

MASTERS OF SCIENCE CRIMINAL JUSTICE

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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. 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.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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. Example Career Opportunities:

- Global intelligence
- Criminologist
- Legal research
- Corrections
- Unit/ Case Manager
- Federal, State, and Local Law Enforcement
- Victims Advocate

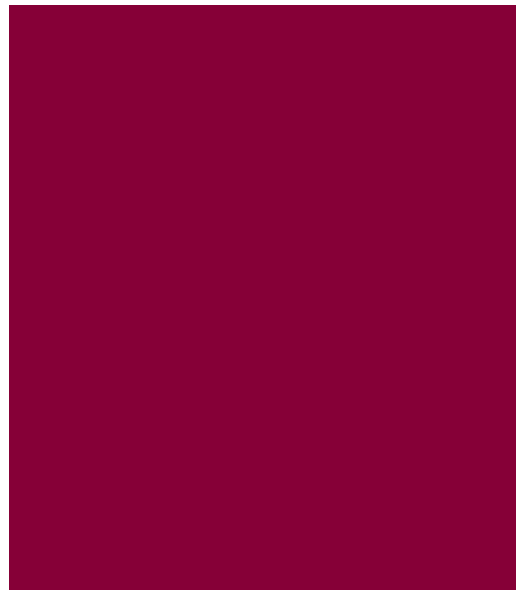


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**FAIRMONT STATE
UNIVERSITY™**

College of Liberal Arts



MASTERS OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Applicants must:

- have 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.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to complete undergraduate research methods and undergraduate statistics classes.

The baccalaureate degree does not have to 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. 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 references from the empirical/scholarly literature.

The Master of Science in Criminal Justice program requires students to complete a total of 30 hours, in either the Thesis or Capstone track. The Thesis track is recommended for those considering doctoral study or interested in independent research projects. The Capstone track is recommended for those in applied settings. 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 and sometimes even faster, but students have up to seven years to complete required coursework. The goal of the program is to be flexible enough to meet the needs of a diverse group of students.

Course Requirements:

Students must successfully complete 30 hours for the degree. Schedules vary based on course availability, semester student enters program and any courses already completed)

REQUIRED COURSES:

CRIM 6601 ADVANCED CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDIES
CRIM 6602 ADVANCED CRIMINAL LAW
CRIM 6620 ADVANCED THEORETICAL CRIMINOLOGY
CRIM 6650 SEMINAR IN CJ PLANNING AND EVALUATION
CRIM 6655 APPLIED RESEARCH METHODS
CRIM 6656 APPLIED STATISTICS

SAMPLE ELECTIVE COURSES:

CRIM 5504 CONSTITUTIONAL LAW
CRIM 5505 TERRORISM
CRIM 5525 WHITE COLLAR CRIME
CRIM 5599 SPECIAL TOPICS
CRIM 6611 INTERNSHIP
CRIM 6625 VICTIMOLOGY
CRIM 6630 SEMINAR IN LAW ENFORCEMENT
CRIM 6635 SEMINAR IN OFFENDER REHABILITATION
CRIM 6640 SEMINAR IN CORRECTIONS
CRIM 6645 INDEPENDENT STUDY

Must choose either Thesis or Capstone Track

THESIS TRACK:

REQUIRED COURSES 18 HRS. (from above list)	18
ELECTIVE COURSES 9 HRS. (from above list)	6
THESIS I (CRIM 6696) AND THESIS II (CRIM 6697)	6
Total	30

CAPSTONE TRACK:

REQUIRED COURSES 18 HRS. (from above list)	18
ELECTIVE COURSES 9 HRS. (from above list)	9
CAPSTONE (CRIM 6695)	3
Total	30



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Fairmont State University is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Institution.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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