Criminology and Criminal Justice, MS

Looking to develop skills not found in traditional criminal justice programs? At ASU’s Downtown Phoenix campus, you will work with nationally recognized professors with diverse expertise in areas that will prepare you for a career in research, policy, or a justice profession or for competitive admission to a leading PhD program or law school.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MS Criminology and Criminal Justice
The MS in criminology and criminal justice is a research degree program designed to provide students with a high level of theoretical and empirical knowledge about crime and criminal justice.

The program provides students with the advanced research skills and training in program planning and management and in policy and statistical analysis that are required for careers as criminal justice researchers, leadership roles in criminal justice and related agencies and organizations and for continued study in doctoral programs in criminology and criminal justice.

At a Glance

- College/School: Watts College of Public Service & Community Solut
- Location: Downtown Phoenix campus or Online

Concurrent Program Options
Students can choose to create their own concurrent degree combination to match their interests by working with their academic advisor during or after their first semester of study. Some concurrent combinations are not possible due to high levels of overlap in curriculum; students should speak with their academic advisor for more details.

This degree is also offered as a concurrent program with the following:

Public Administration, MPA
Compare Programs
Public Policy, MPP
Compare Programs

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 and a thesis, or 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 503 Research Methods (3)
CRJ 504 Statistical Tools for Criminology and Criminal Justice (3)

Systems Courses (6 credit hours)
CRJ 512 Seminar in Policing (3)
CRJ 513 Seminar in Courts and Sentencing (3)
CRJ 514 Seminar in Corrections (3)

Electives (6-12 credits hours)

Other Requirement (0-3 credit hours)
CRJ 604 Regression Models (3)
Culminating Experience: (3-6 credit hours)
CRJ 505 Theory and Practice in Criminal Justice (3) or
CRJ 599 Thesis (6)

Additional Curriculum Information
Students select two of the three systems courses listed above.

For the culminating experience, students choose either the thesis option or the capstone course. CRJ 604 Advanced Statistical Analysis is only required for the thesis option. To satisfy the thesis requirements for the degree, candidates must write a thesis and defend it in an oral examination conducted by the student's thesis committee. Students in the capstone option are not required to take CRJ 604.

Each student's program is designed in consultation with the faculty advisor.

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. personal 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 personal statement should address the applicant's prior education and professional experience, discuss the applicant's career goals and explain how the degree can help the applicant achieve these goals.

Applicants should see the program website for application deadlines.
Application Deadlines

Fall 
Spring 

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the Master of Science program in criminology and criminal justice 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 analyst
- law enforcement professional
- police crime analysis supervisor
- pretrial release specialist
- probation, parole or community supervisor
- property management and evidence retention supervisor
- risk manager
- sheriff
- 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
- victim advocacy

Contact Information

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