

# Master of Science in Criminal Justice

## PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

The Master of Science in Criminal Justice is a 36-credit hour online program taught by qualified, experienced, and dedicated faculty. The program can be completed in 12 months for students on the non-thesis track, and approximately 15 months for students on the thesis track. The program prepares graduate students intellectually for entry/supervisory level career positions in the Criminal Justice System; a solid foundation is also laid for students who plan to pursue further professional studies or a Ph.D. degree in Criminal Justice.

## ADMISSION

Applicants seeking admission to the Master of Science in Criminal Justice program should first indicate their option of interest on the admission application form (**face to face or online**), and must all also meet the following admission requirements.

### Regular Admission

1. Hold at least a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.
2. Complete an application for admission, and pay a non-refundable application fee of fifty dollars.
3. Should be eligible to re-enter, in good standing, the last college or university attended.
4. Provide evidence, by official transcript, of a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 and above for all undergraduate work, or a 3.0 GPA in at least six hours of graduate work from an accredited college or university.
5. Provide three letters of recommendation preferably from undergraduate professors referencing applicant's ability to perform graduate work.
6. GRE requirement is waived for all applicants.
7. A 1200-word personal essay regarding career goals and why you wish to pursue a graduate degree in Criminal Justice.

8. International students only: Test of English as a foreign language (TOEFL) a minimum score of 550 (paper based), 213 (computer based), or 79 (internet based), is required.

### **Conditional Admission**

Conditional Admission may be granted to applicants who do not meet the GPA requirement for regular admission, but must not be less than 2.0 GPA. However, the conditional status must be removed by earning a 3.0 GPA within the first 2 semesters on the program.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **ADVISEMENT**

When accepted to the Master of Science program in Criminal Justice, each student will be assigned to an advisor who will be a graduate faculty. The advisor will be responsible for advising students on courses to take to meet the program course requirements. It is, however, the student's responsibility to meet all requirements, including meeting with his or her advisor regularly.

### **ADMISSION TO CANDIDACY**

A student must apply for admission to candidacy for the Master's degree in Criminal Justice by filing the proper application forms through his/her advisor to the graduate program coordinator. Students are to apply for candidacy one semester before the degree is conferred or in some cases, the same semester in which the degree is to be awarded.

### **ACADEMIC GRADES**

The following grades are used in the graduate program: A, B, C, D, F, I (Incomplete), or W (withdrawal). A candidate for the Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice must maintain a minimum of a 3.0 grade point average to continue enrollment in the graduate program and for graduation as well. Failure to maintain a 3.0 G.P.A. in two consecutive semesters will result in such a student's automatic withdrawal from the program. Students withdrawn from the program, may re-apply to rejoin the program after one year of individual self-preparation. A student withdrawn twice shall no longer be re-accepted to the program.

**COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION:** A written comprehensive examination will be administered to all candidates for the Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice at or near the completion of their required course of study. The examination is designed to test the student's knowledge of the content areas of the Criminal Justice System (Law Enforcement, Courts, and Corrections) including criminology and research methods. Students must pass the

comprehensive examination before they can graduate. Students are allowed three attempts at the comprehensive examination. Students who cannot pass all areas of the comprehensive examination after three trials will be automatically withdrawn from the program. Comprehensive examination candidates are advised to take and pass CRIJ 5663: Advanced Seminar in Law Enforcement; CRIJ 5664; Advanced Seminar in Court Systems and Practices; CRIJ 5665: Advanced Seminar in Corrections; CRIJ 5661; Advanced Seminar in Criminology, and CRIJ 5680: Advanced Seminar in Research Methods before signing up for the comprehensive examination. Failing any area of the Comprehensive Examination will require that the student retake the failed areas.

### **THESIS OR NON-THESIS OPTION**

Students interested in pursuing a doctoral education, on graduation or at any time in the future, are encouraged to choose the theses option and most notify their advisors within the first semester on the Master's Program. Students choosing thesis option will be required to take 30 hours of course work, 3 hours of thesis practicum, and 3 hours of thesis. The students choosing the non-thesis option will be required to take 36 hours of course work. However, Interested students may use CLEP or Capstone courses to meet not more than 10 percent of the total course requirements.

### **LOAD LIMIT**

The normal load for a full-time student is nine semester hours during a regular semester (fall or spring) and six credit hours per each summer session. The recommended load for persons employed full time is six semester hours during a regular semester (fall and spring) and three hours per each summer session. However, for online students, a full-time student course load is six hours per eight-week session semester.

### **TIME LIMIT**

The degree should be completed within six calendar years from the time of initial enrollment in the Criminal Justice graduate program.

### **TRANSFER OF CREDIT**

A maximum of six semester hours of graduate credits successfully completed in an accredited program of similar standing, may be accepted toward the fulfillment of the course requirements for the Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice, if the following requirements are met:

1. A grade of "B" or better has been earned in the courses for which graduate credit is being sought.

2. The credit has been earned within five years from the time the student enrolled in the Master of Science Program in Criminal Justice.
3. The credit to be transferred must be recommended by the student's advisor, the graduate program coordinator, and approved by the department Chair, and the Dean of Graduate School.

## **PROGRAM CURRICULUM**

The curriculum for the Master of Science in Criminal Justice is designed to prepare students to fit into any area of the Criminal Justice system of their choice on graduation. A student needs a total of 36 credit hours to graduate (24 credit hours of Criminal Justice core courses, and 12 credit hours of Criminal Justice elective courses) as delineated below.

## **CURRICULUM BREAKDOWN**

### **Required Criminal Justice Core Courses (need 24 credit hours)**

CRIJ 5660\* Advanced Overview of the Criminal Justice System – 3 hrs.

CRIJ 5661\* Advanced Seminar in Criminology – 3 hrs.

CRIJ 5662 Advanced Seminar in Criminal Law and Procedure – 3 hrs.

CRIJ 5663 Advanced Seminar in Law Enforcement – 3 hrs.

CRIJ 5664 Advanced Seminar in Court Systems and Practices 3 hrs.

CRIJ 5665 Advanced Seminar in Corrections – 3 hrs.

CRIJ 5680 Advanced Seminar in Research Methods – 3 hrs.

CJ 5682 Advanced Seminar in Administration and Management of Criminal Justice Organizations.

### **Elective Criminal Justice Elective Courses (need 12 credit hours must consult with advisor before selection)**

CRIJ 5666 Seminar in Juvenile Justice System – 3 hrs.

CRIJ 5681 Seminar in Juvenile Delinquency – 3 hrs.

CRIJ 5683 Seminar in Applied Statistical Methods and Statistical Software's – 3hrs.

CRIJ 5684 Seminar in Victimology – 3hrs.

CRIJ 5691 Seminar in Comparative Criminal Justice Systems – 3 hrs.

CRIJ 5692 Special Topics in Criminal Justice – 3 hrs.

CRIJ 5693 Seminar in Organized Crime – 3 hrs.

CRIJ 5694 Seminar in Terrorism and Homeland Security – 3 hrs.

CRIJ 5695 Criminal Justice Workshop (special registration required to attend) – 3 hrs.

CRIJ 5696 Seminar in Private and Industrial security – 3 hrs.

CRIJ 5697 Seminar in Forensic Science – 3hrs.

CRIJ 5698 Seminar in Cyber Security – 3 hrs.

CRIJ 5699 Seminar in Community Corrections – 3 hrs.

CRIJ 6600 Seminar in Community Policing – 3 hrs.

CRIJ 6610 Graduate Internship - 3 hrs.

CRIJ 6620 Seminar in Public Administration – 3 hrs.

CRIJ 6625 Seminar in Restorative Justice – 3 hrs.

CRIJ 6628 Seminar in the Criminal Justice System and the people of Color – 3 hrs.

CRIJ 6629 Seminar in Rehabilitation and Resocialization – 3 hrs.

CRIJ 6630 Thesis Practicum – 3 hrs.

CRIJ 6631 Thesis – 3 hrs.

***Total Credit hours required for Graduation: 36 Credit Hours***

**\*To be taken in the first semester of program**

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

CRIJ 5660. ADVANCED OVERVIEW OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. A comprehensive overview of the criminal justice system from Law Enforcement through courts and corrections, with particular emphasis on their historical perspectives, present trends and likely future developments. (3)

CRIJ 5661. ADVANCED SEMINAR IN CRIMINOLOGY. An in-depth coverage of concepts of crime, law and criminology; theories of crime causation and crime typologies. (3)

CRIJ 5662. ADVANCED SEMINAR IN CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE. Extensive examination of Criminal Law and how they apply to Criminal Justice Operations and procedures. (3)

CRIJ 5663. ADVANCED SEMINAR IN LAW ENFORCEMENT. Extensive coverage of law enforcement, with emphasis on historical perspectives, operations, best practices, and developing trends, including unbiased policing against people of color. (3)

CRIJ 5664. ADVANCED SEMINAR IN COURT SYSTEMS AND PRACTICES. A comprehensive coverage of the court systems, including, local, state and federal courts. (3)

CRIJ 5665. ADVANCED SEMINAR IN CORRECTIONS. An in-depth coverage of corrections, including community corrections with emphasis on history, operations, best practices and future trends.

CRIJ 5666. SEMINAR IN JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM. A broad and comprehensive coverage of the juvenile justice system, including historical developments, its components and their operations, best practices and likely future trends. (3)

CRIJ 5680. ADVANCED SEMINAR IN RESEARCH METHODS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE. An in-depth overview of Research Methodology to include introduction to Criminal Justice inquiry; structuring criminal justice inquiry; modes of observation; and application and analysis. (3)

CRIJ 5681 Seminar in Juvenile Delinquency. Theoretical problems related to correction and prevention of delinquent careers. (3)

CRIJ 5682. ADVANCED SEMINAR IN ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE ORGANIZATIONS. An extensive examination and analysis of administrative and management skills applicable to criminal justice organizations, including best practices in the field. (3)

CRIJ 5683. Seminar in Applied Statistical Methods and Statistical Software's. An examination of applied statistical methods and statistical software's in criminal justice research. (3)

CRIJ 5684. Seminar in Victimology. A comprehensive examination of victims and victimization within the criminal justice system, its past, present, and future trends. (3)

CRIJ 5691. SEMINAR IN COMPARATIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS. A comprehensive study of other Criminal Justice Systems, including the Criminal Justice System of the United States of America. (3)

CRIJ 5692. SPECIAL TOPICS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE. In-depth examination of contemporary issues and trends in the Criminal Justice Field. (3)

CRIJ 5693. SEMINAR IN ORGANIZED CRIME. A comprehensive coverage of organized crime in the United States, past and present, and Global organized crime.

CRIJ 5694. SEMINAR IN TERRORISM AND HOMELAND SECURITY. An extensive examination of domestic and international terrorism and Homeland security of the United States. (3)

CRIJ 5695. CRIMINAL JUSTICE WORKSHOP. A workshop that will field experts from the criminal Justice Field “bringing practice to campus” organized annually by the department of Criminal Justice, Jarvis Christian College. A credit awarding workshop with registration fees and open to all, including students from other colleges/universities and practitioners. (3)

CRIJ 5697. SEMINAR IN FORENSIC SCIENCE. Examination of techniques and practices of forensic science, including finger printing, crime scene investigations and collection of evidence and differing laboratory practices. (3)

CRIJ 5698. SEMINAR IN CYBER SECURITY. A comprehensive examination of Cyber Security Systems and practices, including historical development and current trends. (3)

CRIJ 5699. SEMINAR IN COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS. An analysis of community corrections, including historical developments, practices and future trends. (3)

CRIJ 6600. SEMINAR IN COMMUNITY POLICING. An in-depth review of Community Policing, historical developments, practices and future trends. (3)

CRIJ 6620. SEMINAR IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION. Extensive examination and analysis of concepts, issues, and theories of Public Administration as they relate to the Criminal Justice System. (3)

CRIJ 6610 GRADUATE INTERNSHIP. a minimum of three months in an approved criminal justice setting. Designed to provide the graduate student with an opportunity to merge class work with professional practice. (3)

CRIJ 6625. SEMINAR IN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE. A comprehensive examination of Restorative Justice, its history, practices and current trends. (3)

CRIJ 6628. SEMINAR IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM AND THE PEOPLE OF COLOR. An in-depth examination of the Criminal Justice system and People of Color and reforms to achieve equal justice for all. (3)

CRIJ 6629. SEMINAR IN REHABILITATION AND RESOCIALIZATION. An extensive examination of the Rehabilitative and Resocialization practices in the Criminal Justice system, including its history and current trends. (3)

CRIJ 6630. THESIS PRACTICUM. Overview of research strategies, principles of research writing; and procedures for initiating, executing, and completing a thesis; and preparation and approval of a thesis prospectus. Preliminary planning for the thesis should begin from the first semester of graduate work; the students are advised to enroll in CJ 6630 after completing 12 credit hours of graduate work on the Master’s program (3)

CRIJ 6631. THESIS. The completion and defense of the thesis. Thesis students are required to be registered in this course in the semester in which the thesis is to be defended; students must

regularly meet with the chair of their thesis committee to turn in given assignments as they work towards the completion of all chapters of their thesis (3)