

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.

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 - 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

