

CRIMINAL JUSTICE (CJ)

CJ500: Critical Legal Issues in Criminal Justice

This course involves the study of recent legislation and case law, both state and federal, that impact criminal justice professionals and the administration of criminal justice in the context of professional practice. The topics will depend upon current legal developments, but will include such areas as law enforcement, criminal procedure, civil and criminal liability, civil rights, employment law, substance abuse, corrections, and judicial review of administrative decisions.

Quarter Credit Hours: 5 | Prerequisite: None

CJ501: Criminological Theory

This course consists of an in-depth analysis of various explanations of criminal behavior. Readings include the original works of prominent authors from a broad range of disciplines related to crime, social deviance, and causation. Ethical and legal foundations in defining social deviance and crime are also considered. Specific focus is placed on applications of theory that address causes and correlations of criminal behavior in a variety of cultures throughout the world. This course is well suited for criminal justice practitioners, as students apply criminological theory to contemporary issues.

Quarter Credit Hours: 5 | Prerequisite: None

CJ502: Research Methodology

This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the research process and the ethical context within which research should be conducted. Further, it will provide the basic skills needed to conduct and evaluate research on topics relevant to the criminal justice field. In order to accomplish these objectives, the course will focus on the nature of scientific inquiry; the connections between theory and research; designing research projects and exploring causation; sampling procedures and logic; research techniques; reliability, validity, and measurement of data; and descriptive analyses of data.

Quarter Credit Hours: 5 | Prerequisite: None

CJ503: Organizational Behavior

This course presents an in-depth analysis of the various dynamics facing criminal justice organizations in the context of professional practice, including, but not limited to, the theoretical concepts underlying organizational behavior, management and leadership of human resources, and design and structural processes. The scope includes fiscal accountability; personnel deployment; implementation of change; motivation and retention of personnel; the hiring, assignment, and promotion of personnel; organizational communication; professional development; and fundamental legal issues as they pertain to agency operations.

Quarter Credit Hours: 5 | Prerequisite: None

CJ505: Critical Issues in Criminal Justice

This course will address critical issues affecting the major tenets of the criminal justice profession, including, but not limited to, homeland security, training and education, ethics and morality in professional practice, and community-based law enforcement and corrections programs. Other current trends and any other critical issue facing the fields of policing, private security, and corrections are addressed as needed.

Quarter Credit Hours: 5 | Prerequisite: None

CJ506: Advanced Topics in Criminal Law

This course addresses complex issues related to substantive criminal law, focusing on the sources of modern criminal law, the purposes and types of laws, the interpretation of criminal laws, the categories of crime and penalties, the similar characteristics of criminal violations, the elements of complex crimes, and the types of criminal defenses. This course is best suited for those students working in the area of law enforcement/policing.

Quarter Credit Hours: 5 | Prerequisite: None

CJ508: Evidentiary Issues in Criminal Cases

This course involves the study of the Federal Rules of Evidence and similar state rules, as well as the requirements of the U.S. Constitution concerning the admission into evidence of testimonial and physical evidence at trial. Students examine such topics as the foundational requirements for the admission of real and demonstrative exhibits, the authentication of writings and business records, witness credibility, hearsay, privileges, expert testimony, victims' rights, and chain of custody. This course is particularly well suited for those criminal justice professionals whose jobs require them to testify in court on a regular basis.

Quarter Credit Hours: 5 | Prerequisite: None

CJ509: Comparative Criminal Justice Systems

This course covers comparative foreign criminal justice systems, including the investigation and prosecution of international terrorists, the International Criminal Court, U.S. criminal cases affecting international relations, mutual assistance treaties, and issues concerning the formation of criminal justice systems in developing democracies. This course is especially beneficial for understanding global legal issues facing the criminal justice system.

Quarter Credit Hours: 5 | Prerequisite: None

CJ510: Specialized Criminal Statutes and Complex Investigations

This course involves the study of legislation and case law that affect the daily practice of criminal justice professionals in the context of investigative techniques and the prosecution of cases. Students examine such areas as white-collar crime; the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act; money laundering; health care fraud; wire, mail, and bank fraud; identity and access device fraud; securities fraud; insurance fraud; corporate criminal liability; tax enforcement; and public corruption. In addition, the USA PATRIOT Act, Title III wiretaps, and grand jury procedures are also discussed.

Quarter Credit Hours: 5 | Prerequisite: None

CJ511: Employment and Policy Law

This course involves the study of specialized topics in substantive and procedural criminal law with a special emphasis on employment law, and how these legal issues impact ethics and leadership in criminal justice organizations. This course is well suited for command-level personnel in response to a variety of potential agency and personal liability issues.

Quarter Credit Hours: 5 | Prerequisite: None

CJ512: Transnational Crime

This course focuses on the historical development and current status of various forms of transnational crime from the perspective of the international criminal justice community. Particular emphasis is given to issues of organized crime, narcotics trafficking, money laundering, human trafficking, and the current strategies for the containment of such activities.

Quarter Credit Hours: 5 | Prerequisite: None

CJ513: Critical Issues in Terrorism

This course is designed to provide you with a critical analysis and understanding of issues related to terrorism. This includes historical analyses of the causes and effects of social, political, economic, and religious conflict as they pertain to terrorist groups from source countries; protective intelligence gathering and associated legal issues; threat assessment; emergency first-responder plans and policies; counterterrorism tactics and strategies; cyberterrorism and the role of technology; and concerns for the future.

Quarter Credit Hours: 5 | Prerequisite: None

CJ516: Budgeting and Finance for Public Safety Administrators

This course is designed to familiarize students with public program budgeting and finance concepts from program conception to program evaluation. Special emphasis is given to methods of financing public programs and the preparation and management of budgets for the programs. This course is intended to provide students with an opportunity to learn and practice the technical aspects of program budgeting and finance in the public safety arena.

Quarter Credit Hours: 5 | Prerequisite: None

CJ519: Ethics and Diversity in Criminal Justice

Discrimination in the workplace, prejudicial treatment of individuals by public officials, official misconduct, and a lack of individual and collective professional practice are all enduring issues that must be addressed by our criminal justice system. Accordingly, this course is designed to address these and other related issues at length, as well as offer strategies for improved individual and professional practice.

Quarter Credit Hours: 5 | Prerequisite: None

CJ521: Critical Issues in Corrections

This course provides a critical analysis of contemporary issues facing the U.S. correctional system. Students address issues such as the philosophies and theories that guide practice, community-based policies and practices, prison reform, special populations, recidivism, and legal mandates affecting the administration and operations of correctional facilities.

Quarter Credit Hours: 5 | Prerequisite: None

CJ522: Comparative Correctional Systems

The course addresses a variety of correctional issues from an international perspective, including, but not limited to, a comparative analysis of the philosophies and theories guiding practice, supervision, and treatment of prison populations with an emphasis on human rights, post-confinement intervention strategies, and legal standards governing practice.

Quarter Credit Hours: 5 | Prerequisite: None

CJ523: Critical Issues in Juvenile Justice

This course is designed to explore the social context of delinquency, law, the history of the juvenile court, policing in juvenile justice, and court and corrections interventions with regard to children who have been victimized or are criminal. The course integrates scholarship and case law to investigate the many layers of the juvenile justice system, including how the juvenile court works and why it works the way it does. Upon completion, students will have much more than a cursory understanding of the juvenile justice system.

Quarter Credit Hours: 5 | Prerequisite: None

CJ524: Community-Based Corrections

This course is designed to identify community-based corrections programs and to explore the issues relevant to the field of community-based corrections. The materials presented will draw upon scholarly and practical research to identify the programs commonly used, what "works," policy issues, services provided, costs, and who receives probation and parole. Boot camps, electronic monitoring, house arrest, day treatment, fines, community service, drug courts, and other alternatives will be discussed. You will have the opportunity to debate and better understand the many challenges facing probation, parole, and community-based corrections.

Quarter Credit Hours: 5 | Prerequisite: None

CJ525: Applied Research in Criminal Justice

This course will introduce you to applied research within the profession, which encourages adoption of the role of a reflective practitioner who seeks to simultaneously understand and change the professional setting. It will provide you with the skills needed to design and conduct ethical research studies on topics relevant in applied criminal justice settings. In order to accomplish these objectives, you will examine: the applied research process, the connection between theory and research, research ethics, the development of research literature reviews, sampling procedures, techniques for selecting and using appropriate data collection tools, steps for improving the validity and reliability of research, and the analysis of data.

Quarter Credit Hours: 5 | Prerequisite: None

CJ526: Academic and Professional Communications in Public Safety

Effective and appropriate communication is essential for success in academic and professional worlds. Academic and Professional Communications in Public Safety is designed to prepare you for the rhetorical challenges found in your coursework, professional career, and final capstone/research paper. You will learn to clearly communicate complex and sophisticated materials to a wide variety of expert and nonexpert audiences using written techniques. This course will introduce the basic elements of academic and professional writing at the holistic and paragraph levels. You will learn about audience and purpose as well as the graduate research, writing, and formatting process. These skills are coupled with an additional focus on the context, delivery, and medium through which you will communicate. Emphasis is also placed on accurately citing and quoting primary materials, organizational strategies, and grammar, editing, and usage skills.

Quarter Credit Hours: 5 | Prerequisite: None

CJ550: Introduction to Graduate Studies in Public Safety

This course introduces students to the master's degree programs in the field of public safety and provides a foundation of the concepts and professional standards. It establishes the conceptual framework for other courses within the chosen degree plan and identifies current trends in the field. Focus is placed on ethical and social issues as related to writing, researching, and working collaboratively with other public service officials.

Quarter Credit Hours: 5 | Prerequisite: None

CJ594: Independent Study in Criminal Justice

This course is designed to engage students in developing a position paper of relevance to their professional field of study and the criminal justice graduate curriculum. Students decide on a suitable topic under the direction and supervision of a designated faculty member. No more than 10 quarter credit hours of independent study may apply toward the degree.

Quarter Credit Hours: 5 | Prerequisite: Permission from the Dean

CJ598: Applied Research Project

Students experience the art and science of applied research while they develop the tools of reflective inquiry and collaborative practice. Students will engage in analysis of current issues and challenges to explore and practice applied research methods as a logical extension of professional practice. Integral to this process is the examination of both informal and systematic ways to ask and answer questions. Students will conduct their own applied research project.

Quarter Credit Hours: 5 | Prerequisite: Final Term

CJ603: Comprehensive Examination

As a final step in the Master of Science in Criminal Justice, students who have chosen the comprehensive examination track take the examination. The comprehensive examination incorporates the program outcomes of the master's degree. The exam is designed to assess a student's overall learning and mastery of the coursework in the program. Successful completion of the exam provides a measurement and acknowledgement of the effective learning experience of the student.

Quarter Credit Hours: 5 | Prerequisite: Successful completion of all comprehensive exam-track core curriculum courses