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# MASTERS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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**N** UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTH  
FLORIDA

## THE NEED FOR GRADUATE CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATION

Criminal justice education is one of the most rapidly emerging modern disciplines in higher education today.

The problem of crime in modern society has become a major national concern in recent decades, generating wide recognition that highly educated professionals will be needed to work in the various agencies and institutions which respond to this problem. Careers in local, state and federal agencies, as well as in private security, and criminal justice education, increasingly require advanced degrees or other professional preparation. Professionals seeking upward advancement in these fields are finding that a master's degree is helpful in attaining promotions and new job opportunities. Graduate education in criminal justice is designed to serve the needs of these professionals.



## THE UNF MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE PROGRAM

The Master of Science in Criminal Justice at UNF provides an opportunity for advanced academic work in this rapidly expanding field of study.

As a discipline, criminal justice draws together all the social and behavioral sciences, natural sciences, mathematical and computer sciences, history, law and jurisprudence to focus on the problem of crime in society. Thus, the field is both interdisciplinary and integrative, and the graduate program at UNF builds upon the unifying nature of the field it seeks to address.

Furthermore, the program at UNF is vitally concerned with both theory and practice, based on the firm conviction that neither can stand alone. Sound practice requires a sound theoretical base, while advances in the theoretical body of knowledge arise from the realities of practice. The graduate program at UNF seeks to integrate these perspectives.

The program was originally designed to serve the graduate educational needs of the mid-career criminal justice professional. It has become equally attractive, however, to the individual who is preparing for an advanced or specialized career in the field. The program emphasizes the acquisition of professional skills that will permit students to keep abreast of developments in the field long after they have completed their formal studies.

## THE STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAM

The program consists of 37 graduate semester hours. There is a **Common Core** of courses required of all students, comprising 10-13 semester hours of study. As part of the core, the student must complete either a thesis/demonstration project, a graduate practicum or a supervised teaching experience.

The program then offers areas of special emphasis, referred to as **Program Options**. Each option revolves around a network of professional skills and knowledge. For example, the **"Professional Practice Option"** focuses on issues and skills involved in the direct delivery of services to people in criminal justice settings, such as counseling techniques, interpersonal dynamics, and crisis intervention. By contrast, the **"Justice Management Option"** emphasizes the issues and skills involved in the supervision, administration, and evaluation of other persons in criminal justice settings, which includes advanced training in administration, information systems, fiscal management, and policy making and implementation. Each option contains both required and elective courses and consists of 21-24 semester hours of study.

Finally, each student is permitted to take at least one **Program Elective** chosen from any course in the graduate curriculum. Students may also select some 4000-level courses from the undergraduate criminal justice curriculum if appropriate.

## PROGRAM PREREQUISITES

Because the MSCJ is an advanced program of study, students seeking admission must demonstrate that they have already acquired the basic fundamentals of the academic discipline. Ordinarily, this is demonstrated through the successful completion of prerequisite undergraduate courses in the field. For the MSCJ program, the following courses at UNF (or their equivalents elsewhere) are deemed necessary background for advanced study:

CCJ 3010	Criminology
CCJ 3020	The Criminal Justice System
SYA 3570	Deviance and Social Control
CCJ 3220	Criminal Law and Procedures I
STA 2122	Elementary Statistics
SSI 3300	Social Research Methods

Prospective students who lack these prerequisite courses in their undergraduate background, but who have substantial work experience of a sort which would lend equivalent insights, may petition to have one or more of these prerequisites waived. Students lacking both the course background and the equivalent experience must complete the prerequisite courses before they can be fully admitted to the program. For such students, provisional admission may be possible. Also, course CCJ 5050 may be taken when offered in order to satisfy the first three of the above prerequisite courses.

## GRADUATE ADVISEMENT

Upon admission to the MSCJ program, each student will be assigned a graduate advisor who will designate an official program of study in accordance with the student's interest and background. The student's program of study provides as much flexibility as possible while maintaining a structured program of study which will be meaningful in the light of the student's past education, experience and future goals.

## ADMISSION

To be accepted as a graduate student in the MSCJ program, applicants must meet **both** University and program admissions requirements. These are described as follows:

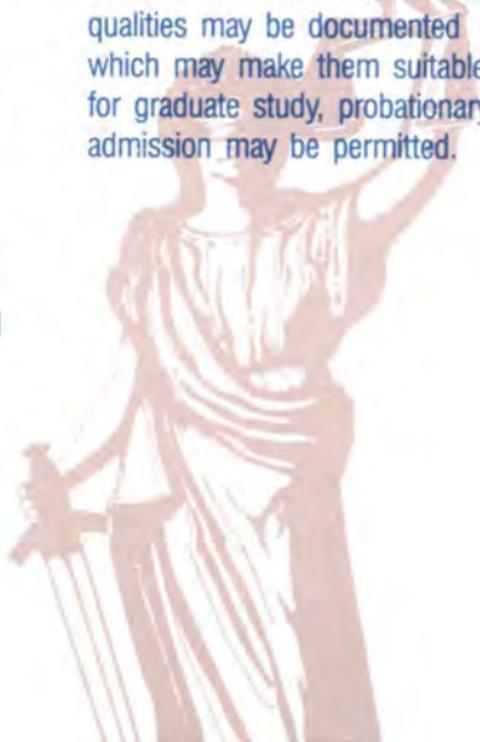
### Admission to the University

Basic requirements for admission to graduate study are set by the Florida Board of Regents. The requirements for the State University System of Florida are as follows:

1. A baccalaureate degree from an approved college or university.
2. At least one of the following:
  - a. a grade point average of 3.00 (B) or higher on all work attempted as an upper-division student;

- b. a composite score of 1000 or better on the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). **All applicants must submit GRE scores in order to be considered for admission.**
- c. a graduate degree from an accredited institution.

Ordinarily, prospective students should submit the above documents, along with an application for admission, to the UNF Admissions Office at least two months prior to anticipated enrollment. Sometimes transcripts and GRE scores take six weeks or more to arrive. Students are urged to make application to the program through the MSCJ Program Director (see below) at the same time materials for admissions to the University are submitted. Students failing to meet the above requirements may petition the University for an "exceptional admission." In the case of those students for whom other qualities may be documented which may make them suitable for graduate study, probationary admission may be permitted.



## Admission to the MSCJ Program

To be considered for admission to the MSCJ program, the applicant must submit the following to the MSCJ Program Director:

1. A letter requesting admission to the program. This letter should include a brief description of:
  - a. the student's academic and relevant employment experiences;
  - b. the student's career goals;
  - c. the student's areas of chief interest in the field;
  - d. the student's reasons for seeking the MSCJ degree.
2. Two (2) or more letters of recommendation from responsible persons who can attest to the student's ability to do graduate work and to pursue an advanced career in the criminal justice field.
3. Evidence that the required program prerequisites have been satisfactorily completed.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information about the graduate program in criminal justice may be requested by calling or writing to:

**MSCJ Program Director  
Criminal Justice Programs  
University of North Florida  
4567 St. John's Bluff  
Road, South  
Jacksonville, Florida 32216  
(904) 646-2758 or  
646-2850**

Prospective students who wish to receive more information about UNF in general are encouraged to contact the New Student Information Office at (904) 646-2638 or the Office of Admissions at (904) 646-2624.



Criminal Justice Program  
University of North Florida  
4567 St. Johns Bluff Road, South  
Jacksonville, Florida 32216-6699

*from 1986*