MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE (M.S.)

Purpose

The purpose of the Master of Science in Criminal Justice degree is to offer Criminal Justice professionals an advanced degree which focuses on both the Criminal Justice context and professional administration therein. The online context will allow these professionals to advance their careers by completing the degree while still working fulltime. Additionally, those students who seek a terminal degree in Criminal Justice or Public Administration will find this Master’s degree to be a helpful stepping stone.

Program Specific Admission Requirements

In addition to the general admission requirements, specific requirements for admission to the Master of Science in Criminal Justice (M.S.) are as follows:

1. Earned baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (e.g., SACSCOC, TRACS, ABHE, etc.).
2. An undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.00 or above (on a 4.00 scale).
3. TOEFL Scores for students who speak English as a second language (score of 600 paper-based test; 250 computer-based test, 80 internet-based test)

Students who do not meet the minimum GPA requirement may be admitted on Academic Caution status. Applicants who hold a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.00 to 2.99 on a 4.00 scale may be eligible for admission on Academic Caution.

Transfer of Credit

Students may transfer up to 18 hours of graduate-level credit from an accredited institution. In order to transfer credit, students must have earned the minimum grade of B-, and courses must have been completed within 10 years of the start date of the student’s program at Liberty University. Credits from a prior degree on the same academic level earned through Liberty University are considered transfer credits.

Public safety professionals who graduate from a national or regional command college and who have received graduate credit from a regionally accredited sponsoring university, and who have not previously used such credit for a degree, may transfer up to 12 hours of graduate credit associated with the command college to the Master of Science in Criminal Justice as Experiential Learning credit.

Program Learning Outcomes

The student will be able to:

1. Synthesize best practices and knowledge of Criminal Justice organization literature.
2. Integrate solid Christian Worldview principles into ethical and legal decision making in a criminal justice context.
3. Apply solutions to leadership challenges in the justice organization context.
4. Evaluate theoretical and applied research in the context of Criminal Justice Organizations.

Graduation Requirements

In addition to other regulations governing graduation as stated in this Catalog, M.S. in Criminal Justice graduates must:

1. Complete 36 total hours.
2. A maximum of 50% of the program hours may be transferred if approved and allowable, including credit from an earned degree from Liberty University on the same academic level.
3. Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.00.
4. No more than two (2) grades of C may be applied to the degree (includes grades of C+ & C-).
5. No Grade of D may be applied to the degree (includes grades of D+ & D-).
6. For information regarding the repeat policy, please refer to “Course Repeat Policy” in the Academic Information and Policies section of this Catalog.
7. Students must complete all work for the degree within five years of initial enrollment in the program.
8. Submission of Degree Completion Application must be completed within the last semester of a student’s anticipated graduation date.

Programs of Study

Delivery Format: Online Only

- Criminal Justice (M.S.)
- Criminal Justice (M.S.) - Cybercrime Investigation
- Criminal Justice (M.S.) - Forensic Psychology
- Criminal Justice (M.S.) - Homeland Security
- Criminal Justice (M.S.) - Law Enforcement Leadership
- Criminal Justice (M.S.) - Public Administration

Career Opportunities

- Citizenship and Immigration Services
- Counter-terrorism
- Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Teacher
- Domestic and International Terrorism
- Forensic Science Technician
- Intelligence Analyst
- Transportation Security

Courses

CJUS 500 Criminal Justice Integration  3 Credit Hour(s)
This course focuses on the interdependency of organizations and agencies in the criminal justice system. Specifically, the course will examine the competing roles of law enforcement, courts, prosecution, defense counsel, etc., in the pursuit of justice.

Offered: Online
CJUS 520 Administration of Justice Organizations 3 Credit Hour(s)
This course is designed to familiarize the student with the theoretical and practical management perspectives embraced by the American criminal justice system. This will address the nature of criminal justice organizations, individual and group behavior within those organizations, processes inherent in those organizations, and areas of criminal justice reform.

Offered: Online

CJUS 530 Human Resource Management in Criminal Justice Organizations 3 Credit Hour(s)
This class will emphasize applying the theoretical knowledge discussed in class lectures to ‘real world’ situations and events important to human resources management in criminal justice. The student will be expected to demonstrate their knowledge of human resources management in a criminal justice setting through various reading and written exercises.

General objectives for students are to learn and be able to apply general management principles and techniques in a public agency office setting. The role of personnel manager in a criminal justice setting is stressed throughout the course, to define and clarify responsibilities, areas of authority, decision-making, and technical knowledge of services, systems, and procedures. While the subject primarily targets personnel managers, all supervisors and managers benefit from effective personnel management skills, knowledge of services, systems, and procedures. While the subject primarily targets personnel, managers, all supervisors and managers benefit from effective personnel management skills, knowledge and abilities.

Offered: Online

CJUS 534 Human Resources and Civil Rights for Law Enforcement Leaders 3 Credit Hour(s)
This course focuses on the key legal issues facing law enforcement leaders as related to specific HR strategies and best practices and the evolving civil rights issues facing law enforcement. Students will be introduced to historical and current legal precedent, including the ramifications of legal issues on the practices of effective leadership in the law enforcement context.

Note: Course offered beginning in Spring 2020

Offered: Online

CJUS 535 Strategic Intelligence for Law Enforcement Leaders 3 Credit Hour(s)
This course examines best practices for law enforcement leaders in the gathering, assessment and implementation of strategic intelligence. It is critical for law enforcement leaders to have strategic intelligence for planning, decision-making and threat assessment. This intelligence must be comprehensive, relevant for key stakeholders, and gathered ethically. Moreover, it must be interpreted and applied in a cohesive manner that leads to sound implementation of strategy and tactics.

Note: Course offered beginning in Spring 2020

Offered: Online

CJUS 536 Perspectives in Law Enforcement Leadership 3 Credit Hour(s)
This course provides a summary of key leadership trends, best practices, controversies and debates, particularly as applied to the law enforcement context. Students will be challenged to research, synthesize and articulate leadership best practices as related to the administration of law enforcement members, groups and agencies.

Note: Course offered beginning in Spring 2020

Offered: Online

CJUS 610 Leadership, Ethics and Policing 3 Credit Hour(s)
Ethical Leadership is a foundational principle in building an excellent organization and developing and maintaining public trust. This class focuses not only on ethical principles; it focuses on ethical leadership with a Christian Worldview.

Offered: Online

CJUS 620 Fundamentals of Forensic Psychology 3 Credit Hour(s)
This course will introduce the student to an understanding of psychology’s use in assisting the law with clinical forensic cases. Focus will involve both practical and research applications in clinical and social-cognitive psychology. Additional topics will include admissibility of psychologists to provide expert testimony in the courts; assessment of various mental states to meet legal requirements for competency, insanity, abuse syndromes, and various other psychological harm; working in the criminal justice system; and child custody and dependency issues.

Offered: Online
CJUS 630 Crisis Intervention in Law Enforcement  3 Credit Hour(s)
This course will introduce the student to crisis theory, concepts, intervention and strategies required for criminal justice first responders. The student will learn how to develop and implement organizational programs for crisis intervention including: recognition of threat levels, active listening, effective mediation strategies and negotiation strategies of mentally unstable persons.
Offered: Online

CJUS 640 Psychology & the Legal System  3 Credit Hour(s)
This course applies the methods and theories of psychology to the criminal justice (legal) system. Specifically, students will gain and understanding of how the field of psychology and psychological research has been applied in law enforcement, the judicial process, and the corrections process. Issues of morality, the criminal personality, eyewitness testimony, the use of psychological evaluation, jury selection, criminal profiling, child custody evaluation, police, and inmate counseling are among topics covered. Since this course focuses on the criminal justice system, it will not include civil litigation.
Offered: Online

CJUS 650 Rehabilitation & Reintegration of Offenders  3 Credit Hour(s)
This course will introduce the student to the historical, philosophical, legislative, and societal overview of offender rehabilitation and reintegration in corrections settings and in community-based settings.
Offered: Online

CJUS 689 Thesis Proposal and Research  3 Credit Hour(s)
This course is designed to help students complete their master's thesis in Criminal Justice. It is expected that research for the thesis project will be relevant to the student's study in the master's program and will make an academic contribution to the research in criminal justice.
Registration Restrictions: Completion of 30 hours of coursework toward the Master of Science in Criminal Justice
Offered: Online

CJUS 690 Thesis Defense  3 Credit Hour(s)
Online Prerequisite: CJUS 689
Intended to demonstrate a student's ability to carry out original research. Thesis may be designed to answer practical research questions, or address theoretical or ethical issues of interest to scholars and professionals in the field of criminal justice. Credit is not awarded until the thesis has been accepted.
Registration Restrictions: Consent of instructor
Offered: Online

CJUS 695 Directed Research  3 Credit Hour(s)
Offered: Online

CJUS 697 Special Topics in Criminal Justice  3 Credit Hour(s)
CJUS 697 - Special Topics in Criminal Justice (1 to 3 hours)