



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 preparing for law school or a doctoral program.

Why a MSCJ at Bowling Green State University?

The MSCJ program provides convenience and flexibility by offering students the option of completing the degree online in less than two years 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 some 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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Adam Watkins,
College of Health & Human Services,
at adamw@bgsu.edu or call 419-372-9540.

For questions about eCampus, contact an enrollment specialist:
eCampus@bgsu.edu | 419-372-3226 | www.bgsu.edu/eCampus

Program strengths and uniqueness

- Meets the needs of working professionals by providing a high quality and flexible criminal justice education in our nationally ranked online program.
- Availability of two distinct specializations (Forensic Investigation and Victims and Offenders) in our on-campus program that address contemporary and pressing issues in criminal justice.
- Courses are typically 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 provides opportunities for personalized attention and quality interaction with faculty and other students.
- Degree completion in as little as three semesters of full-time study in our on-campus program or six semesters of part-time study online.
- Provides three start dates for the on-campus program and six start dates for the online program to accommodate individual needs.

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.



"I highly recommend the 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

Admission requirements

To gain regular admission status, applicants must have a minimum of a 2.75/4.0 undergraduate grade point average (GPA) or 3.0 in at least nine credit hours of graduate coursework. Applicants are required to submit scanned copies of official or unofficial transcripts from all institutions attended. Upon admission, final official or notarized copies of transcripts from all institutions where degrees were earned and diplomas from international institutions must be submitted.

Scores from the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) are not required for admission if an applicant meets ONE of the following criteria: cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.75; undergraduate GPA of 3.0 in final 60 semester hours; undergraduate GPA of 2.5 in final 60 semester hours and 5 years of professional experience; or a GPA of 3.0 in 9 credit hours of graduate coursework.

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.

Cost of tuition

Please refer to www.bgsu.edu/offices/bursar for current information on tuition and fees.

Financial Assistance

A limited number of scholarships and graduate assistantships are available on a competitive basis for full-time students who qualify. For more information, please contact the department.

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.

Curriculum

The MSCJ degree is 33 total credit hours of which 18 are required hours and 15 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 (15 credit hours)

Forensic Investigation Specialization

- FORI 5400: Law, Evidence, and Procedure in Forensic Science
- FORI 6000: Crime Scene Techniques
- FORI 6010: Elements of Forensic Science
- FORI 6100: Criminalistics
- FORI ####: Any other FORI-prefix course
- CRJU 6100: Seminar in Contemporary Policing

Victims and Offenders Specialization

- CRJU 5100: Victims and the Criminal Justice System
- CRJU 6150: Seminar in Contemporary Juvenile Justice
- CRJU 6200: Seminar in Contemporary Corrections
- CRJU 6210: Intermediate Punishments
- CRJU 6220: Treatment and Assessments
- CRJU 6500: Race, Gender, and Diversity Issues in Criminal Justice
- FORI 6250: Exploitation Crime

Other Elective Courses

- CRJU 5200: Organization and Management of Justice
- CRJU 6550: Crime Analysis
- FORI 6100: Death Investigation
- FORI 6150: Organized Crime and Criminal Networks

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 www.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.

eCampus

BGSU DEGREES | WORLD-CLASS FACULTY | 7-WEEK COURSES | 100% ONLINE

YOU'RE BUSY. WE'RE HERE FOR YOU.

The eCampus team proudly offers a one-stop-shop experience for all of your questions. Our main goal is simple: your success from registration to graduation!