

M.S. in Criminology and Criminal Justice

The Master of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice is a 36-credit hour program. Courses are offered face-to-face in the evenings, online, or a hybrid combination of online and face-to-face approaches.

The educational objectives of the MS-CCJ are to prepare individuals to identify problems and develop solutions through applying criminological theories and policies to social issues that contribute to crime, and how to implement these solutions within justice-related agencies.

Admission Requirements

1. Completed UTEP Graduate School Application
2. Official transcripts from each institution attended showing a minimum of 3.0 GPA in the last 60 hours of upper-division (junior and senior level) undergraduate classes
3. A B.A. or B.S. degree in criminal justice, criminology, or a related field from an accredited institution or foreign equivalency institution.
4. Professional resume that includes any relevant internships and/or employment
5. 3-4 page Statement of Purpose- A well-written essay that details your background and your expectations and/or goals from a degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice. You may include an explanation of your transcript if needed.
6. Two Professional and/or Academic Recommendation Letters from individuals who are qualified to assess applicant's potential for academic success and are not related to the applicant. For applicants who have completed a baccalaureate degree in the last 2 years, at least one recommendation letter must come from applicant's former academic institution.
7. Applicants whose degrees are from non-English speaking institutions are required to demonstrate English proficiency. Please consult the Graduate School (<https://www.utep.edu/graduate/future-students/applicant-timelines.html>) website for required scores.

Applicants who lack the required GPA or who lack appropriate course preparation may be considered for conditional admission.

Transfer Credits Limited to 6 hours

No more than six hours of applicable graduate transfer credit will be accepted at the Master's degree level. Transfer hours will be accepted only within the last 7 years and only from institutions that are accredited by a regional higher education accrediting body. No academic transfer credit for criminal justice courses will be awarded for workforce credits, life experience, military courses, police academy, correctional officer academy, or other continuing education professional training. Graduate courses for which a "C" or lower was earned cannot be transferred. Graduate courses used toward the completion of another degree will not be accepted.

Degree Requirements

The MS in Criminology and Criminal Justice degree is a 36 credit program. All students in the program will be required to take 9 hours of core courses: Proseminar in Criminology and Criminal Justice, Advanced Criminological Theory, and Seminar in Criminal Justice Policy. Following the core, two tracks are available to appeal to students with different educational goals: a professional/non-thesis track and a thesis track.

Code	Title	Hours
Professional Non-Thesis Track Semester Credit Hours		
	Core Courses (required for all students in both tracks)	9
	Track Requirements	9
	Electives (at least 9 credits must be "CRIJ" designated)	18
Total Hours		36

Code	Title	Hours
Thesis Track Semester Credit Hours		
	Core Courses (required for all students in both track)	9
	Track Requirements	12
	Electives (at least 9 credits must be "CRIJ" designated)	15
Total Hours		36

The Professional/non-thesis track may appeal to the student who may already be working in a criminal justice agency or the student who desires the Master's as a terminal degree and has yet to enter the criminal justice field. In addition to the 9 hours of core courses required for all students, the professional track will require 9 credits in Criminal Justice Organization and Management, Program Evaluation and Evidence-Based Practices, and Capstone in CCJ.

Students taking the capstone course will produce a major paper. Skills acquired in previous courses in the areas of critical thinking, problem-solving, and professional writing will be demonstrated. The remaining 18 credit hours of courses will be taken as electives, of which 9 of those credits must be CRIJ-designated.

Degree Plan

Professional/Non-Thesis Track

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses:		18
CRIJ 5305	Proseminar in Criminology/CJ	
CRIJ 5310	Adv Criminological Theory	
CRIJ 5315	Sem Criminal Justice Policy	
CRIJ 5300	Seminar-Crim Just Administrati	
CRIJ 5350	Program Evaluation and EBPs	
CRIJ 5390	Capstone in Criminology/CJ	
Elective Courses:		18
Select 18 hours from the list below (at least 9 hours must be CRIJ)		
CRIJ 5322	Sem Policing Law Enforcement	
CRIJ 5323	Invest Interview & Interrogat	
CRIJ 5324	Seminar Courts and Sentencing	
CRIJ 5326	Correctional Policy and Mgmt	
CRIJ 5328	Decision Making Intel & CJ	
CRIJ 5331	Communities and Crime	
CRIJ 5333	Immigration, Crime and CJ	
CRIJ 5335	Transnational Criminal Orgs	
CRIJ 5337	Drugs, Crime and CJ Policy	
CRIJ 5339	Race Ethnicity in CJ System	
CRIJ 5340	Seminar Selected Topics	
CRIJ 5341	Violence and Victimization	
CRIJ 5343	Crime and Border Security	
CRIJ 5360	Independent Study Crim CJ	
CRIJ 5385	Grad Study Abroad in CJ	
GEOL 5321	Introduction to GIST	
INSS 5303	Legal Issues/Intel & Nat Sec	
INSS 5340	Pro-Seminar Homeland Security	
PAD 5340	Pro-Seminar-Homeland Security	
PAD 5354	Admin Law and Regulation	
PAD 5365	Pol Anal & Decision Making	
Total Hours		36

Thesis Track

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses:		21
CRIJ 5305	Proseminar in Criminology/CJ	
CRIJ 5310	Adv Criminological Theory	
CRIJ 5315	Sem Criminal Justice Policy	
CRIJ 5397	Master's Thesis I	
CRIJ 5399	Master's Thesis II	
CRIJ 5302	Research Methods Intel & CJ	
CRIJ 5361	Statistics in Intel & CJ	
Elective Courses:		15
Select 15 hours from the list below (at least 9 must be CRIJ)		
CRIJ 5322	Sem Policing Law Enforcement	

CRIJ 5323	Invest Interview & Interrogat
CRIJ 5324	Seminar Courts and Sentencing
CRIJ 5326	Correctional Policy and Mgmt
CRIJ 5328	Decision Making Intel & CJ
CRIJ 5331	Communities and Crime
CRIJ 5333	Immigration, Crime and CJ
CRIJ 5335	Transnational Criminal Orgs
CRIJ 5337	Drugs, Crime and CJ Policy
CRIJ 5339	Race Ethnicity in CJ System
CRIJ 5340	Seminar Selected Topics
CRIJ 5341	Violence and Victimization
CRIJ 5343	Crime and Border Security
CRIJ 5360	Independent Study Crim CJ
CRIJ 5385	Grad Study Abroad in CJ
GEOL 5321	Introduction to GIST
INSS 5303	Legal Issues/Intel & Nat Sec
INSS 5325	Political Economy of Terrorism
INSS 5340	Pro-Seminar Homeland Security
PAD 5340	Pro-Seminar-Homeland Security
PAD 5344	Emergency Management
PAD 5354	Admin Law and Regulation
PAD 5365	Pol Anal & Decision Making

The Thesis track will prepare students who later aspire to enter a Ph.D. program by enhancing their theoretical knowledge, research, and statistical skills. In addition to the 9 hours of core courses for all students, the thesis track will require 6 credits in Research methods and Statistics, and 6 credits for the completion of the Thesis. The thesis will be supervised by a faculty committee within the Department of Criminal Justice. The remaining 12 credits must be CRIJ-designated, and the remaining 3 credits may be CRIJ electives or specific courses outside the department, designated in the list below.

Total Hours

36