Criminology & Criminal Justice MA

The Master of Arts degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice provides students with advanced theoretical and methodological training for research and leadership careers in criminal justice. Research and publications by the faculty have placed the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at UMSL among the top criminology programs in the world. Faculty and students are involved in research and have expertise in the following areas: Gangs, Communities and Crime, Victimology, Juvenile Delinquency, Violent Crime Trends, Race and Gender, Corrections, Policing, Public Policy, and Criminal Justice Reform. Faculty are engaged in the community and have worked with several local organizations and agencies including: Beyond Housing, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Federal Probation and Parole, St. Louis Department of Health, St. Louis Police Department, St. Louis County Justice Services, and Urban Strategies. The department also has several internship and community-based learning opportunities specifically designed for MA students.

Career Outlook

Our MA graduates pursue careers both locally and nationally in a wide variety of settings. The MA in criminology and criminal justice prepares the graduate to assume leadership roles to act as change agents in the criminal legal system and to work professionally for various social organizations as well as local, state, and federal agencies concerned with maintaining public safety.

Recent Career Placements

- Research Professional (e.g., Measures for Justice, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority)
- Crime Analyst (e.g., Colorado Division of Youth Services, St. Louis Metropolitan Police Research Division)
- Non-Profit Social Service Agencies (e.g., Criminal Justice Ministry)
- Federal Law Enforcement and Investigations Agencies (e.g., FBI)
- State and Federal Departments of Probation and Parole

Skills developed through degree completion

- Demonstrate understanding of theory, research methods, and literature of criminology and criminal justice, and the interconnections between social theory, research, and policy
- Assess research questions and demonstrate understanding of research methods of criminology and criminal justice
- Describe the structure and functioning of the fundamental institutions (e.g., legislatures, police, punishment, supervisory) that are part of the criminal justice system
- Analyze the role that social structure (e.g., race, class, gender, etc.) plays in crime and criminal justice
- Design research projects grounded in theory and scholarship, and evaluate data critically

Successful alumni have gone on to fulfill many of the opportunities above. Additional possibilities are taken from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Contact an advisor to discuss additional future career options.
Master of Arts in Criminology & Criminal Justice
Non-Thesis Track

2023-2024
2-YEAR ACADEMIC MAP

This is a sample academic map for the courses to take each academic semester/session. It does not include all the available exit tracks. This map is not a substitute for academic advisement. Contact your advisor when making final selections.

Year 1
FALL SEMESTER (9 credit hours)
CRIMIN 6400: Proseminar (3)
CRIMIN 6405: Research Methods (3)
CRIMIN 5415: Foundations of Criminological Theory (3)

SPRING SEMESTER (9 credit hours)
CRIMIN 6410: Statistical Application in Criminology & Criminal Justice (3)
Elective: Choose any CCJ graduate class (3)
Elective: Choose any CCJ graduate class (3)

Year 2
FALL SEMESTER (6 credit hours)
Elective: Choose any CCJ graduate class (3)
Elective: Choose any CCJ graduate class (3)

SPRING SEMESTER (6 credit hours)
Elective: Choose any CCJ graduate class (3)
Elective: Choose any CCJ graduate class (3)

Degree completed!

Recently Taught Seminar Electives:
- Juvenile Delinquency
- Communities and Crime
- Violent Crime
- Victimology
- Law and Social Control
- Policing
- Contemporary Theories
- Criminal Justice Theory and Policy
- Seminar in CCJ: Public Criminology
- Inequalities in Criminal Justice (planned for Spring 2022)

Recently Taught Research Methods Electives:
- Qualitative Research Design
- Multivariate Statistics
- Quantitative Research Design
- Seminar in CCJ: Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Ready to be an UMSL Triton? Apply today.

umsl.edu
888-GO-2-UMSL
314-516-5451
admissions.umsl.edu

Don't forget that students should apply for graduation the semester that you intend to graduate, so apply prior to the deadline!