this course with a grade of B- or above. Students must take one (1) additional elective if choosing this option. All students must receive approval from the Graduate Program Coordinator.
- CJ 690: Practicum; 6 credits. In partnership with agency, student must fulfill a tangible and specific project. Examples may include, policy analysis/evaluation, creating a database for the agency, building a website, written report, etc. Students must submit proposal for project, approved by graduate committee. Project must demonstrate application of graduate-level skills and knowledge. After project is completed, student will present report to graduate committee.
- CJ 697: Thesis – Traditional thesis option; 6 credits

