Justice Sciences

The Department of Justice Sciences is home to multiple graduate programs, including programs of study leading to the Master of Science in Criminal Justice (http://catalog.uab.edu/graduate/collegeofarts/sciences/justicescience/criminaljustice) (M.S.C.J.) , the Master of Science in Forensic Science (http://catalog.uab.edu/graduate/collegeofarts/sciences/justicescience/forensicscience) (M.S.F.S.), the Master of Science in Computer Forensics and Security Management (http://catalog.uab.edu/graduate/collegeofarts/sciences/interdisciplinaryprograms/computer-forensics-security-management), and “A” and “B” graduate certificates in Computer Forensics. The department also co-sponsors a joint MSCJ/MPA program (http://www.uab.edu/cas/government/graduate-program/joint-degrees/#MPAMSCJ) with the Department of Government.

Courses

JS 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.

JS 501. Legal Research and Writing. 3 Hours.
Foundation in the elements of legal research and writing, with an emphasis on developing and writing a legal brief.

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

JS 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.

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

JS 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.

JS 508. Juvenile Delinquency. 3 Hours.
Introduction to the nature, scope, and causes of illegal behavior by juveniles, and societal responses to that behavior.

JS 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.

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

JS 513. The Legal Profession. 3 Hours.
Weekly seminars conducted by accomplished practitioners in civil litigation, criminal prosecution, criminal defense, labor and employment law, products liability, domestic relations, military justice, environmental, indigent legal aid, and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) techniques.

JS 515. Investigating Online Crimes. 3 Hours.
Introduction to cyber investigative techniques, involving focused analysis of email and websites; Examination of legal process and preparing evidence in cyber crime cases. (Also CSS591).
Prerequisites: JS 502 [Min Grade: C]

JS 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.

JS 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.

JS 537. CyberCrime and Forensics. 3 Hours.
Overview of all aspects of media forensics including analysis of character encoding, file formats, and digital media; examination of disk acquisition and duplication techniques and application of these techniques in criminal investigation scenarios.

JS 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.

JS 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.

JS 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.

JS 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.

JS 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.

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

JS 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.

JS 566. Spatial Analyses & Crime Mapping. 3 Hours.
This skills-based class will introduce students to the application of geographic information systems (GIS) to crime-related topics and issues.
JS 583. Patterns in Crime. 3 Hours.
Examination of the major correlates of crime and criminality, including age, race, sex, and socio-economic status, examination of major sources of information from which data on crime correlates are gathered.

JS 592. Study Away in Criminal Justice. 3 Hours.
Affords students the opportunity to engage in academic study outside of the U.S. to examine substantive topics in crime and justice. Students spend time at a destination point, where they engage with students and faculty members in classroom and research settings at partner post-secondary institutions, experience immersion in foreign culture, and engage in comparative analysis of policies and programs relating to crime and justice.

JS 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.

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

JS 603. Seminar in Criminal Justice Administration. 3 Hours.
Theories of organizational structure, motivation, and management applied to criminal justice agencies.

JS 604. Seminar in Criminal Justice Policy. 3 Hours.
Origins, formulation, implementation, and evaluation of criminal justice policy; classic and contemporary examples of policy innovations.

JS 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.

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

JS 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.

JS 686. Special topics in Criminal Justice. 3 Hours.

JS 687. Special Topics in Criminal Justice. 3 Hours.

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

JS 693. Graduate Practitioner Internship in Criminal Justice. 1-6 Hour.
Internship specifically arranged for practitioners internship credit for the criminal justice major.

JS 694. Graduate Distance Internship in Criminal Justice. 1-6 Hour.
Internship with agency that is occurring more than 100 miles from Birmingham.

JS 695. Graduate Independent Study (Non-Thesis). 1-6 Hour.
Independent study in a substantive area of interest under the direction of a faculty member.

JS 696. Graduate Internship in Criminal Justice. 1-6 Hour.
Field experience in criminal justice agency setting. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 hours credit.

JS 697. Graduate Plan II Research Project. 1-6 Hour.
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.

JS 699. Thesis Research. 1-6 Hour.
Admission to candidacy and successful defense of thesis proposal.

Prerequisites: GAC M