

Criminal Justice

Degree Type

Master of Science (MS)

Admission Requirements

Admissions criteria for the Master of Science in Criminal Justice (MSCJ) Program

Graduate Admissions - Masters level

Prospective students are required to submit the following:

- Completion of application for admission
- Official transcripts for bachelor or graduate degree within 5 weeks* of the class start date. (All credentials earned outside the United States must be evaluated by a NACES or AICE-member credential evaluation service). Please speak with an admissions representative for more information.

Note: See program notes and specific requirements below for each graduate - masters level degree program

**Effective August 14, 2023 – Students beginning classes at Online Programs will have five weeks to submit acceptable documentation.*

Specific requirements for admission to classified graduate status are:

- A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.
- Completion of application for admission.
- A 2.7 overall grade point average or higher on completed requirements for the baccalaureate degree, or, an earned graduate degree from an accredited institution with a CGPA of 3.0 or higher.

Foundational Undergraduate Courses for the Master of Science in Criminal Justice

Completion of an undergraduate statistics course (with a grade of C or better) is required for the Master of Science in Criminal Justice. If the student does not have the course as part of their undergraduate degree the course needs to be completed in the first two quarters of the program. Foundation undergraduate course credits do not count towards the total number of credits for graduation nor do they count in the Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA); however, they do count in determining the maximum time frame (MTF) and the Incremental Completion Rate (ICR). MSCJ students enrolled in foundation undergraduate course must successfully complete the course within their first three attempts or the student will be academically dismissed from the University.

For additional admissions information please see the admissions section [here](#).

Provisional Admission:

Applicants with an undergraduate degree CGPA of less than a 2.7, but not lower than a 2.3, or a graduate degree CGPA of less than 3.0, but not lower than a 2.7, will be considered for provisional admission. Students who do not attain a 3.0 GPA in the first quarter will be dismissed. Students cannot appeal the dismissal from the university as a result of failure to meet the conditions of provisional admission.

Program Overview and Outcomes

Offered at Austin, Columbia, Online Programs, Richmond, Savannah, Tampa, Virginia Beach, and West Palm Beach.

Note: Not all Online Program offerings are available to residents of all U.S. states. Please contact an admissions representative for further information.

The South University Master of Science in Criminal Justice degree program is designed for individuals employed in the criminal justice system, as well as those in other careers, both public and private, who wish to acquire further education in criminal justice. Prerequisites are limited so that qualified students with bachelor's degrees in related fields such as criminology, psychology, business or public administration, anthropology, political science, sociology or related social sciences may enroll along with students who have undergraduate degrees in criminal justice.

The program is primarily designed to foster a learning community of criminal justice professionals who will use their knowledge within law enforcement, correctional, political, and legal arenas. Program graduates will be prepared to seek admission to doctoral programs in criminal justice, criminology, and related fields, as well as to seek advancement within law enforcement, correctional, local and state government, and legal institutions.

The goals of the Master of Science in Criminal Justice degree program are to provide students with:

1. Professional skills necessary to assume leadership positions in the administration of criminal justice agencies.
2. Advanced knowledge and understanding of criminal justice institutions and processes, and current criminal justice policy.
3. Advanced knowledge and understanding of research methods and program evaluation techniques to effectively conduct and/or evaluate social policy research.

Program Student Learning Outcomes

Graduates will be able to:

1. Demonstrate mastery of skills in the areas of theoretical and applied criminal justice as well as in managerial principles and practices to effectively solve a variety of real-life problems within a complex organization.
2. Understand the relationship between crime theory, crime policy, and professional practice.
3. Demonstrate interactive skills and learn behavioral strategies for improving systemic communication within and between criminal justice agencies.
4. Demonstrate the ability to effectively interpret and make use of research methodology by completing a final research project prospectus on a topic related to professional practice in an actual criminal justice agency.

Master of Science in Criminal Justice: 48 credits

Foundation: 28 Credits

Course Code	Title	Credits
MCJ5001	Foundations in Criminal Justice	4.0
MCJ5003	Ethics and Moral Behavior in the Criminal Justice System	4.0
MCJ5100	Advanced Research Methods and Analysis I	4.0
MCJ6001	Criminal Justice Administration	4.0
MCJ6003	Criminological Theory	4.0
MCJ6004	Criminal Justice Planning & Innovation	4.0
MC J6405	Organizational Leadership	4.0

Program Elective (choose four): 16 Credits

Course Code	Title	Credits
MCJ6002	Juvenile Justice Administration	4.0
MCJ6401	Critical/Controversial Issues: Law Enforcement	4.0
MCJ6404	Political Terrorism	4.0
MCJ6410	Legal Issues in Criminal Justice Administration	4.0
MCJ6505	Management of Critical Incidents	4.0
MCJ6601	Resource and Agency Coordination	4.0
MCJ6620	Special Topics in Homeland Security	4.0
MCJ6701	Theory and Practice of Community Corrections and Re-entry Programs	4.0
MCJ6705	Theory and Practice of Institutional Corrections	4.0

Note(s):

The student will choose four courses (16 credits) from the remaining graduate level criminal justice curriculum listed below or from other graduate offerings with the guidance and approval of the Program Director in Criminal Justice or appropriate Program Chair and with the advice of the related Program Director if courses from other programs are desired. The student should plan to take at least 50% of this part of the degree program in criminal justice courses. Students may construct an area of emphasis with the guidance of the Program Director or Chair or pursue a more general set of elective course courses. Students may emphasize a traditional area of the field such as Corrections or Homeland Security, but elective choices may also reflect the particular professional goals and aspirations of the student. Thus, courses in areas such as Public Administration, Business, or Clinical Mental Health Counseling may be included as desired and approved and if the student completes the required prerequisites for such courses. Please note that Financial Aid may not cover prerequisite courses. Please see the Coursework Taken Outside a Student's Degree Program Policy found in the Academic Affairs section of this catalog.

Capstone: 4 Credits

Course Code	Title	Credits
MCJ6985	Applied Professional Project	4.0

Note(s):

Acceptance into a South University Criminal Justice program or its completion does not imply or guarantee that a student will be able to obtain employment in law enforcement, corrections, probation/parole, or related fields. The student should contact the national, state, or local agency/institution in which the perspective student intends to gain employment for specific requirements and the application process.

Total Credits

48
