

COMPLETE DEGREE IN 30 HOURS - ENTIRELY ONLINE



# *Master of Science Criminal Justice Program*

GRADUATE  
STUDIES

## OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM:

The Master of Science in Criminal Justice program focuses on the criminal justice system, its organizational components and processes and its legal and public policy contexts. The program includes instruction in criminal law and policy, police and correctional systems organization, the administration of justice and the judiciary, and public attitudes regarding a wide range of criminal justice issues. The program provides students with advanced theoretical, legal, and methodological training for applied, research, teaching, management and administrative careers in local, state, and federal agencies. Many students choose to pursue graduate education while working in the field. Others choose to pursue doctoral study following graduation. Some students enter the graduate program immediately following the completion of a baccalaureate degree, while others come back after being out of school for many years. This creates a diverse cohort of motivated individuals who support and assist one another through interactive online education. Graduates and current students have worked for state and federal agencies as probation and parole officers, in corrections, in law enforcement and for organizations like the National White Collar Crime Center and Fusion Center. The faculty bring a broad range of personal experiences from working in federal and state agencies and have strong ties to local, state and national personnel and organizations.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Applicants must:

- have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution,
- have a GPA of at least 3.0,
- complete a writing sample and submit three letters of recommendation (at least one of which is from someone unaffiliated with Fairmont State University) along with transcripts and an application form.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to complete undergraduate research methods and undergraduate statistics classes.

The baccalaureate degree does not have to be in criminal justice or criminology; however, students interested in the program for a career change are strongly encouraged to engage in self study prior to beginning graduate coursework. The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is not required. No single factor shall determine



Joshua Smallridge, Ph.D.



The first Fairmont State Criminal Justice Masters alumnus to earn a doctoral degree in Criminal Justice.

“Life often takes us in unexpected directions. If someone would have told me four years ago that I would gain an interest in conducting research, and would ultimately return to Fairmont State University as a professor after receiving my PHD, I would not have believed them. I attribute this unpredicted but magnificent turn in my life to the tremendous guidance I received while pursuing my Master’s degree in Criminal Justice at Fairmont State University. That guidance gave me the confidence, skills, and most importantly the aspiration I needed to be successful. I feel fortunate to be in a position to positively affect the lives of others through the program that had such a huge impact on my own life.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

[www.fairmontstate.edu/graduatestudies](http://www.fairmontstate.edu/graduatestudies)

admission to Graduate Studies. Letters of recommendation, statements of purpose and personal interviews may also be used to assess a student's preparedness for a probability for success in graduate school. Applicants who do not meet all minimum admission criteria may be admitted provisionally.

The writing sample is a 5-10 page description of: (1) why the applicant is interested in earning a Master of Science in Criminal Justice degree, (2) what the applicant's career and field experiences have been thus far, and (3) what the applicant believes to be the most important issue in criminal justice today. The paper should be in APA format and the last section should include peer reviewed references from the empirical/scholarly literature.

The Master of Science in Criminal Justice program requires students to complete a total of 30 hours, in either the Thesis or Capstone track. The Thesis track is recommended for those considering doctoral study or interested in independent research projects. The Capstone track is recommended for those in applied settings.

The program is designed to enable students to complete the course of study at the pace most comfortable for them. A full time student can earn a degree in 24 months and sometimes even faster, but students have up to seven years to complete required coursework. The goal of the program is to be flexible enough to meet the needs of a diverse group of students.

**FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Dr. John McLaughlin  
*Retired Lt., Miami-Dade Police Department*
- Dr. Jennifer Myers  
*Psychologist and Drug Abuse Program Coordinator  
Federal Bureau of Prisons*
- Dr. Joshua Smallridge  
*Research in cybercrime and renowned for making statistics fun*

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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 Phone: (304) 367-4936

**MASTORS OF SCIENCE  
 CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM**

**REQUIRED COURSES:**

CRIM 6601	ADVANCED CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDIES
CRIM 6602	ADVANCED CRIMINAL LAW
CRIM 6620	ADVANCED THEORETICAL CRIMINOLOGY
CRIM 6650	SEMINAR IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AND EVALUATION
CRIM 6655	APPLIED RESEARCH METHODS
CRIM 6656	APPLIED STATISTICS

**ELECTIVE COURSES:**

CRIM 5504	CONSTITUTIONAL LAW
CRIM 5505	TERRORISM
CRIM 5525	WHITE COLLAR CRIME
CRIM 5599	SPECIAL TOPICS
CRIM 6610	ADVANCED PENOLOGY
CRIM 6611	INTERNSHIP
CRIM 6615	COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS
CRIM 6625	VICTIMOLOGY
CRIM 6630	SEMINAR IN LAW ENFORCEMENT
CRIM 6635	SEMINAR IN OFFENDER REHABILITATION
CRIM 6640	SEMINAR IN CORRECTIONS
CRIM 6645	INDEPENDENT STUDY

*Must choose either Thesis or Capstone Track*

**THESIS TRACK:**

REQUIRED COURSES 18 HRS. (from above list).....	18
ELECTIVE COURSES 6 HRS. (from above list) .....	6
THESIS I (CRIM 6695) AND THESIS II (CRIM 6697) .....	6
	<b>30</b>

**CAPSTONE TRACK:**

REQUIRED COURSES 18 HRS. (from above list).....	18
ELECTIVE COURSES 9 HRS. (from above list) .....	9
CAPSTONE (CRIM 6695) .....	3
	<b>30</b>



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