

Criminal Justice and Community Corrections (M.S.)

Degree Type

M.S.

The field of criminal justice and corrections is changing quickly. Those changes are the result of many factors, including the high costs of maintaining prisons, changes in sentencing laws, bail reform, and public sentiment for community-based programs. These changes have resulted in a shift to shorter prison sentences and alternatives to incarceration, and increased demand for leaders in community corrections.

The master's degree in Criminal Justice & Community Corrections prepares students for significant changes in the field.

Online Format

The master's degree in Criminal Justice and Community Corrections is completely online. Students watch lectures, contribute to online discussions, and complete other assignments on their own schedule while following course requirements and deadlines. Students complete the program in two years by taking two online courses in the fall, spring, and summer semesters.

Cohort-Based

While students complete assignments on their own schedule, they move through the program with the same classmates. All students who begin the program together take the same courses at the same time, contribute to discussion forums with students they know, develop opportunities to study and support each other, work on group projects where relationships already exist, and network with others in their cohort. There is an optional, two-day residency at the beginning of the academic year.

Program Design

This 36-credit master's degree includes courses in institutional corrections and offender rehabilitation, offender reentry and reintegration, community corrections, restorative justice, abnormal psychology, addiction, and more. Students design a culminating project with a faculty member or complete an externship in consultation with their academic advisor.

Evidence-based practice and research are used throughout the curriculum to prepare students to identify what works in community corrections.

Crime, Law, & Courts

Item #	Title	Credits
CJC 502	Crime and Criminal Behavior	3
FMH 525	Introduction to U.S. Law for FMH	
FMH/PSY 505	Introduction to Forensic Mental Health	

Institutional Corrections

Item #	Title	Credits
CJC 510	Institutional Corrections and Offender Rehabilitation	3
FMH 592	Alcoholism/Drug Addiction: Vulnerabilities,Dynamics, and Problems	
PSY 575	Abnormal Psychology	

Community Corrections

Item #	Title	Credits
CJC 520	Reentry & Reintegration of Offenders	3
CJC 523	Community Based Corrections	3
CJC 525	Restorative Justice Community	3

Program Support

Students select CJC-550 or CJC-560

Item #	Title	Credits
CJC 540	Program Evaluation & Evidence-Based Practice	3
CJC 550	Externship	3
CJC 560	Culminating Project	3
	Approved Elective	3
	Total Credits	36