

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN VICTIM SERVICES MANAGEMENT

Chair: Shelly Clevenger, Ph.D. (shxc167@shsu.edu)

Department of Victim Studies

Telephone: 936-294-4735

Website:

Department of Victim Studies (<https://www.shsu.edu/academics/victim-studies/>)

About

Be a part of the new, path-breaking Department of Victim Studies, the only one of its kind in the nation! The department is home to the Master of Science in Victim Services Management program, one of the most innovative criminal justice programs in the United States.

The Master of Science in Victim Services Management program remains a leader in providing high-quality education to students in the field of victim services and has broad application to policy analysts, program administrators, and direct service providers. Through a rigorous online curriculum developed and delivered by experienced faculty, the program is committed to promoting professionalism in victim services nationwide. Students earning this advanced degree will be educated on evidence-based best practices to provide more optimal programming for victims of crime.

Faculty include renowned victimology scholars and esteemed victim service professionals with a combination of extensive education and field experience. Online graduate programs in the College of Criminal Justice have been consistently ranked among the top criminal justice programs in the United States. The M.S. in Victim Services Management degree program is acknowledged in this distinguished ranking.

Mission

The M.S. in Victim Studies Management degree program is committed to providing high-quality instruction to students in the field of victim services with a goal to produce a population of leaders prepared to administer quality programs based on a solid understanding of industry trends and evidence-based practices.

As a graduate student in the Victim Studies Department at SHSU, you will:

- Learn from renowned victimology scholars and faculty with extensive field experience
- Enroll in courses that are National Advocate Credentialing Program-approved
- Have exposure to service learning opportunities
- Have access to academic advising services and a job and information portal

Contact Information:

Department of Victim Studies (General Information): [Mayra Pena, mxp159@shsu.edu](mailto:Mayra.Pena@shsu.edu) or 936-294-4735

College of Criminal Justice graduate programs (General Information): [Aarianna Longino](mailto:Aarianna.Longino@shsu.edu), Graduate Coordinator, 936-294-1695

Department of Victim Studies Administration: Shelly Clevenger, Professor and Department Chair, 936-294-1647

Master of Science in Victim Services Management (Coordinator): Philip Mulvey, 936-294-4174

The Master of Science in Victim Services Management is designed to prepare graduates to work in various areas of victim services¹, including but not limited to, direct service provision, organizational management, and social policy development. This degree will benefit persons with or without previous employment experience. However, the ideal candidate will have had professional experience in the field of victim services. Courses are sequenced so that students can complete the degree in two years.

¹ Select courses meet National Advocate Credentialing Program (NACP) standards.

Additional information: Reference the Program Landing Page (<https://www.shsu.edu/programs/graduate/victim-services-management/>) for additional information, such as cost, delivery format, contact information, or to schedule a visit.

Applications to the Master of Science in Victim Services Management Degree Program are reviewed on a rolling basis, with a Fall semester priority deadline of August 1st. The Spring semester priority deadline is December 15th. The application deadline for Summer is May 15th. A review of each student's application file will be completed with admission offered on a competitive basis. Please submit all documents to the University 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. An undergraduate degree from an accredited institution in an allied field.

4. Unofficial transcripts of all academic work previously undertaken.*
5. A cumulative undergraduate degree grade point average of 2.5 or 2.8 for the final 60 baccalaureate credits.
6. **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.

*Applicants may submit unofficial transcripts for review by the admission committee. However, under university policy, admissions decisions are contingent upon receipt of official transcripts.

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

Code	Title	Hours
Master of Science in Victim Services Management		
Required Courses		
CRIJ 5330	Critical Analysis Of Justice Administration	3
CRIJ 6334	Research Methods and Quantitative Analysis	3
CRIJ 6392	Program Evaluation In Criminal Justice	3
VCST 5364	Seminar in Victimology ¹	3
VCST 5365	Seminar in Crime Victim Services and Management	3
VCST 5366	Advocacy and Case Management ¹	3
VCST 5385	Non-Profit Grant Writing	3
VCST 6338	Coordinating Victim Services ²	3
Prescribed Electives		
Select four of the following:		12
CRIJ 6394 or VCST 6394	Special Topics-Criminal Justice (Violence Against Women or Human Resources Mgt.) Special Topics in Victim Studies	
VCST 5368	Human Sex Trafficking	
VCST 5370	Elder Abuse and Victimization ¹	
VCST 5371	Interpersonal Violence	
VCST 5383	Family Violence ¹	
VCST 5384	Child Abuse and Neglect ¹	
VCST 6330	Neurobiology of Trauma	
Total Hours		36

¹ National Advocate Credentialing Program (NACP)-approved course.

² A grade of B or better in VCST 6338 is required for graduation.

Note: A one year accelerated Master of Science in Victim Services Management Program is available for students. In order to complete a one-year program, students would enroll in four courses per semester over three semesters (i.e Fall, Spring, Summer or Spring, Summer, Fall).

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) marketable skills initiative is part of the state's **60x30TX plan** and was designed to help students articulate their skills to employers. Marketable skills are those skills valued by employers and/or graduate programs that can be applied in a variety of work or education settings and may include interpersonal, cognitive, and applied skill areas.

The MS in Victim Services Management is designed to provide graduates with the following marketable skills:

- Grant writing.
- Interpersonal communication.
- Leadership knowledge, skills, and abilities.
- Problem solving.
- Program development and evaluation.