

Criminology and Criminal Justice, MA

The department offers a Master of Arts degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice, which provides students with advanced theoretical and methodological training for research and management careers in criminal justice.

Admission Requirements

The minimum GPA for regular admission to graduate study is 3.0 on a 4-point scale and students are expected to begin their course of study in the Fall semester. Admission is competitive.

Degree Requirements

The M.A. in Criminology and Criminal Justice requires the completion of ~~33~~ 30 credit hours, at least 21 of which are required to be in courses housed in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. 12 of these hours represent the core of the curriculum. Students may choose between a thesis and nonthesis course of study. Students whose cumulative GPAs fall below 3.0 after 9 or more hours of work will be placed on probation and given one semester to raise their cumulative GPAs to at least the 3.0 threshold.

Expected Learning Outcomes

- Develop a comprehensive understanding of the theories, methods and substance of issues in criminology and criminal justice and demonstrate an ability to synthesize knowledge in these areas.
- Develop a comprehensive understanding of interdisciplinary underpinnings (e.g., from sociology, psychology, political science, economics) of criminology and criminal justice issues and policies.
- Develop critical thinking and communication skills through the application of criminological theory and social science research methods.

- Develop a comprehensive understanding of the structure and functioning of the fundamental institutions (e.g., legislatures, police, punishment, supervisory) that are part of criminal justice systems.
- Develop comprehensive understanding of the role of research and its application for informing policies about criminal justice issues.

Plan of Study

- Required Coursework (12 hours)

CRIMIN 5415	Foundations of Criminological Theory (core)	3
CRIMIN 6400	Proseminar (core)	3
CRIMIN 6405	Methods (core)	3
CRIMIN 6410	Statistical Applications in Criminology and Criminal Justice (core)	3

- Three additional Criminology and Criminal Justice seminars at the 6000 level (9; non-core)
- Electives (~~12~~ 9 hours)
~~Twelve~~ **Nine** elective hours of coursework are required; some or all of these credits may be earned in Criminology and Criminal Justice 6000 level seminars not counted toward the 21 hour requirement. Students may take a maximum of two 4000-level courses in partial fulfillment of this requirement but they must have the prior approval of the Graduate Committee. All electives taken outside the College of Arts and Sciences also must receive prior approval of the Graduate Committee.

Transfer Courses

Transfer courses are evaluated for acceptance on a case-by-case basis subject to the rules and regulations of the Graduate School. A maximum of ~~44~~ 10 credit hours earned at other institutions can be credited toward the UMSL M.A. degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice.

Sign-offs from other departments affected by this proposal

None

Rationale After reviewing competitor programs and to streamline the newly proposed 2+3 program at UMSL, we would like to reduce our required MA credits from 33 to 30. This credit hour requirement is in line with our national competitor programs and will allow students to complete the 2+3 program in 10 semesters.