CRIMINAL JUSTICE

JAMES MCBABE, PH.D., DIRECTOR
Phone: 203-396-8002
E-mail: mccabej@sacredheart.edu

Goals and Objectives
The Master of Arts in Criminal Justice program provides students with a comprehensive knowledge of all components of the criminal justice system. This program is designed to be rigorous and challenging academically, and flexible to meet individual student interests. The program is open to individuals with undergraduate degrees in any field of study. Thirty credits are required to graduate from the program, which may be completed on a part-time or full-time basis. Students must complete twelve credits of required courses plus an additional eighteen elective credits. Students may also choose a twelve credit concentration of their own design. Examples of concentrations in management and national security are shown. The program also awards life-experience credit to eligible students. Up to six credits can be earned by students demonstrating substantial experience that is relevant to the educational program. Students are also required to prepare a thesis. The thesis is a three credit course and is part of the overall thirty credit requirement. In lieu of the thesis requirement, students may opt for the comprehensive exam plus an additional elective course.

Admission
• Bachelor of Arts or Science degree with a 3.0 GPA from an accredited four-year college or university (official transcripts required)
• Completed Graduate application
• Application fee
• Two letters of recommendation
• Personal statement

ADMISSION DEADLINE
Although applications are reviewed by the Admissions Committee on a rolling basis, the University has a priority deadline of March 1 for Fall admittance and November 1 for Spring admittance for financial aid considerations.

Required Courses (12 credits)
- CJ 500 Foundations of Criminal Law and Procedure
- CJ 501 Theories and Analysis of Crime Causation and Deviance
- CJ 502 Critical Issues in the Administration and Management of the Criminal Justice System
- CJ 581 Methods of Research Design and Statistical Analysis

Elective Courses (18 credits)
The program offers a variety of courses covering all aspects of the criminal justice system including:
- CJ 503 Law, Society and Ethics
- CJ 504 Issues in the Administration of the Adult and Juvenile Correctional Systems
- CJ 505 Criminal Law
- 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 581 Methods of Research Design and Statistical Analysis
CJ 601  Internship/Practicum Experience in Criminal Justice
CJ 650  Criminal Justice Thesis

Concentration in National Security (12 credits)
CJ 510  Criminal Profiling
CJ 511  Emergency Management
CJ 513  Issues in National Security
CJ 514  Domestic and International Terrorism

Concentration in 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

Course Descriptions

CJ 500  Foundations of Criminal Law and Procedure
3 CH
Provides an in-depth analysis into United States criminal law through the model penal code and an in-depth analysis of the U.S. Supreme Court cases that have shaped criminal justice. Students will apply criminal law and procedural acts of law as practiced throughout the country.

CJ 501  Theories and Analysis of Crime Causation and Deviance
3 CH
Examines the development and application of theories of crime causation and social deviance. The course includes an assessment of the issues and problems involved in controlling crime and deviance in society. Students learn about the nature of criminal behavior and the impact of this behavior on the victims, and study the development of programs and policies to control crime and assist the victims.

CJ 502  Critical Issues in the Administration and Management of the Criminal Justice System
3 CH
Examines the current problems and issues facing the American criminal justice system. The course explores controversial policies such as the use of force, discretion, access to the justice system, organizational and legal issues related to decision-making within the criminal justice system, the role of the courts and the correctional system.

CJ 503  Law, Society and Ethics
3 CH
Focuses on constitutional and ethical issues as they affect the operation of the criminal justice system. Topics examined include legal issues related to punishment and the ethical responsibilities of criminal justice agents.

CJ 504  Issues in the Administration of the Adult and Juvenile Correctional Systems
3 CH
Explores the operation and nature of the American correctional system. The course examines the Juvenile Justice System as well as the adult correctional system. Theories and philosophies of correctional administration and the conditions that generate delinquent behavior are examined as well as current critical issues such as overcrowding, alternatives to incarceration, efforts to maintain family cohesion.

CJ 505  Criminal Law
3 CH
Examines various topics in substantive criminal law as they affect the operation of the criminal justice system. Topics may include standards of evidence, defenses, and
punishments.

**CJ 506 Victimology**  
3 CH  
Examines the victim through history. Course explores the victim movement, the nature and extent of criminal victimization and its affect on American society.

**CJ 507 Organizational Procedures**  
3 CH  
Examines the criminal justice system from an organizational perspective. Course explores fraud control, risk analysis, and corporate crime control through case studies.

**CJ 508 Capital Punishment**  
3 CH  
Examines the theoretical, legal and ethical issues involved in this form of punishment.

**CJ 509 Criminal Behavior and the Family**  
3 CH  
This course studies theories and research concerning the socialization experience and their impact on behavior. Topics examined include child abuse and neglect, parental substance abuse, disciplinary techniques, single parent families, etc.

**CJ 510 Criminal Profiling**  
3 CH  
Studies the process of identifying characteristics associated with individuals who become criminal sociopaths. Sociological theories of crime causation are used in the examination of criminal typology.

**CJ 511 Emergency Management**  
3 CH  
Examines the policies and systems necessary to govern in situations of conflict and uncertainty. Explores appropriate responses to serious incidents and disasters. Evaluates early warning systems and prevention strategies. Students learn the techniques involved in planning and preparing for crises, and forecasting potential crisis situations.

**CJ 513 Issues in National Security**  
3 CH  
Examines the changes in American policy fostered by the terrorist attacks of 9/11/01. Students study the organizations and resources developed since 9/11/01 to defend national security. The course explores the role played by all the components of the criminal justice system in providing for the security of the nation. Also studied are the policies and practices that have been developed for this purpose by the various agencies that represent the criminal justice system. Specifically, students study the adjudication process as it relates to issues of national security and the correctional practices employed to maintain national security.

**CJ 514 Domestic and International Terrorism**  
3 CH  
Examines the history, current developments, and responses to both international and domestic terrorism. Emphasis is on the examination of the law enforcement response to terrorism, and the sociological models of consensus and conflict in an effort to better understand the nature of terrorism. Assesses the strategies of terrorists, their funding and their use of the media, and examines the efforts of terrorist victimization.

**CJ 515 Budgetary Planning in Public Agencies**  
3 CH  
Examines the nature of public budgeting and financial management from the perspective of a public manager. Explores public budgeting from an analytical perspective.
CJ 581 Methods of Research Design and Statistical Analysis
3 CH

This course must be taken at the graduate level. An undergraduate course in this subject cannot be substituted for the graduate course. Examines the research process and is designed to provide students with an understanding of the principles and practices of criminal justice empirical research. More specifically, methods of research and data analysis, as applied to the field of criminal justice, are presented. The application of these methods to criminal justice practice is demonstrated through various exercises. To better prepare capable professionals, students are taught both the language of scientific discourse and the ability to appraise empirical studies critically. To better prepare practitioners who are fair and respectful toward individuals from diverse backgrounds, research ethics, and sensitivity to populations-at-risk are promoted.

CJ 601 Internship/Practicum Experience in Criminal Justice
3 CH

Prerequisite: Permission of Graduate Program Director.

Students use their theoretical knowledge in a practical environment. Students are required to spend 150 hours interning in a criminal justice agency or use their current criminal justice work experience to apply theory. Students must observe and assist in the everyday operations of the agency. They are required to maintain a log of their activities and confer weekly with the faculty supervisor to discuss their individual progress. The class meets regularly with the professor so that students may share their internship/practicum experiences. Upon completion of the 150 hours, the student will prepare a two-part paper. Those fulfilling the requirements through their current work experience will also prepare a paper. The first part of the paper will consist of a description of the work experience including the topics provided by the instructor/advisor.

CJ 650 Criminal Justice Thesis
3 CH

Prerequisite: Completion of 27 seven credits required by the program and the submission of a thesis proposal approved by the Department.

The student works with a mentor to develop a research project. The research project culminates in a thesis and an oral presentation of the thesis to faculty and students in the program.

CJ 698 Criminal Justice Comprehensive Examination

No credit is awarded for this exam.

Students are eligible to take this exam at the end of the semester in which they complete the required 30 credits for the degree.