

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Program Description

The Master of Science program in Criminal Justice is designed primarily for persons with or without previous employment experience in the field of criminal justice. It is designed for nontraditional students who have full-time jobs. This degree is available via distance education. Courses are sequenced so that students can complete the degree in two years including summer semesters. The degree prepares students to work in various areas of the criminal justice system including, but not limited to, field positions, administration, organizational management, and social services. Students who are potentially interested in applying for the Ph.D. program should apply for the Master of Arts in Criminal Justice and Criminology.

Admissions

Applications to the Master of Science in Criminal Justice program are on a rolling basis, where the fall semester deadline is August 1, and the spring semester deadline is November 1.

Please submit all documents to the Office of Graduate Admissions. Admission considerations include:

1. Graduate application (<http://www.shsu.edu/admissions/apply-texas.html>)
2. Application fee (<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-studies/application-fee.html>)
3. Official transcripts of all academic coursework previously undertaken, including an undergraduate degree from an accredited academic institution in criminal justice or an allied field.
4. GPA of 3.0 or higher
5. Official GRE scores may be requested to demonstrate graduate study readiness if the GPA is low.
6. Three letters of recommendation preferably from undergraduate professors referencing the applicant's ability to perform graduate work.
7. A personal essay (<http://www.shsu.edu/academics/criminal-justice/resources/documents/grad-essay-ms.pdf>) regarding career background and goals
8. **International students ONLY:** Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)—a minimum score of 550 (paper-based), 213 (computer-based), or 79 (internet-based) is required

A review of each student's application file will be completed with admission offered on a competitive basis.

Degree Requirements

The MS in Criminal Justice does not require a thesis; however, the student must complete a capstone course (CRIJ 6388) in their final semester with a grade of B or better to satisfy the University's comprehensive exam requirement. Students should seek advisement from the Criminal Justice Graduate Admissions Coordinator in planning a course of study. The Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice is a 36-hour degree.

Master of Science in Criminal Justice

Required Courses		
CRIJ 5330	Critical Analys Of Justice Adm	3
CRIJ 6333	Seminar In Org & Administratn	3
CRIJ 6334	Resrch Mthd & Quantve Analysis	3
CRIJ 6336	Comp/Tech Applications For CJ	3
CRIJ 6365	Comm Theory & Admin Of Justice	3
CRIJ 6388	Emergent Issues In CJ Leadrshp ¹	3
CRIJ 6392	Program Evaluation In CJ	3
Electives		
Select five 5000-6000 level graduate courses in CRIJ		15
Total Hours		36

¹ A grade of B or better in CRIJ 6388 is required for graduation.