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Master of Science Criminal Justice Program



GRADUATE STUDIES

Overview of the Program:

The Master of Science in Criminal Justice program focuses on the criminal justice system, its organizational components and processes and its legal and public policy contexts. The program includes instruction in criminal law and policy, police and correctional systems organization, the administration of justice and the judiciary, and public attitudes regarding a wide range of criminal justice issues. The program provides students with advanced theoretical, legal, and methodological training for applied, research, teaching, management and administrative careers in local, state, and federal agencies. Many students choose to pursue graduate education while working in the field. Others choose to pursue doctoral study following graduation. Some students enter the graduate program immediately following the completion of a baccalaureate degree, while others come back after being out of school for many years. This creates a diverse cohort of motivated individuals who support and assist one another through interactive online education. Graduates and current students have worked for state and federal agencies as probation and parole officers, in corrections, in law enforcement and for organizations like the National White Collar Crime Center and Fusion Center. The faculty bring a broad range of personal experiences from working in federal and state agencies and have strong ties to local, state and national personnel and organizations.

Admission Requirements:

Applicants must possess a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution, have a GPA of at least 3.0, complete a writing sample and submit three letters of recommendation (at least one of which is from someone unaffiliated with Fairmont State University) along with transcripts and an application form. In addition, all applicants must complete undergraduate research methods and undergraduate statistics classes with a grade of C or higher. The baccalaureate degree does not have to

"Life often takes us in unexpected directions. If someone would have told me four years ago that I would gain an interest in conducting research, and would ultimately return to Fairmont State University as a professor after receiving my PHD, I would not have believed them. I attribute this unpredicted but magnificent turn in my life to the tremendous guidance I received while pursuing my Master's degree in Criminal Justice at Fairmont State University. That guidance gave me the confidence, skills, and most importantly the aspiration I needed to be successful. I feel fortunate to be in a position to positively affect the lives of others through the program that had such a huge impact on my own life."

Joshua Smallridge, Ph.D.

The first Fairmont State Criminal Justice Masters alumnus to earn a doctoral degree in Criminal Justice.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

www.fairmontstate.edu/graduatestudies

be in criminal justice or criminology; however, students interested in the program for a career change are strongly encouraged to engage in self study prior to beginning graduate coursework. The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is not required. No single factor shall determine admission to Graduate Studies. Letters of recommendation, statements of purpose and personal interviews may also be used to assess a student's preparedness for a probability for success in graduate school. Applicants who do not meet all minimum admission criteria may be admitted provisionally.

The writing sample is a 5-10 page description of: (1) why the applicant is interested in earning a Master of Science in Criminal Justice degree, (2) what the applicant's career and field experiences have been thus far, and (3) what the applicant believes to be the most important issue in criminal justice today. The paper should be in APA format and the last section should include peer reviewed resources from the empirical/scholarly literature.

The Master of Science in Criminal Justice program requires students to complete thirty-six (36) hours, which includes eighteen (18) hours of core requirements and eighteen (18) hours of electives, designed to meet individual needs. Students must pass a comprehensive examination (COMPS) following completion of all coursework.

The program is designed to enable students to complete the course of study at the pace most comfortable for them. A full time student can earn a degree in 24 months but students have up to seven years to complete required coursework and COMPS. The goal of the program is to be flexible enough to meet the needs of a diverse group of students.

Faculty Highlights:

Dr. John McLaughlin - Retired Lt., Miami-Dade Police Department

Dr. Hollianne Marshall - collaborations with various national and local law enforcement agencies

Dr. Jennifer Myers - Psychologist and Drug Abuse Program Coordinator, Federal Bureau of Prisons

Dr. Joshua Smallridge - research in cybercrime and renowned for making statistics fun

Required Courses:

- CRIM 6601 **Advanced Criminal Justice Studies**
- CRIM 6602 **Advanced Criminal Law**
- CRIM 6620 **Advanced Theoretical Criminology**
- CRIM 6650 **Seminar in Criminal Justice Planning and Evaluation**
- CRIM 6655 **Applied Research Methods**
- CRIM 6656 **Applied Statistics**

Elective Courses:

- CRIM 5504 **Constitutional Law**
- CRIM 5525 **White Collar Crime**
- CRIM 5599 **Special Topics**
- CRIM 6610 **Advanced Penology**
- CRIM 6611 **Internship**
- CRIM 6615 **Comparative Analysis of Criminal Justice Systems**
- CRIM 6625 **Victimology**
- CRIM 6630 **Seminar in Law Enforcement**
- CRIM 6635 **Seminar in Offender Rehabilitation**
- CRIM 6640 **Seminar in Corrections**
- CRIM 6645 **Independent Study**

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Notes: