Criminal Justice, MA

Ranked No. 6 in the nation by U.S. News & World Report, this fully online program provides you with coursework developed by respected professors with expertise in policing, courts, corrections and gangs. You can start the program any time of the year and complete it in as few as 18 months.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MA Criminal Justice
The MA program in criminal justice is designed to provide criminal justice agency professionals with training in research methods and statistics.

Coursework covers topics of criminology and the operation of the criminal justice system. The degree program also provides students with advanced training in program planning and management, policy analysis and program evaluation.

At a Glance

- College/School: Watts College of Public Service & Community Solut
- Location: Online

Accelerated Program Options

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an accelerated bachelor's and master's degree with:

Criminology and Criminal Justice, BS

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior year, eligible students are advised by their academic departments to apply.
Degree Requirements

33 credit hours including the required capstone course (CRJ 505)

Required Core (12 credit hours)
CRJ 501 Seminar in Criminal Justice (3)
CRJ 502 Seminar in Criminology (3)
CRJ 510 Criminal Justice Planning and Program Evaluation (3)
CRJ 511 Applied Data Analysis in Criminal Justice (3)

Electives (18 credit hours)

Culminating Experience (3 credit hours)
Capstone Course: CRJ 505 Theory and Practice in Criminal Justice (3)

Additional Curriculum Information
Students can develop specializations in areas such as policing, corrections and management by combining required and elective coursework.

Students should see the academic unit for an approved elective course list. Electives must be at the 500 level.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in criminology or criminal justice or another closely related field from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. two letters of recommendation
4. a written statement
5. proof of English proficiency
Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency.

The written statement should be at least one page in length and describe the applicant's educational and career goals and long-term professional development strategy.

Students should see the academic unit website for application deadlines.

Attend Online

ASU Online

ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may view the program description and request more information here.

Career Opportunities

The Master of Arts program in criminology and criminal justice is designed to help advance a career in criminal justice.

Graduates find a strong job market in the public and private sectors. Employment opportunities exist in supervisory and management positions in criminal justice agencies at federal, state and local levels, including:

- city, county and state government liaison to criminal justice agencies
- communications supervisor (911 and dispatch)
- court administrator
- evidence and crime scene supervisor (CSI activities)
- intelligence analyzer
- law enforcement professional
- police crime analysis supervisor
- pretrial release specialist
- probation, parole or community supervisor
- property management and evidence retention supervisor
- risk manager
- veterans services specialist

Opportunities also exist in supervisory and management positions in social service agencies including:

- child and family services (e.g., Head Start, child support enforcement, foster care, elder care)
- Department of Economic Security
- homeless outreach

Graduates also have the opportunity to work in supervisory and management positions in the private sector, including online security, as well as in the cyber security sector.