Course Descriptions

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN APPLIED CRIMINOLOGY
Your future starts here, with an ONLINE graduate program in Criminology consisting of:

Four Core courses (Required)

CJ 501-Seminar in Policing and Law Enforcement
This course is an advanced approach to policing and law enforcement. The focus of the class will be on the operations and function of police/law enforcement departments at the local, state, and federal levels. The course will examine related areas such as personnel, practices, procedures, and issues in policing/law enforcement. This course will investigate additional areas such as the use of technology in policing, police subculture, and community policing.

CJ 530-Criminology
This course examines crime and delinquency in America from several theoretical perspectives. This course provides an in-depth investigation into the major criminological theories that explain the causation, occurrence and development of criminal behavior. A wide spectrum of criminological theories are introduced and researched during this class.

CJ 531-Issues in Criminal Law and the Courts
This course will focus on critical thinking related to issues concerning principles of criminal law and court procedures as well as selected practices particularly relevant to the United States. Issues will include: ‘justice for all’, ‘freedom and privacy of the individual’, ‘cruel and unusual punishment’, ‘use of deadly force in law enforcement’, ‘trial by jury’, ‘election of judges’ and ‘morality and the law’.

CJ 568-Corrections
This course is a study of popular issues in community-based and institutional corrections with emphasis on organizational goal setting and achievement, program evaluation, client supervision, agency administration, and problem solving. An analysis of current research and its applicability to the criminal justice system and society will be performed.
Track Specialization areas (Student selects one track)

General track
By design, this track will offer the most amount of flexibility for the student. This track is designed for someone who seeks to gain general knowledge in the field. It is designed for those seeking a broad understanding whether they are new to concepts in criminal justice or are currently working in the criminal justice field. The flexibility of this track would allow students a great deal of latitude in customizing their electives for this degree program to suit their professional interest. For example CJ 514 Family Violence combined with CJ 532 Juvenile Delinquency coupled CJ 534 Drug and Society and/or CJ 533 Gender and Crime classes could be an excellent choice for an individual specializing in criminal justice treatment, probation/parole officers, or family services providers.

To complete general track requirements the student must successfully complete the four core courses (CJ 501, CJ 530, CJ 531 and CJ 568), one management course (CJ 520, CJ 577 or CJ 583), four MSAC electives and the three capstone courses (CJ 575, CJ 576, CJ 595).

Management track
By design, this track will focus on management and policy issues and would be for those students interested in criminal justice management or supervision.. The track would specialize in management issues such as evaluating, planning, organizing, staffing, directing, coordination, reporting, and budgeting. For this track the existing courses of CJ 577 CJ Planning and Evaluation; CJ 520 Administration and Management and CJ 583 Criminal Justice policy would be mandatory. There are two additional options that can be explored A) letting the students take two electives to round out the 36 hours; or B) add some cross disciplinary courses i.e. a course on budgeting and perhaps one on leadership and/or planning.

To complete management track requirements the student must successfully complete the four core courses (CJ 501, CJ 530, CJ 531 and CJ 568), three management courses (CJ 520, CJ 577 or CJ 583), two MSAC electives and the three capstone courses (CJ 575, CJ 576, CJ 595).

Homeland Security track
By design, this track is to attract members, outside the traditional criminal justice field. The track would be more for those with an interest in national defense and would give students a broad understanding of homeland security issues, to enhance leadership capabilities among those who currently work in local, state, and federal government, and others who are interested in gaining greater knowledge about the field of homeland security. This would also introduce the student to homeland security concepts, applicable management principles, policy analysis, and enhance critical leadership skills necessary to successfully address security challenges within the United States.

To complete Homeland Security track requirements the student must successfully complete the four core courses (CJ 501, CJ 530, CJ 531 and CJ 568), four Homeland Security courses, one MSAC elective and the three capstone courses (CJ 575, CJ 576, CJ 595).
Elective courses (Student selects their choice of electives)
Varied topics of interest, offered on a rolling basis.

Capstone sequence courses (Required)

CJ 575-Research Methods in Criminal Justice
This course covers the basic techniques and procedures used in the process of criminal justice research. Topics include: defining research problems, ethics in criminal justice research, selecting and measuring variables, stating hypotheses, sampling, and developing experimental research design.

CJ 576-Data Analysis and Interpretation
This course continues students’ exploration of research in criminal justice. In this course, students are exposed to different methods of data collection and the principles of data analysis. Emphasis will also be placed on teaching students how to interpret data as presented in published reports, articles, and books.

CJ 595-Research Literature and Techniques
Students will write a formal research paper designed to broaden students’ perspectives and to provide an opportunity for the integration of course concepts. Emphasis will be placed on methods of interpretation, writing, and critical thinking related to criminal justice topics/issues. Prerequisite: CJ 575 and CJ 576.