SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

MASTER OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Take Command of Your Law Enforcement Career

Learn law enforcement leadership for the 21st century, by earning National University’s Master of Criminal Justice degree in as soon as 12 months. This engaging program integrates theory with practice to prepare you for today’s complex criminal justice issues. Enroll and you’ll develop problem-solving and research skills as well as the technological expertise necessary to analyze cases and develop practical and effective solutions. Graduates are prepared for challenging and demanding careers in local, state, and federal law enforcement management, correctional administration, security administration, criminal justice research, and teaching or training assignments.

Program highlights:
- Earn your Master’s degree in as little as 12 months
- All courses taught by expert practitioners in their field
- Program offered online, on site, and in hybrid formats
- Tuition discounts available
- Member of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences and Alpha Sigma Criminal Justice Honor Society

LEARN MORE TODAY

Veteran Founded. Nonprofit. NU.EDU

Accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC). National University is nonprofit and does not discriminate in any of its policies or practices on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, or veteran status.

Online and On-campus Programs
Monthly Starts and Accelerated Classes
WSCUC Accredited
The Master of Criminal Justice (MCJ) is designed to provide students with the required knowledge and competence in administration, management and problem-solving skills in the challenging and demanding careers of Criminal Justice in the fields of criminal justice administration and criminal justice research and development. Students completing the Master in Criminal Justice are exposed to both theoretical and applied models and concepts in criminal justice administration, as well as qualitative and quantitative research methods. The Master of Criminal Justice program integrates theory with practice to provide graduates with the skills and knowledge needed to address the complex issues and challenges of criminal justice in the 21st century. Students in this program develop the problem-solving and research skills as well as technological expertise necessary to analyze reality-based cases and assignments to develop strategies and solutions that are both practical and effective. Challenging and demanding careers in government at the local, state, and federal level in the administration of justice, law enforcement management, correctional administration, security administration, and criminal justice research as well as teaching and training assignments await graduates with a Master’s Degree in Criminal Justice.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Evaluate the managerial practices that have shaped the criminal justice professions.
- Analyze court decisions involving police or criminal justice agencies in terms of criminal sanctions.
- Analyze issues of police morale, motivation, retention, selection, and recruitment.
- Evaluate and determine what should be the consequences of unethical conduct by police officers.
- Evaluate and compare the American criminal justice system with other criminal justice systems.
- Evaluate disciplinary, theoretical, criminological, and philosophical foundations in the management of criminal justice.
- Develop oral, written, and technological communication for criminal justice professionals.
- Utilize critical thinking and problem-solving skills to identify quality scholarship and research in the field of criminal justice.

Degree Requirements

To receive a Master of Criminal Justice, students must complete at least 54 quarter units of graduate work. A total of 13.5 quarter units of graduate credit may be granted for equivalent graduate work completed at another institution, as it applies to this degree, and provided the units have not been used to satisfy the requirements of an awarded degree.

For students in the BS in Criminal Justice Administration/MCJ transition program, the University will waive the criminal justice course(s) taken as part of the bachelor’s degree (see BS in Criminal Justice Administration transition program) if the grade earned is a “B” or higher but no graduate units will be awarded.

Students should refer to the section on graduate admission requirements for specific information regarding application and evaluation.

Core Requirements

(8 courses; 36 quarter units)

- CJA 600  CJ Theory, Practice & Policy
- CJA 610  Critical Issues in CJ
- CJA 620  Legal Issues in CJ
- CJA 622  Professional Ethics in CJ
- CJA 627  Comparative CJ Systems
- CJA 650  Advanced Criminological Theory
- CJA 655  Advanced Research Methods
- CJA 690  Research Project Thesis

Prerequisite: CJA 600, CJA 610, CJA 620, CJA 622, CJA 627, CJA 650 and CJA 655

Program Electives

(4 courses; 18 quarter units)

Select four (4) courses from the following list of courses:

- CJA 625  Security Management & Planning
- CJA 660  Drugs, Alcohol & Public Policy
- CJA 665  Violence and Victimization
- FSC 622  Law and Criminal Procedure
- FSC 631  Major Case Investigation
- FSC 643  Forensic Psychology

For complete program information, see the National University Catalog 82, effective 10/2018.