



College of Arts and Sciences

MASTER OF ARTS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The Master of Arts in Criminal Justice program will provide students with a comprehensive knowledge of all components of the criminal justice system. This program is open to recipients of undergraduate degrees in criminal justice as well as individuals who have developed a career interest in criminal justice after completing an undergraduate degree in another discipline.



"Our full-time and affiliate faculty members are accessible and eager to help you as you progress through this program."

Pearl Jacobs, Ph.D.
Criminal Justice Department Chair

Thirty (30) credits are required to graduate from the program. Courses are offered during the evenings and online. The program may be completed on a full-time or part-time basis. Students must complete eighteen required credits of the core curriculum plus an additional twelve credits of any elective courses. Students may also choose the twelve credits for a concentration in national security or criminal justice management. Upon completion of the required thirty credits, students must successfully complete a comprehensive examination. Students desiring to continue their education towards a Ph.D. should pursue the three credit thesis option rather than the comprehensive examination. The thesis course may be used to satisfy three of the twelve elective credits required.

Our Graduates

This Master of Arts in Criminal Justice provides individuals with the knowledge needed to obtain advanced professional positions in the field. It also enables individuals already employed in the field of criminal justice to advance further in their careers.

Alumni currently hold positions in federal agencies, as correction officers, higher education emergency management consultants, probation officers, private investigators and police officers.

This program would also be appropriate for individuals interested in pursuing an academic career in higher education at the community college level or those interested in pursuing a Ph.D. for an academic career above the community college level.

"All of the professors were instrumental in preparing me for the field. Without a CJ Masters degree, I would not have been able to apply for my current job. Having a Masters keeps you a step ahead of the rest and has helped me to set the stage for the rest of my career.

Thanks to the CJ department, I can happily and proudly say that the MACJ program has helped me better my career and my life."

-Randie Quaglia Phillips '08

"The MACJ class sizes are small and are focused on the subject matter. I have used the things I've learned in classes in both of my current jobs. I would not trade my years at Sacred Heart University for anything."

-Emily Shaham '09

"Every research project I conducted was of my own choosing, which was great motivation. I prepared essays on Cruise Line Security that I presented at the Annual Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio in 2008."

-Jeff Barrett '09

"My goal in coming to Sacred Heart was to learn as much about criminal justice as possible. I have reached this goal through my course work as well as being a graduate assistant. As a result, I have a better grasp on this field of study than I could have ever imagined."

-Melissa Craffey '11



MACJ Curriculum

Students who did not receive an undergraduate degree in criminal justice will be required to complete a prerequisite course entitled The Constitution and the Criminal Justice System.

Core Requirements

(18 Credits)

- *CJ 401- Theories and Analysis of Crime Causation and Deviance
- *CJ 402 - Critical Issues in the Administration and Management of the Criminal Justice System
- *CJ 403 - Law, Society and Ethics
- *CJ 404 - Issues in the Administration of the Adult and Juvenile Correctional Systems
- *CJ 405 - Criminal Law
- *CJ 406 - Methods of Research Design and Statistical Analysis

Electives

(12 Credits)

- CJ 506 - Victimology
- CJ 507 - Organizational Procedures
- CJ 508 - Capital Punishment
- CJ 509 - Criminal Behavior and the Family
- CJ 510 - Criminal Profiling
- CJ 511 - Emergency Management
- CJ 513 - Issues in National Security
- CJ 514 - Domestic and International Terrorism
- CJ 515 - Budgetary Planning in Public Agencies
- CJ 601 - Internship/Practicum Experience in Criminal Justice
- *CJ 650 - Criminal Justice Thesis/Comprehensive Exam

Concentrations

As part of your elective work, you may choose one of two areas of concentration:

National Security (12 credits)

- CJ 510 - Criminal Profiling
- CJ 511 - Emergency Management
- CJ 513 - Issues in National Security
- CJ 514 - Domestic and International Terrorism

Criminal Justice Management (12 credits)

- CJ 507 - Organizational Procedures
- CJ 511 - Emergency Management
- CJ 515 - Budgetary Planning in Public Agencies
- CJ 601 - Internship/Practicum Experience in Criminal Justice

*Required Courses unless waived due to graduate work



Admission Deadlines

Applications are reviewed by the Admissions Committee on a rolling basis

The criteria for admission include:

- Bachelor of Arts or Science degree with a 3.0 GPA from an accredited four-year college or university (official transcripts required)
- Online Graduate Application (www.sacredheart.edu/gradapp.cfm)
- \$50 non-refundable application fee
- Two Letters of Recommendation
- Personal Statement addressing your career goals and interest in the program
- Current Resume

Matriculation

An applicant may be admitted to the program under one of the following categories:

1. Matriculated students who fulfill all admissions requirements.
2. Students who have not completed CJ101 and CJ 200 during undergraduate studies must complete the program pre-requisite with a B or better in order to matriculate into the program. The Criminal Justice Master's Degree Committee will make the final decisions regarding entry into the program.

Contact Information

Admissions Questions:

Pam Pillo-Santos, MS
Director of Graduate Admissions
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Phone: 203-365-4716
Fax: 203-365-4732

Program/Curriculum Questions

Pearl Jacobs, Ph.D.
Program Director
Master of Arts in Criminal Justice
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Please visit our website:

www.sacredheart.edu/graduate.cfm

Financial Assistance

Research and staff assistantships are available to full-time graduate students on a competitive basis. Student loans, deferred payment plans and a variety of other programs are available through the Office of Student Financial Assistance at (203) 371-7980.

