

[ eCampus ]

# Graduate Program:

## Master of Science in Criminal Justice



### Why a master's degree in Criminal Justice?

The Master of Science in Criminal Justice (MSCJ) is a great choice for individuals who need the MSCJ degree as an entry-level credential for a supervisory or leadership position in criminal justice. The MSCJ degree is also a valuable credential for practitioners looking to advance professionally or for students interested in further preparation for law school or a doctoral program.

### Why an MSCJ at Bowling Green State University?

The MSCJ program provides convenience and flexibility by offering students the option of completing the degree online in 18 months or on campus in one year. The program also has a low student-to-faculty ratio, providing regular opportunities for personalized attention and quality interaction between students and faculty. In addition, all courses are typically taught by full-time faculty. Our faculty are recognized nationally for their research and expertise, and several consult with leading organizations in the profession such as the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

### Learning outcomes

Graduates of the MSCJ program will be able to apply theory and research to criminal justice practice. They will also be able to thoroughly research issues related to crime and criminal justice and use this information to develop and implement evidence-informed responses. Graduates will also develop the skills needed to assess the general quality of criminal justice research and to offer suggestions for improving this research. Finally, graduates will be able to write and communicate at a level expected of someone holding a leadership position in criminal justice.

### Professional opportunities

Individuals earning the MSCJ go on to work and/or advance in federal, state, county, or local law enforcement agencies. They also find employment and/or advance in pre-trial and victims' services, public and private security, loss prevention and asset protection, and correctional administration. Graduates have also been hired as case managers, parole and compliance officers, liaison counselors, and college instructors. Some graduates pursue a law or doctoral degree.

### Program strengths and uniqueness

- Affordability given the tuition cost per credit hour and given the degree is only 30 total credit hours.
- Degree completion in one year of full-time study in the on-campus program or in 18 months of part-time study in the online program.
- Courses are completed one at a time in the online program, making the course load manageable for working professionals.
- Availability of two specializations (Forensic Investigation and Victims and Offenders) and tuition scholarships in our on-campus program.
- Courses taught by full-time faculty who are actively involved in research and who consult with leading organizations in criminal justice.
- A low student-to-faculty ratio that provides opportunities for personalized attention and quality interaction with faculty and other students.

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I highly recommend BGSU to anyone interested in pursuing an advanced degree in criminal justice. All of the courses were filled with relevant and interesting content, some of which I still refer to as a working police supervisor. Anyone who completes this program will have the expertise to remain an important asset to their organization for years to come. My experience will always be something I look back on with fondness and pride.

- Sgt. Jacob A. Morris '17  
Lorain (OH) Police Department



### Cost of tuition

Cost of earning the MSCJ degree at BGSU is more affordable than at many other institutions.

Please refer to the following link for current information on tuition and fees: <https://www.bgsu.edu/bursar/calculate-your-cost-of-attendance/graduate-calculator.html>

## Admission requirements

A minimum of a 2.75/4.0 undergraduate grade point average or a 3.0 in at least nine credit hours of graduate coursework is required. Applicants must submit scanned copies of official or unofficial transcripts from all institutions attended and submit final official or notarized copies of transcripts upon admission. The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is not required. All applicants must submit a personal statement that details their interest in the MSCJ program and how the degree will help them advance professionally. Applicants must also submit a resume and two letters of recommendation from individuals with knowledge of the applicant's qualifications and ability to complete a graduate degree. International applicants are also required to submit scores from the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), the Pearson Test of English Academic (PTEA), or the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Successful completion of ELS 112 will also be accepted for this requirement.

## Financial assistance

A limited number of tuition scholarships and work stipends are available on a competitive basis for full-time students who qualify in the on-campus program. For more information, please contact the Graduate Coordinator. Domestic students enrolled in four (4) or more credit hours are eligible to apply for financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to calculate student contribution and financial need. You may apply online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

## Curriculum

The MSCJ degree is 30 total credit hours of which 18 are required hours and 12 are elective or specialization hours. The choice of completing the Forensic Investigation or Victims and Offenders specialization is only available to on-campus students. Online students complete the courses made available through eCampus.



## Required Courses (18 credit hours)

CRJU 6010:	Criminal Justice Processes and Institutions
CRJU 6020:	Research Methods in Criminal Justice
CRJU 6030:	Data Analysis and Interpretation in Criminal Justice
CRJU 6050:	The Nature of Crime
CRJU 6400:	Criminal Justice Policy Analysis
CRJU 6510:	Seminar in Criminal Justice Ethics

## Specialization or Elective Courses (12 credit hours)

### Forensic Investigation Specialization (Choose 4)

FORI 5400:	Law, Evidence, and Procedure in Forensic Science
FORI 6000:	Crime Scene Techniques
FORI 6100:	Death Investigation
FORI 6250:	Exploitation Crime
CRJU 6100:	Seminar in Contemporary Policing

### Victims and Offenders Specialization (Choose 4)

CRJU 6150:	Seminar in Contemporary Juvenile Justice
CRJU 6200:	Seminar in Contemporary Corrections
CRJU 6220:	Correctional Treatment and Assessments
CRJU 6500:	Race, Gender, and Diversity Issues in Criminal Justice
FORI 6250:	Exploitation Crime

## Capstone Experience

Plan I:	Thesis (3 credit hours of CRJU 6990: Thesis Research required)
Plan II:	Comprehensive Exam or Portfolio

## How to apply

Visit the BGSU Graduate College website at [bgsu.edu/graduate/admissions](http://bgsu.edu/graduate/admissions). The application deadline is four weeks prior to the start of the next course being offered in the program. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis as soon as all supporting materials have been received.