

MASTER OF ARTS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CURRICULUM

Program Structure

The Master of Arts in Criminal Justice consists of a core of five courses (15 semester hours) that will set the foundation and parameters for specialization in two concentrations, Criminal Justice Management and Planning and Juvenile Justice. The specialized concentrations will consist of an additional three course (9 semester hours), of which four courses (12 semester hours) will be required by all students selecting a particular specialized track and the remaining courses being electives. Students may elect to write a thesis that will be awarded 6 semester hours. Thus, students will complete that total course requirement of 36 semester hours. Students will also be required to pass a comprehensive examination in order to be awarded the M.A. Degree.

Management and Planning Concentration

Core Courses (15 Semester Hours)

CJS 610	Theories of Crime and Delinquency	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 644	Research Methods in Criminal Justice	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 645	Quantitative Analysis in Criminal Justice	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 650	Criminal Justice Policy Analysis	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 651	Criminal Justice Ethics	(3 Hrs.)

Required Concentration Courses (9 semester hours)

CJS 611	Administration of Criminal Justice Organizations	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 612	Strategic Planning for Criminal Justice	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 618	Legal Issues in Criminal Justice Management	(3 Hrs.)

Juvenile Justice Concentration

Core Courses (15 Semester Hours)

CJS 610	Theories of Crime and Delinquency	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 644	Research Methods in Criminal Justice	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 645	Quantitative Analysis in Criminal Justice	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 650	Criminal Justice Policy Analysis	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 651	Criminal Justice Ethics	(3 Hrs.)

Required Concentration Courses (9 semester hours)

CJS 672	Policing and Adjudicating Juveniles	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 674	Juvenile Corrections and Treatment	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 676	Juvenile Delinquency and the Justice System	(3 Hrs.)

Elective Courses (12 semester hours)

CJS 510	Crime Prevention	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 571	Youth Crime and the School	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 575	Legal Aspects of Juvenile Justice	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 590	Criminal Justice Readings	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 592	Criminal Justice Special Topics	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 601	Systems of Criminal Justice	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 607	Minorities in Criminal Justice	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 613	Community Policing	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 614	Jails and Prisons	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 615	Community Corrections	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 616	Restorative Justice	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 617	Offender Reentry Programs	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 646	Computer Applications in Criminal Justice	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 660	Crime Victims and Victim Services	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 665	Criminal Justice Internship	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 670	History/Philosophy of Juvenile Justice	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 678	Juvenile Offenders and youth Gangs	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 680	Status Offenders and the Community	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 681	Youth and Society	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 688	Family Based Intervention	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 689	Gender, Crime, and Justice	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 690	Independent Study in Criminal Justice	(3 Hrs.)
CJS 699	Thesis	(6 Hrs.)
CJS 750	Continuing Registration	(0 Hrs.)

TOTAL

36 Credit Hours

Approved by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

Effective Spring 2007

MODEL OF ACADEMIC PROGRESSION

Semester One	Semester Two
Theories of Crime and Delinquency Research Methods in Criminal Justice Criminal Justice Ethics	Quantitative Analysis in Criminal Justice Strategic Planning for Criminal Justice <u>or</u> History/Philosophy of Juvenile Justice Management <u>or</u> Juvenile Elective
Semester Three	Semester Four
Systems of Criminal Justice Computer Applications in Criminal Juveniles <u>or</u> Policing and Adjudicating Juveniles Management <u>or</u> Juvenile Elective	Criminal Justice Policy Analysis Administration of Criminal Justice Organizations <u>or</u> Juvenile Corrections and Treatment Management <u>or</u> Juvenile Elective Comprehensive Examination or Thesis

DESCRIPTION OF COURSES

Core Courses (15 Semester Hours) Management and Planning & Juvenile Justice

CJS 610 Theories of Crime and Delinquency

3 hours

A number of theories of crime and delinquency has been developed from a variety of perspectives, for example, biological, psychological, sociological, feminist and conflict. This course addresses the major ideas offered to explain criminal behavior. Similarities and differences between the theories are noted. Criteria for evaluating the usefulness of a theory are identified.

CJS 644 Research Methods in Criminal Justice

3 hours

Information about criminal behavior shapes theories and responses to crime. Therefore, it is important to develop valid and reliable data used to establish understanding of criminal justice issues. Standards for obtaining and evaluating empirical data are articulated in this course.

CJS 645 Quantitative Analysis in Criminal Justice

3 hours

Quantitative data are the backbones of theory testing and organizational decision making. This course identifies statistical databases and introduces analytical techniques to produce meaningful information. Skills with computer applications are developed.

CJS 650 Criminal Justice Policy Analysis

3 hours

Scientific based facts are essential for sound criminal justice policies. At the same time, such policies reflect political forces in society. This course examines procedures for analyzing how policies are enacted and implemented by focusing on specific case studies.

CJS 651 Criminal Justice Ethics**3 hours**

Any system of justice must acknowledge the importance of an ethical foundation. This course studies different paradigms of ethical behavior and procedures that may be followed if unethical acts occur. The course recognizes that all citizens, not just criminal justice professionals, must address ethical principles.

Required Concentration Courses (9 semester hours) Management and Planning**CJS 611 Administration of Criminal Justice Organizations****3 hours**

This course rests the premise that criminal justice agencies need to apply sound principles of organizational management in order to be efficient. The course studies how corporate and public administration techniques may be applied to criminal justice agencies.

CJS 612 Strategic Planning for Criminal Justice**3 hours**

Increasingly, criminal justice practitioners recognized the importance of planning and preparing for criminal situations before they occur. This course examines ways to use current information to plan for the future in structuring organizations setting priorities, and identifying resources needed to be more effective.

CJS 618 Legal Issues in Criminal Justice Management**3 hours**

Examination and analysis of legal implications and challenges of criminal justice management decisions, policies, program, and the roles of the criminal justice manager.

Required Concentration Courses (9 semester hours) Juvenile Justice**CJS 672 Policing and Adjudicating Juveniles****3 hours**

Once a decision to define juveniles as different than adults had been made, justice systems adjust law enforcement and judicial procedures. The course considers the advantages and disadvantages of special youth bureaus in police departments. Further consideration is given to the structure and procedures of juvenile courses.

CJS 674 Juvenile Corrections and Treatment**3 hours**

The philosophy of protecting juveniles has been the traditional perspective of the United States. Consequently, rehabilitation rather than punishment has been the objective in responding to juvenile delinquents. Changing perspectives of youth have brought about more punitive responses to young criminals, however. The conflict between corrections and treatment is considered in how societies seek justice for juveniles.

CJS 676 Juvenile Delinquency and the Justice System**3 hours**

Examines the meaning of the concept of juvenile delinquency as a separate entity in the criminal justice system. The course also surveys youth victimization and offending patterns and analyzes the diverse theoretical explanations of delinquency.

Elective Courses (12 semester hours) Management and Planning & Juvenile Justice

CJS 510 Crime Prevention

3 hours

All crime prevention programs advocate proactive rather than reactive methods to combat crime. This course studies programs intended to address the ability, motivation, and opportunity for persons to commit crimes. Specific approaches and programs such as crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED), Neighborhood Watch, TRIAD, and DARE are considered.

CJS 571 Youth Crime and School

3 hours

The role of school experiences for the etiology of juvenile crime has been debated for a long time. Recent incidents of violence occurring on school grounds have increased concern for the safety of students. The response of schools to violence drug abuse and other crimes will be examined to identify programs that have been successful in reducing youth crime.

CJS 575 Legal Aspects of Juvenile Justice

3 hours

Juvenile justice has made a distinction between criminal and status offenses. Courts have recognized this distinction in specifying the rights of juveniles when violating cultural norm. The course studies legal policies affecting youth including their transference to criminal courts. Procedures in the United States are compared to those in other societies.

CJS 590 Criminal Justice Readings

3 hours

Selected readings in the field of criminal justice are examined. This course may be registered for more than once if a different reading topic is studied each semester.

CJS 592 Criminal Justice Special Topics

3 hours

Selected topics in the field of criminal justice are examined. This course may be registered for more than once if a different topic is studied each semester.

CJS 601 Systems of Criminal Justice

3 hours

This course examines the traditional model of criminal justice in the United States by comparing it to criminal justice systems of selected other countries. The course also introduces a restorative justice model as an alternative to the adversarial system currently followed by most jurisdictions.

CJS 607 Minorities in Criminal Justice

3 hours

While minorities are disproportionately over-represented in arrests, conviction and incarcerations, they are disproportionately under-represented among criminal justice practitioners. This course examines theories advanced to account for and method offered to alter these figures. Gender, race, ethnicity, and other characteristic may define persons as minorities who are entitled to equitable treatment with the criminal justice system.

CJS 613 Community Policing**3 hours**

Recently, police departments have adopted techniques to bring community citizens closer to police officers so that working together crime may be reduced. This course compares different models of community policing and techniques for evaluating their impact.

CJS 614 Jails and Prisons**3 hours**

While jails and prisons incarcerate inmates, salient differences between these institutions pose problems for sheriffs and wardens. This course studies jails and prisons as complex organizations with varied sometimes-conflicting goals. Administrators must structure these institutions and establish policies to achieve that varied goals and satisfy varied audiences.

CJS 615 Community Corrections**3 hours**

Increasingly, the criminal justice system is implementing intermediate sanction that supervises offenders in the community. While probation and parole have a political history, newer programs have been devised to take advantage of emerging technology. This course examines factors that enhance or impede the successful adjustment of offenders to living crime-free in the community.

CJS 616 Restorative Justice**3 hours**

Restorative justice recognizes that any response to crime should bring victims and offenders to reconciliation in which a sense of community is reestablished. A number of theoretical perspectives exist within this broad framework. The course introduces techniques of mediation and other methods of restorative justice.

CJS 617 Offender Reentry Program**3 hours**

The vast majority of incarcerated criminals are released from jail and prison to return to the community. They often face problems of adjusting to a lifestyle with some freedom but a number of restrictions. Reentry to a free society poses problem for the offender, families, and other community members. The course examines some of the major reentry problems and techniques for resolving them.

CJS 646 Computer Applications in Criminal Justice**3 hours**

Advances in computer technology have had a major influence on criminal justice practices. This course introduces students to some of the innovative hardware and software developments for criminal justice. Topics include but are not limited to crime mapping, statistical analysis of quantitative data, surveillance and identification procedures, and techniques to combat cyber crime.

CJS 660 Crime Victims and Victim Services**3 hours**

This course introduces students to some of the important issues and controversies concerning victims of crime. Students will develop an appreciation for the complexity of the phenomena by studying the major perspectives concerning the roles of victims in criminal events and the criminal justice system, the provision of services to crime victims, and the importance of power related to crime victims. The course will examine crime victims in the United States and other countries. "Justice is acknowledging what victims have suffered."

CJS 665 Criminal Justice Internship**3 hours**

Students will perform various duties agencies and organizations active in criminal justice. An agency supervisor and the internship supervisor will direct each student in mastering relevant skills to complete the tasks associated with a significant position in the internship agency. During the internships each student will be considered a quasi-working member of the agency.

CJS 670 History/Philosophy of Juvenile Justice**3 hours**

Even though the first juvenile court in the United States was established at the end of the 19th Century, concern about how to respond to juvenile offenders has varied historically. The course traces trends across eras and cultures to consider ways that adults have tried to control the behaviors of juveniles. It examines how philosophical movements have influenced criminal justice policy.

CJS 678 Juvenile Offenders and Youth Gangs**3 hours**

Juvenile delinquency has come to be almost synonymous with gang membership. Yet, there are some questions about the prevalence of juvenile gangs and their criminality. The course examines gangs throughout history and traces their structures by research-based facts explicating the importance of youth gangs in society.

CJS 680 Status Offenders and the Community**3 hours**

Status offenders pose a special concern for the juvenile justice system. The course compares status offenders and juvenile delinquents to determine similarities and differences in their behaviors and causal backgrounds. The community model will be employed.

CJS 681 Youth and Society**3 hours**

This course introduces students to some of the important issues and controversies concerning youth in society. The course will examine youth in the United States and other countries. The basic point of view is that youth is a social construct reflecting both social structural and cultural influences. While the meaning differs between societies it also differs within society for various groups of persons. Social scientists use different theoretical models to describe and explain the behavior of youth. This course examines how the roles of youth are defined for different age groups and cultures. The emphasis is on understanding how societal factors influence youthful behavior for conformity and deviance.

CJS 688 Family Based Intervention

3 hours

The primary influence of families on youth has been long recognized. This course considers how families may be used as instruments of crime prevention and rehabilitation. By focusing on the family unit, the course examines how family structure and dynamics shape children at different stages of development. Specific family counseling techniques will be studied.

CJS 689 Gender, Crime, and Justice

3 hours

Examination of gender issues the criminal justice systems. This course focuses on women as offenders, prisoners, victims and survivors of crime, and professionals.

CJS 690 Independent Study in Criminal Justice

3 hours

Students under faculty guidance analyze specific areas of interest in criminal justice.

CJS 699 Thesis

6 hours

Students in this course will design and conduct original criminal or juvenile justice research under the guidance of a faculty committee. The final, written report will present the research problem, theoretical rationale, methodology, results, and interpretation with policy implications as appropriate.

CJS 750 Continuing Registration

0 hours

To allow Criminal Justice graduate students who have completed course work to remain in good standing while working on the thesis or comprehensive examination.

Effective Spring 2007