

Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration

Administrative Unit

The program is administered by the Office of Graduate Studies and Research through the faculty of Criminology in the Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences. This program is also served by faculty in related disciplines and the School of Business.

Objective

The primary objective of the Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration program is to provide an advanced understanding of the American criminal justice system and advanced instruction in the management of the agencies and institutions which make up that system. The core of the program revolves around specific courses in research methods, social statistics, policy evaluation and administration. Designated electives focus on governmental entities which deal with problems associated with crime control, public policy, and the administration of justice. Students who are in criminal justice positions or who plan a career in criminal justice can further their career development and advancement objectives through this program. The program also prepares students for community college teaching and entry into doctoral programs.

Admission Requirements

In addition to the general requirements of the Office of Graduate Studies (see page 15) applicants for this program are required to submit three letters of recommendation. Two of these letters should be from persons who have knowledge of the applicant's academic preparation and the third should be from a professional working in the field of criminal justice. The letters should be sent directly to the Office of Graduate Studies.

Options

Both thesis and non-thesis options are available. Thesis degree plans will include CJAD 6399 Master's Thesis (6 hrs), 30 hours of required and elective coursework and an oral thesis defense. Non-thesis degree plans will include 36 hours of required and elective coursework and a written comprehensive examination. All theses are to be prepared according to the guidelines of the Office of Graduate Studies. Discussion with the academic advisor is recommended early in the development of the degree plan. Students who aspire to doctoral work are typically advised to select the thesis option.

Core Requirements

Students entering the program are required to have completed key prerequisite undergraduate courses in Research Methods and Statistics, and must show evidence (e.g. undergraduate coursework, work experience) of a basic understanding of the American criminal justice system. Students deficient in these areas may be admitted to the program provisionally and may be required to take appropriate undergraduate leveling courses. Evaluation of previous transcripts for prerequisite course work will be part of the admissions process. All students will complete 36 hours of graduate work as part of the degree requirements. These will include the following:

Core Requirements (15 hours)

- CJAD 6301 Crime and Criminal Justice (3 hrs).
- CJAD 6302 Statistical Applications in Criminal Justice (3 hrs).
- CJAD 6303 Advanced Research Methods in Criminal Justice (3 hrs).
- CJAD 6310 Policy Evaluation in Criminal Justice Management (3 hrs).
- MNGT 6360 Organization Theory (3 hrs).

Electives (15 - 21 hours selected from the following with advisor approval to meet student needs and career expectations).

CJAD 6304, 6330, 6340, 6350, 6360, 6361, 6362, and 6391.
MNGT 6312, 6315.
PSYC 6371,

Thesis Option (6 hours, taken in place of 6 hours of elective coursework)

CJAD 6399 Master's Thesis (6 hrs).

Distance Learning

Two courses per semester are currently televised to students in the San Angelo, Texas area through use of the interactive distance learning facilities at Angelo State University. Expansion of the program's distance learning capabilities is under consideration. Contact the Office of Graduate Studies for updated information on distance learning offerings.

Course Listings

CJAD 6301 Crime and Criminal Justice (3)

An overview of the motivation and distribution of crime and the agencies of crime control. Prerequisite: Undergraduate coursework in criminological theory.

CJAD 6302 Statistical Applications in Criminal Justice (3)

Application of statistical methods in the design and analysis of criminological/criminal justice research. Topics include analysis of variance models, correlation and regression, and multivariate techniques with emphasis on their application in the criminal justice system. Prerequisite: Undergraduate coursework in statistics.

CJAD 6303 Advanced Research Methods in Criminal Justice (3)

Foundations of research design, methodology, and analytic techniques as used in the criminal justice system to include a review and critique of research on crime causation, policing, corrections, and the courts. Prerequisite: Undergraduate coursework in research methods.

CJAD 6304 Public Administration in Criminal Justice (3)

Evaluation of the legal, social, economic, and philosophic foundations of governmental crime control policy administered by federal, state, and local units of government.

CJAD 6310 Policy Evaluation in Criminal Justice Management (3)

A critical examination, discussion and assessment of the interplay between electoral politics, legislation, administrative policies and the criminal justice system.

CJAD 6330 Women and Minorities in the Administration of Criminal Justice (3)

An examination of the major issues and controversies surrounding women and minorities both as employees and clients in the criminal justice system.

CJAD 6340 Contemporary Problems and Issues In Police Administration (3)

A study of the role of the police and policing in American society, emphasizing principles and practices of administration and their application to law enforcement. General problems and practices relating to contemporary police administration are discussed, including community policing and problem-oriented policing.

CJAD 6350 Contemporary Problems and Issues in Correctional Administration (3)

A study of correctional components of the American criminal justice system, emphasizing principles of administration and their application to correctional practices. The impact of legal and social change on correctional agencies will be discussed as well as associated with their administration, management, and organization.

CJAD 6360 Contemporary Legal Issues In Criminal Justice Administration (3)

Examines legal problems and issues related to the administration of criminal justice in terms of their impact on the various components of the criminal justice system.

CJAD 6361 Advanced Constitutional Law (3)

An in-depth study and analysis of leading court cases and their impact on the criminal justice system.

CJAD 6362 Civil Liability For Criminal Justice Administrators (3)

An in-depth consideration of the sources of liability exposure in criminal justice agencies, relevant court cases, and the administrator's role in controlling liability exposure.

CJAD 6391 Contact Study (3)

Advanced independent study or research.

CJAD 6399 Master's Thesis (3 or 6)

Research and preparation of the Master's Thesis. Meets the research requirements for the thesis option in Master's degree programs.