

## **Emphasis - Criminal Justice Leadership**

- [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.

#### **Admission Requirements**

- 1) Evidence of an awarded baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university.
- 2) Quality of the applicant's academic record, as evidenced by cumulative grade-point average. At least a 3.0 or equivalent grade-point average on the last 60 hours of undergraduate coursework is required.
- 3) Three (3) letters of professional recommendation, preferably from professors familiar with your academic qualifications or others familiar with your work ethic and ability to be successful in graduate school.
- 4) A 400- to 500-word statement of interest that describes your interest in pursuing the Master of Criminal Justice degree, your chosen emphasis in a) Policy and Practice (in-person), b) Homeland Security and Emergency Management (fully online), or c) Criminal Justice Leadership (fully online), your future career goals, and why you believe you will be successful in graduate school.
- 5) Submit a sample of your recent written work that best showcases your skills as a writer and critical thinker. Writing samples should be in English and no more than 10 double-spaced pages in length. There are no specific formatting requirements. This could be a term paper, professional report, policy brief, or any other document that demonstrates writing and analytic skills.
- 6) Curriculum vitae or resume.
- 7) International students must demonstrate compliance with the University of Mississippi's English Language Proficiency Score Requirements and Exemptions policy.

Prospective students that are interested in a graduate assistantship position (only applicable for the in-person emphasis in CJ policy and practice) should also submit:

- Resume or curriculum vitae.
- Brief statement of interest of no more than 300 words in the assistantship position, including interest in research and/or teaching and skills that you will bring to the position.

### **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 - Criminal Justice Leadership Description**

The M.C.J. with emphasis in emergency management and homeland security prepares a graduate for a variety of criminal justice and related positions.

#### **Course Requirements**

Students enrolled in Criminal Justice Leadership emphasis (online) are required to take the 12 hours of core classes as online courses. This emphasis also requires a minimum of three (3) of the following (i.e., 9 credits):

- CJ 671: Communications for Criminal Justice Leaders
- CJ 672: Conflict Resolution and Decision-Making
- CJ 673: Criminal Justice Evidence-Based Decision-Making
- CJ 674: Budgeting & Finance
- CJ 676: Principles of Leadership
- CJ 678: Diversity and Inclusivity
- CJ 679: Special Topics in Criminal Justice Leadership (May be taken 2 times with different topics)
- CJ 680: Personnel Management
- CJ 649: Independent Study (May be taken 2 times with different topics)



**Degree Culmination: Criminal Justice Capstone**

All students must complete the CJ 692: Criminal Justice Capstone 1 & CJ 693: Criminal Justice Capstone 2.

All students must complete a two-course capstone series (CJ 692 and CJ 693) to complete their degree. Each class is 3 credit hours and will be completed sequentially. As part of this capstone series, students will review, research, and evaluate a criminal justice, emergency management, or homeland security policy or issue. Students must complete this course series with a grade of B- or above and receive an 80% or above on their final capstone project to be eligible for their degree.

Students will enroll in the capstone series after the completion of 18 hours of coursework with a minimum GPA of 3.0 and must have successfully completed CJ 600, CJ 601, CJ 602, and CJ 624 with a grade of B- or above before enrolling in the capstone courses. Students must successfully pass CJ 692 with a B- or above to be eligible to continue on to CJ 693.

