Program Information

The criminal justice graduate program requires study in the overall discipline, with intensive focus on the areas of criminal justice policy, criminal justice administration, research methods and statistics, and criminological theory. Beyond a core set of required courses, the program features a Thesis Track (Plan I) designed for students interested in pursuing a doctorate in criminal justice or criminology, and a Non-Thesis Track (Plan II) designed for students interested in pursuing entry- or advanced-level positions in a criminal justice or related agency setting. Students selecting the Plan I option are required to complete a Thesis project under a faculty adviser, while students selecting the Plan II track are required to complete a Demonstration Project and are strongly encouraged to complete a field placement (Internship).

Each year, students are admitted to the MSCJ program for the fall and spring terms. The application deadline for receipt of Fall admission materials by the Graduate School is July 1. The application deadline for receipt of Spring admission materials by the Graduate School is November 1. Students may be admitted to the MSCJ program "in good standing" provided they meet all minimum admission criteria established by the Graduate School and the program, which include having taken an introductory-level statistics course and an introductory-level research methods course in which a grade of "B" or better was earned. Most students admitted to the program have earned a cumulative undergraduate grade point of average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher. Students who otherwise meet minimum admission criteria but who have not taken both the statistics and the research methods courses may be admitted to the MSCJ program on a "contingency" basis. Students so admitted will not be allowed to register for graduate coursework until the contingencies are removed. Students meeting the minimum requirements for admission including taking the statistics and research methods courses but who lack a substantive background in criminal justice may be admitted to the MSCJ program on a "contingency" basis, but will be required to take remedial coursework before they will be allowed to register for any graduate courses.

The recommended course sequence for the Plan I MSCJ degree is:

**Semester 1 (Fall):** CJ 600, CJ 601, CJ 606

**Semester 2 (Spring):** CJ 583, CJ 605, Elective 1

**Semester 3 (Fall):** CJ 603, CJ 604, CJ 699

**Semester 4 (Spring):** CJ 699, Elective 2

The recommended course sequence for the Plan II MSCJ degree is:

**Semester 1 (Fall):** CJ 600, CJ 601, CJ 606

**Semester 2 (Spring):** CJ 583, CJ 605, Elective 1

**Semester 3 (Fall):** CJ 603, CJ 604, Elective 2

**Semester 4 (Spring):** CJ 697/CJ 698, Elective 3 (recommended CJ 693/CJ 696), Elective 4

### MSCJ Online

Students who wish to take courses online may complete all or part of the MSCJ completely on line. There is no "online degree," it is the same degree regardless of how the courses are taken. Students may take some courses in class and some online, or may complete the MSCJ completely online.

The Online MSCJ Degree is designed to mirror the in-class Non-Thesis Plan II degree. Students enrolled in the online degree are required to take the same courses as the Plan II degree — but the courses may be taken 100% online. The degree is structured so that students can graduate in 4 semesters (fall, spring, summer, fall) by taking 9 hours each semester.

Students are required to complete a Demonstration Project (CJ 697) to display their mastery of the core courses. Specifically, students will complete a research paper that shows they can synthesize a body of literature, create a research question, use appropriate research methods to evaluate the question, and discuss implications (both theory and policy) of the findings. Students are required to work with a faculty member to oversee the project. In their second semester, students will be required to write a brief proposal discussing their topic and potential sources of data. After completing this proposal, they will send it to the Program Director who will then advise students on a faculty chair based on best fit with the topic. Students can request to work with faculty members, but this does not guarantee they will be assigned to that faculty member. Once a chair is determined, the faculty chair and student will work together until the chair deems the project acceptable.

Under special circumstances, and with permission from the Program Director, students may be allowed to complete a Thesis through the online MSCJ program. In such cases, the student will take 6 hours of Thesis in place of one elective and the Demonstration Project.

The recommended course sequence for the online MSCJ degree is:

**Semester 1 (Fall):** CJ 600, CJ 601, CJ 606

**Semester 2 (Spring):** CJ 583, CJ 605, Elective 1

**Semester 3 (Summer):** CJ 603, CJ 604, Elective 2

**Semester 4 (Fall):** CJ 697/CJ 698, Elective 3, Elective 4

### Financial Aid

Students who are admitted to the M.S.C.J. program "in good standing" are eligible to receive department-based financial aid in the form of graduate assistantships or scholarships that are awarded on a competitive basis. Students are typically notified of such awards in early June of each year for the following fall.
Additional Information

Deadline for Entry Term(s):  
- Fall and Spring

Deadline for All Application Materials to be in the Graduate School Office:  
- July 1 for Fall and November 1 for Spring

Number of Evaluation Forms Required:  
- Three

Entrance Tests:  
- TOEFL and TWE required for international applicants whose native language is not English.

Contact Information

For detailed information contact Dr. Tara Warner, Department of Criminal Justice, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 1201 University Boulevard, Suite 210, Birmingham, Alabama 35294-4562.

Telephone: 205-934-2069

E-mail: twarner2@uab.edu (jhcopes@uab.edu)

Web: http://www.uab.edu/cas/criminaljustice/

Master of Science in Criminal Justice

Plan 1 - 30 hours with Thesis  

Requirements  

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<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<td>CJ 583</td>
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| Thesis Research  
| CJ 699   | 6     |
| CJ Electives  
| CJ 697   | 6     |

Total Hours 30

1. Students can take up to 6 hours of independent study (CJ 695) and/or up to 9 hours of directed non-thesis research (CJ 698)
3. CJ 500+ level courses or substitute approved by a graduate program director

Plan II - 36 hours with Demonstration Project

Requirements  

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| Demonstration Project  
| CJ 697   | 3     |
| Electives (CJ 500+ level courses)  
| CJ 608   | 12    |

Total Hours 36

1. Minimum of 3 hours of CJ 697 required.
2. CJ 500+ level courses or substitute approved by a graduate program director

Requirements for a Dual Degree - Master of Science in Criminal Justice and Master of Public Administration

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<td>CJ 583</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
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Total Hours 30

1. Other courses at 500 level or above may apply with CJ Grad Director approval, except courses in MPA that are required for the MPA.
2. 500 level or above.

Courses

CJ 500. Drugs and Society. 3 Hours.  
This course teaches students the pharmacological effects and different categories of drugs. Different theories of drug use are discussed as well as the historical development of drug laws including different methods of regulating drug use. Various harms associated with drug use are discussed as well as the consequences of drug prohibition.

CJ 501. Foundations of Digital Forensics. 3 Hours.  
This course provides those who do not have a strong background in digital forensics the foundational information and programs used in countering cybercrime. You will become familiar with common programming languages and tools used in digital forensic investigations. You will also be required to learn an industry-focused writing style.

CJ 502. Computer Forensics. 3 Hours.  
Use of analytical and investigative techniques in criminal or civil litigation to identify, collect, examine and preserve evidence/information magnetically stored or encoded.

CJ 503. Restorative Justice. 3 Hours.  
Introduction to, and analysis of, movement in criminal justice to institutionalize peaceful approaches to harm, problem-solving and violations of legal and human rights. Includes discussion of specific programs, critical evaluation of these programs, and analysis of future directions of the movement.

CJ 504. Serial Killers. 3 Hours.  
Examination of the psychology and sociology of serial killers; case studies and agency responses to these offenders.

CJ 507. Special Topics in Criminal Justice. 3 Hours.  
In-depth analysis of substantive topic in criminal justice or criminology including contemporary issues, ethics, historical review, or related topics. Varies by semester and by Instructor. May be repeated twice for credit.

CJ 508. Juvenile Delinquency. 3 Hours.  
Introduction to the nature, scope, and causes of illegal behavior by juveniles, and societal responses to that behavior.
CJ 511. Juvenile Justice System. 3 Hours.
Introduction to the evolution and operation of specialized agencies and procedures to address juvenile law-breaking, including emerging problems and solutions.

CJ 512. Juvenile Law. 3 Hours.
Review and analysis of emerging statutory and case law in American juvenile justice.

CJ 519. Investigating Online Crimes. 3 Hours.
Study of cyber investigative techniques, involving focused analysis of email and websites; examination of legal process and preparing evidence in cyber crime cases.

CJ 524. Serial Killers in Cross-National Settings. 3 Hours.
Examines serial homicide in cross-national settings including offender disorders; crime scene analysis; significance of victims; and offender classification process.

CJ 530. Ethics and Computer Forensics. 3 Hours.
Overview of different systems of ethics; the role of ethics in computer forensics, cybercrime investigation, and information security; examination of ethical issues facing professionals involved in computer forensics, cybercrime investigation, and information security.

CJ 537. Digital Media Forensics. 3 Hours.
Digital media forensics addresses all stored digital evidence types faced by cyber security professionals and computer forensics examiners. Students will learn to analyze character encoding, file formats, and digital media, including hard drives, smartphones and other portable devices, and cloud-hosted evidence, as well as disk acquisition, duplication and evidence preservation techniques and how to apply these techniques in typical criminal investigation scenarios.

CJ 537L. Digital Media Forensics Lab. 0 Hours.
Laboratory to accompany CJ 537.

CJ 538. Investigation of Malicious Attacks. 3 Hours.
An advanced examination of analysis of malicious attacks from a criminal justice perspective. Topics include investigative techniques and practices, static and dynamic analysis, and technique and tools of investigations of malicious attacks. The structure of a malicious attack investigations from the perspectives of both an incident responder and law enforcement investigators targeting a cyber criminal through a series of case studies. Counts toward the MSCJ and Computer Forensic certificate.

Prerequisites: CJ 502 [Min Grade: C]

CJ 540. White Collar and Corporate Crime. 3 Hours.
Introduction to, and analysis of, illegal/deviant behavior occurring in organizational settings, including crimes committed by and against complex organizations.

CJ 542. Race, Crime, Gender and Social Policy. 3 Hours.
Examination of how the subordinate status of minority groups (African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and Women) affects interaction with the justice system as offenders, victims, and professionals.

CJ 543. Women and the Criminal Justice System. 3 Hours.
Evaluation of the changing role of women in the justice system as victims, offenders and professionals.

CJ 544. Law and Society. 3 Hours.
Examination of how law is used to facilitate or regard social change, social control, and social conflict in society.

CJ 545. Juvenile Corrections. 3 Hours.
Examination of historical and contemporary efforts to reduce juvenile delinquency with particular attention to innovative programs and evaluation of their effectiveness.

CJ 550. Questioned Death Investigation. 3 Hours.
Examination of forensic pathology as used in local medical examiners' offices.

CJ 554. Financial Crimes and Investigations. 3 Hours.
Survey of the field of financial crime and its investigation, including review of various financial crimes (fraud, money laundering, cybercrime, etc.), investigative techniques, resources specific to the investigation of these crimes, and the role of financial institutions in combating these crimes.

CJ 560. Violence: An American Tradition. 3 Hours.
The course examines violence as an American tradition. Although the class examines historical acts of violence as catalysts for social change, the emphasis will be on destructive or negative violence. -- criminal violence. The class examines many different acts of violence in society as well as policies and prevention strategies.

CJ 569. Research Methods. 3 Hours.
Overview of different systems of research; the role of research in criminal justice agencies; the importance of criminological research in developing criminal justice law and policy; classic and contemporary research on crime and justice.

CJ 570. Seminar in Criminal Justice Administration. 3 Hours.
Critical analysis of formal and informal processing of offenders by criminal justice agencies, including police, courts, and corrections; effectiveness and future directions.

CJ 571. Seminar in Criminological Theory. 3 Hours.
A critical examination of major theories of crime and criminality: biological, psychological, sociological, and cultural. Emphasis on classic and contemporary theoretical explanations of crime and criminality.

CJ 572. Seminar in Comparative Criminal Justice. 3 Hours.
An examination of various legal systems and criminal justice systems. Emphasis on the role of culture on law enforcement and criminal justice practices.

CJ 573. Seminar in Juvenile Justice. 3 Hours.
Critical analysis of formal and informal processing of offenders by juvenile justice agencies. Emphasis on the role of culture on law enforcement and juvenile justice practices.

CJ 574. Seminar in Forensic Psychology. 3 Hours.
Introduction to forensic psychology, including the role of psychologists in legal proceedings and the psychological aspects of criminal behavior.

CJ 575. Seminar in Forensic Pathology. 3 Hours.
Introduction to forensic pathology, including the role of pathologists in legal proceedings and the medical aspects of criminal behavior.

CJ 576. Seminar in Forensic Anthropology. 3 Hours.
Introduction to forensic anthropology, including the role of anthropologists in legal proceedings and the biological aspects of criminal behavior.

CJ 577. Seminar in Forensic Psychiatry. 3 Hours.
Introduction to forensic psychiatry, including the role of psychiatrists in legal proceedings and the psychological aspects of criminal behavior.

CJ 578. Seminar in Forensic Sociology. 3 Hours.
Introduction to forensic sociology, including the role of sociologists in legal proceedings and the sociological aspects of criminal behavior.

CJ 579. Seminar in Forensic Economics. 3 Hours.
Introduction to forensic economics, including the role of economists in legal proceedings and the economic aspects of criminal behavior.

CJ 580. Seminar in Forensic Anthropology. 3 Hours.
Introduction to forensic anthropology, including the role of anthropologists in legal proceedings and the biological aspects of criminal behavior.

CJ 581. Seminar in Forensic Psychiatry. 3 Hours.
Introduction to forensic psychiatry, including the role of psychiatrists in legal proceedings and the psychological aspects of criminal behavior.

CJ 582. Seminar in Forensic Sociology. 3 Hours.
Introduction to forensic sociology, including the role of sociologists in legal proceedings and the sociological aspects of criminal behavior.

CJ 583. Seminar in Forensic Economics. 3 Hours.
Introduction to forensic economics, including the role of economists in legal proceedings and the economic aspects of criminal behavior.

CJ 584. Seminar in Forensic Psychology. 3 Hours.
Introduction to forensic psychology, including the role of psychologists in legal proceedings and the psychological aspects of criminal behavior.

CJ 585. Seminar in Forensic Pathology. 3 Hours.
Introduction to forensic pathology, including the role of pathologists in legal proceedings and the medical aspects of criminal behavior.

CJ 586. Seminar in Forensic Anthropology. 3 Hours.
Introduction to forensic anthropology, including the role of anthropologists in legal proceedings and the biological aspects of criminal behavior.

CJ 587. Seminar in Forensic Psychiatry. 3 Hours.
Introduction to forensic psychiatry, including the role of psychiatrists in legal proceedings and the psychological aspects of criminal behavior.

CJ 588. Seminar in Forensic Sociology. 3 Hours.
Introduction to forensic sociology, including the role of sociologists in legal proceedings and the sociological aspects of criminal behavior.

CJ 589. Seminar in Forensic Economics. 3 Hours.
Introduction to forensic economics, including the role of economists in legal proceedings and the economic aspects of criminal behavior.

CJ 590. Seminar in Forensic Psychology. 3 Hours.
Introduction to forensic psychology, including the role of psychologists in legal proceedings and the psychological aspects of criminal behavior.

CJ 591. Seminar in Forensic Pathology. 3 Hours.
Introduction to forensic pathology, including the role of pathologists in legal proceedings and the medical aspects of criminal behavior.

CJ 592. Seminar in Forensic Anthropology. 3 Hours.
Introduction to forensic anthropology, including the role of anthropologists in legal proceedings and the biological aspects of criminal behavior.

CJ 593. Seminar in Forensic Psychiatry. 3 Hours.
Introduction to forensic psychiatry, including the role of psychiatrists in legal proceedings and the psychological aspects of criminal behavior.

CJ 594. Seminar in Forensic Sociology. 3 Hours.
Introduction to forensic sociology, including the role of sociologists in legal proceedings and the sociological aspects of criminal behavior.

CJ 595. Seminar in Forensic Economics. 3 Hours.
Introduction to forensic economics, including the role of economists in legal proceedings and the economic aspects of criminal behavior.

CJ 596. Seminar in Forensic Psychology. 3 Hours.
Introduction to forensic psychology, including the role of psychologists in legal proceedings and the psychological aspects of criminal behavior.

CJ 597. Seminar in Forensic Pathology. 3 Hours.
Introduction to forensic pathology, including the role of pathologists in legal proceedings and the medical aspects of criminal behavior.

CJ 598. Seminar in Forensic Anthropology. 3 Hours.
Introduction to forensic anthropology, including the role of anthropologists in legal proceedings and the biological aspects of criminal behavior.

CJ 599. Seminar in Forensic Psychiatry. 3 Hours.
Introduction to forensic psychiatry, including the role of psychiatrists in legal proceedings and the psychological aspects of criminal behavior.

CJ 600. Pro-Seminar in Criminal Justice. 3 Hours.
Critical analysis of formal and informal processing of offenders by criminal justice agencies, including police, courts, and corrections; effectiveness and future directions.

CJ 601. Seminar in Criminological Theory. 3 Hours.
Classic and contemporary theoretical explanations of crime and criminality.

CJ 602. Seminar in Criminal Justice Administration. 3 Hours.
Theories of organizational structure, motivation, and management applied to criminal justice agencies.

CJ 604. Seminar in Criminal Justice Policy. 3 Hours.
Origins, formulation, implementation, and evaluation of criminal justice policy; classic and contemporary examples of policy innovations.
CJ 605. Seminar in Research Design. 3 Hours.
Quantitative methods of empirical research emphasizing criminal justice/criminological applications; current research methodologies relating to analysis of issues involving crime and criminal justice.

CJ 606. Seminar in Data Analysis. 3 Hours.
Bivariate and multivariate analyses and interpretation of results from substantive research.

CJ 675. Law Evidence and Procedure. 3 Hours.
Overview and examination of the legal aspects of physical evidence, including rules of evidence, procedural rules, and the role of expert witnesses.

CJ 688. Special Topics in Criminal Justice. 3 Hours.
Special Topics in Criminal Justice.

CJ 693. Graduate Practitioner Internship in Criminal Justice. 3 Hours.
Internship specifically arranged for practitioners internship credit for the criminal justice major.

CJ 695. Graduate Independent Study (Non-Thesis). 3 Hours.
Independent study in a substantive area of interest under the direction of a faculty member.

CJ 696. Graduate Internship in Criminal Justice. 3 Hours.
Field experience in criminal justice agency setting. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 hours credit.

CJ 697. Graduate Plan II Research Project. 3 Hours.
Independent study in a student's substantive area of interest under the direction of a faculty member.

Independent study in a student's substantive area of interest under the direction of a faculty member.

Admission to candidacy and successful defense of thesis proposal.
Prerequisites: GAC M