



Virginia State University
Criminal Justice
Graduate Program Handbook

Department of Sociology & Criminal Justice

College of Humanities and Social Science

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<http://www.vsu.edu/pages/4578.asp>

Mission

The program is designed to provide students with a comprehensive, broad-based liberal arts education. The program is specifically designed to provide a Master of Science degree for entry into various criminal justice professions, provide advanced professional educational opportunities for those already employed in the field of criminal justice, and produce a new generation of academics capable of pursuing doctoral studies and leading the profession of criminal justice in the 21st century. Following the completion of the program, each student is expected to:

Learning Outcomes:

- 1) Demonstrate an advanced understanding of the field of criminal justice.
- 2) Apply theoretical knowledge and skills needed to analyze crime and criminal behavior.
- 3) Illustrate ability to conduct scientific research in criminal justice.
- 4) Develop knowledge and skills in criminal justice administration and leadership.
- 5) Demonstrate academic competence to pursue doctoral studies in criminal justice.

Program Overview

All students enrolled in the graduate program will have to complete a total of thirty-six (36) credit hours of graduate work. Of these thirty-six credit hours, 18 credit hours included 18 credit hours of core courses. The remaining 18 credits, will include 12 credit hours of CJUS electives which can be used to explore a concentration and the remaining six credit hours depends on the track chosen

The students enrolled in the Master of Science in Criminal Justice (MSCJ) program will have two options available to complete their graduate work: 1) Thesis Option and 2) Non-Thesis Option. Both plans require the completion of 36 credit hours of which the core requirements (18 credit hours) are the same. Students choosing the thesis option will complete independent research (6 credit hours). For the non-thesis option, CJUS 590 - Master's Project is required (3 credits) and students will have the option to select another criminal elective or another graduate course offered by other departments.

The MSCJ degree is designed to be completed in two years (4 semesters). Additional semesters will be needed for students who are enrolled on part time status (6 or fewer credit hours per semester).

Degree Requirements

All students admitted in the program will be required to complete the following six core courses (18 credit hours):

<u>CORE (Required for both Options: Thesis & Non-Thesis)</u>	Credit Hours
CJUS 501 Theories of Crime & Criminology	3
CJUS 502 Contemporary Criminal Justice	3
CJUS 503 Research Methods in Criminal Justice	3
CJUS 504 Statistics and Data Analysis in Criminal Justice	3
CJUS 505 Policy Analysis in Criminal Justice	3
CJUS 506 Ethics in Criminal Justice	3
TOTAL	18
<u>CJUS ELECTIVES (to be approved by Graduate Coordinator)</u>	
4 CJUS electives (Required for both Options: Thesis & Non-Thesis)	12
<u>Thesis Option:</u>	
CJUS 597 Research and Master's Thesis Part I	3
CJUS 599 Research and Master's Thesis Part II	3
TOTAL	6
<u>Non-Thesis Option:</u>	
CJUS 590 Master's Project*	3
Elective	3
TOTAL	6
MINIMUM TOTAL	36

*Students will not be allowed to enroll in this course until successfully completing of all the **CORE** courses

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission to this program is contingent upon meeting the College of Graduate Studies admission requirements in addition to the requirements identified by the Criminal Justice Graduate Program. The MSCJ program has two categories of admission: unconditional and conditional.

Unconditional Admission:

To be admitted unconditionally, students will be required to fulfill the following requirements:

1. An undergraduate GPA of 2.75 or higher on a 4.00 scale.
2. A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.
3. A personal statement describing personal characteristics, personal development reasons for seeking this degree, personal and professional experiences that influenced decision to pursue an advanced degree in criminal justice.
4. A professional writing sample.
5. Three professional/academic recommendations (undergraduate professors) addressing character and academic promise.

Conditional Admission:

A limited number of applicants who do not satisfy the program's regular admission requirements may be admitted on a conditional status. The decision to grant conditional admission will be based on the student's potential contributions to the field of criminal justice and the successful completion of other criteria listed below, however, the graduate faculty committee is the final arbitrator:

- Meet the general provisions for the Graduate School whenever requirements (1) and or (2) above are not met.
- Meet admission criteria listed above (items 3-5).
- Possess GPA of no lower than 2.20 in the undergraduate degree
- Complete a personal interview with program admissions committee members. The committee will assess the student's personal attributes and professional experiences that will contribute to the field of criminal justice.
- Earn a 3.00 GPA or above during first 12 semester hours of graduate work.

Change of Status:

To qualify for unconditional admission status, a student must (1) successfully complete all requirements listed on the Program Card by the coordinator and (2) earn a GPA of 3.0 or higher during the initial 12 credit hours of graduate work in criminal justice.

All applicants seeking admission to the graduate program in criminal justice must submit an official graduate application from Virginia State University, which may be obtained from the Office of Graduate Studies. The completed application, fees and all supporting credentials, scores, and references should be delivered to the Graduate Admissions Office. The final admission determination, however, will be made by the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice.

Advising

The Graduate Program Coordinator works as a graduate advisor. Students are expected to consult with the Graduate Program Coordinator on matters such as the curriculum choices, program of study plan, graduate requirements, and transfer credits. The advisor will work with the student to develop a study plan and select courses to suit their academic needs. Likewise, the advisor will assist with issues related to the student's academic career and professional choices. If a student chooses Plan A, Thesis Option, the Graduate Coordinator and the thesis chair do not have to be the same person (See Writing a Thesis).

Policies

Student Responsibilities:

Students are responsible for knowing and understanding all of the policies of the program of study, the department, and the university. Not taking responsibility may result in a delay in receiving grades, changes in status, and/or a postponement in graduation.

Attendance:

Responsibility for regular class attendance rests with the student. Regulations concerning attendance in a particular course are at the discretion of the instructor and are announced in the opening class session. The university reserves the right to exclude from a graduate program, course, or final examination a student whose attendance in classes is unsatisfactory to the instructor of the class.

Grades:

A graduate student who is a candidate for a degree must earn an average of 3.0 or higher in all courses applicable to his/her degree and receive grades of "S" where grades of "S," "U," or "P" are awarded. Only courses with grades of "A," "B," "C," "S," or "P" may be applied to semester-hour requirements for the degree.

Students may have no more than two "Cs" for graduation. A third "C" means the student may be discontinued from the program.

A prerequisite undergraduate course taken in conjunction with a graduate program must be completed with a grade of "C" or better, except that the cumulative average for undergraduate prerequisites must be no less than "B."

Graduate students in non-degree programs are expected to meet and maintain the same academic standards as students in degree programs.

Although Virginia State University encourages a maximum of student responsibility, with a minimum of administrative regulation, it expects each student to maintain appropriate standards in his/her academic program. The university reserves the right to terminate the registration of any student who does not meet acceptable standards. Academically, a student whose record falls below standard or otherwise indicates a lack of ability or effort needed to succeed in graduate study will be denied permission for further study.

Students receiving a "D" or "F" who maintains a 3.0 grade point average will be placed on conditional status and required to complete an academic plan with the Program Coordinator. A "D" or a "F" in any program course means that the student will be discontinued from the program if grade point average falls below a 3.0.

Probation/Dismissal

Graduate students must maintain a "B" average (3.00) in the courses taken in their approved graduate programs. A student who falls below 3.00 is put on probation with or without written notice from the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. If the cumulative average is not raised to 3.00 in the following semester, students will be notified by the Dean, in writing, that they have been discontinued from the program.

Appeals/Grievances:

The appeal procedure for a student in the case of a complaint about perceived inaccurate or unfair grading begins with contacting the faculty member, and further contact with the

graduate program coordinator, the instructor's department chairperson, and then the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies if necessary.

If the appeal is not resolved at any of the above levels, the student may submit a written request for review of the situation by the Policies and Petitions Committee. The chair of this committee is the Graduate School Dean.

Classroom Conduct:

Each instructor is responsible for maintaining a classroom environment that facilitates effective teaching and learning. The classroom environment should be such that it prepares students for behavior that is expected in a civil society.

Disruptive and disrespectful behavior on the part of any student should not be tolerated by the instructor. Instructors may evict students who disrupt the class, and when students are consistently disruptive, instructors may recommend to the departmental chair and graduate coordinator that the student be dropped from the course. The instructor should always be in charge and has the right to determine appropriate standards of behavior in the classroom as long as the requirement does not infringe upon the individual's civil rights. Appropriate classroom decorum should be described in the course syllabus.

Advancement to Candidacy

The College of Graduate Studies require an application for Advancement to Candidacy after the student has completed a minimum of 12 semester hours of course work with a grade-point average of B (3.00) or better in the approved program of study. Forms are available at the College of Graduate Studies <http://www.gradstudies.vsu.edu/index.php> and must be submitted with the signature of the graduate program coordinator and submitted to Graduate Studies Office. No student may enroll for Thesis or Comprehensive Exam before he/she has been admitted to candidacy.

Thesis or Comprehensive Exam

All criminal justice graduate students are required to pass a comprehensive exam or complete a thesis. Students wishing to pursue the thesis option must submit Thesis Topic Registration forms duly signed by the thesis chair to the Graduate Office **six months** prior to thesis submission date. You will need to determine your thesis chair and committee members before filling out this form. Therefore, it is recommended that you begin searching for a thesis chair at least 8 weeks prior to the six month deadline.

Should I take the comprehensive exam or write the thesis?

- Choose the comprehensive exam if:
 - You are interested in gaining a broader understanding of various criminal justice topics and issues.
 - You have no desire to pursue a Ph.D. degree or conduct research either on your own or in your profession.
 - The completion of a thesis will have no bearing on advancement or promotion in your profession.

- Choose the thesis if:
 - You are interested in specializing in one research area of criminal justice.
 - You are interested in conducting and analyzing research.
 - You have solid skills in methods and statistics and want to apply them.
 - You plan to enter a Ph.D. program upon graduation.
 - You plan to obtain a job as a research analyst.
 - You plan to continue to conduct research after graduation.

Seattle University, 2007

Thesis Option

The thesis option requires 36 credit hours of course work and the completion of a Master's thesis including an oral defense. The 36 credit hours of course work consists of 18 credit hours of core courses, 12 credit hours of electives, and Master Thesis (minimum 6 credit hours).

The students opting for the Thesis Option will complete a Master's thesis with the active guidance of a committee of three faculty members. Students should consult with their academic advisor during their first semester in selecting the thesis option. Those students selecting the thesis option should begin the selection of a thesis chair their second semester enrolled in the program.

Selecting a Thesis Chair:

The first step to the thesis process is selecting a chair. Therefore, it is important that the student familiarizes him/herself with the faculty. Your chair should be a person who shares your research interests. Discuss your ideas with various faculty members to determine which might be interested in working with you. You should begin this process during your first semester in the program. Finding someone sooner rather than later is always best. The CJ faculty research interests are listed on the Department's website.

The thesis chair plays a pivotal role in the development of the thesis and is primarily responsible for directing the student throughout the thesis process. Although the student will work with all members of the thesis committee, the thesis chair should coordinate

much of the activity surrounding the thesis and its development. It should be noted that each thesis may be different and thus alter the roles played by committee members.

Once you have identified a thesis chair this individual will serve as your advisor until you graduate. You and your thesis chair will be responsible for selecting the other members of your committee.

Thesis Committee:

The thesis committee must consist of a thesis chair and two other graduate criminal justice faculty members who are willing to serve as committee members and readers of the thesis. Students must secure the members of the thesis committee no later than six months before the candidate expects to complete all requirements for the degree and the graduate coordinator must be informed about the formation of the committee so that the Thesis Topic Registration form can be submitted.

Thesis Topic and Proposal:

Immediately after the formation of the thesis committee, the student must begin writing his/her thesis proposal for approval. This proposal must be orally defended, approved, and signed by all members of the thesis committee and sent to the graduate program coordinator at least **one semester** prior to the semester the candidate expects to complete all requirements for the degree.

The proposal defense may need to be approved earlier depending on the nature of the research. Some studies will require Institutional Review Board (and possibly outside agency) approval. In addition, some data collection methods may require more time to complete. The student must take all of this into consideration when planning his/her timeline.

It should be noted that writing a thesis could take longer than expected depending on the topic and methodology. While 6 credit hours are outlined toward the Thesis Project, it could take longer and require more credit hours.

Institutional Review Board (IRB):

If a student's research involves human subjects he/she must get IRB approval. A student should defend his/her proposal before seeking IRB approval. The VSU Institutional Review Board protects human rights and welfare by reviewing all studies conducted involving human subjects. More information and forms are available on the VSU Division of Research website at <http://www.vsu.edu/pages/1089.asp>.

IRB approval can take quite some time. Therefore, it is important that student do not wait until the last minute to submit their paperwork.

Research and Master's Thesis Course:

Students opting for the thesis option are required to register for CJUS 599 – Research and Master's Thesis after earning at least 27 credits. The student will earn a minimum of six credits for the thesis research course upon successful completion of an oral defense of the thesis. Successful course work, thesis preparation and defense will result in a minimum total of 36 credit hours. More credits hours may be necessary to complete the thesis project depending on the topic and methodology.

Thesis:

A thesis is a manuscript that documents systematic inquiry into a research question. It, like a comprehensive examination, allows for a capstone type of integration of material. The student must conduct research and report the results in the appropriate social science format. The thesis should demonstrate originality and understanding of the chosen topic.

In addition to writing the thesis, the student must pass an oral examination on the subject of the thesis and related questions. (The student will receive either a “pass-no revisions”/ “pass-minor revisions”/ “pass-major revisions”/ or “fail” distinction.). The thesis committee will determine the time-frame for completing any revisions. A student who fails to successfully complete the thesis will be *terminated* from the graduate program. The official examiners will consist of the three thesis committee members. **An Oral Examination Application scheduling form must also be filed with the graduate coordinator at least four weeks prior to the oral examination (defense) date.**

Thesis Submission: The completed thesis, when approved and defended, will carry the signatures of the members of the thesis committee. The student will supply three copies of the thesis, two of which will be placed in the Virginia State University Library and another in the department library. The student will provide an abstract of the thesis of not more than 400 words to be filed in the Criminal Justice Office.

Thesis Checklist

The thesis process is extremely time driven. Therefore, it is imperative that graduate students are aware of all deadlines. Each semester the graduate school will post a list of important dates to remember on the VSU website. Students should be sure to download a copy of this list as it varies each semester.

In addition, anything can occur while attempting to complete your thesis, from unforeseen rewrites to illness. It is vital that students plan everything in advance of the actual deadlines to stay on track for graduation.

- Select a thesis chair
- Select a thesis committee
- Select a thesis topic
- Fill out a Thesis Topic Registration form (at least six-months prior thesis submission, signed by thesis chair)
- Proposal Defense form (at least 1 semester prior to thesis completion)
- Defend Proposal
- IRB Approval (if necessary)
- Thesis Defense form (at least 4 weeks prior to defense)
- Application for Graduation
- Defend Thesis (leave time for any revisions before graduation)
- Completed and approved copies of thesis and results of defense due to Graduate Office

**Be sure to check other commencement date information provided by the university.*

Thesis Structure

The structure of each thesis will vary depending on the topic, methodology used, and direction provided by the thesis chair. With that said, there are some university requirements in regards to the structure of your document. Download the Handbook on Master's Theses and Projects on the VSU graduate studies website.

The typical thesis structure is as follows:

- Initial pages
- Abstract
- Title
- Approval page
- Acknowledgments (optional)
- Table of Contents
- List of Tables (if necessary)
- List of Figures (if necessary)
- Chapter I – Introduction
- Chapter II – Review of Literature
- Chapter III – Methods and Procedures
- Chapter IV – Results/Findings
- Chapter V – Discussion/Conclusion
- References
- Appendix or Appendices
- Vita

Comprehensive Exam

The non-thesis option requires 36 credit hours of course work, successful completion of a comprehensive examination, which includes a written examination and an oral defense. The 36 credit hours of course work consists of 18 credit hours of core courses, 12 credit hours of criminal justice electives, CJUS 590-Master's Project and 3 credit hours of an elective from criminal justice or other graduate courses. Students must have completed 27 credit hours of the program to include all core courses, CJUS 590 and some elective courses before taking the comprehensive exam.

The Comprehensive Examination:

The comprehensive examination covers the material from the core course work. The examination is a two-part examination and students must pass both components. The first part consists of a written take-home examination. The second part is an oral defense of the written examination, which demonstrates the student's comprehensive understanding of the core course work. Students must pass the written examination before they can proceed to the oral defense. The oral defense is open to faculty and students but will be graded only by the comprehensive exam committee.

The Committee:

The examination committee consists of three faculty members that are assigned by the graduate coordinator. The committee is responsible for formalizing the exam questions and grading.

Scheduling the Exam:

Students should take the initiative, in conjunction with his/her advisor, to register for the Comprehensive Exam course CJUS 598. Students should preregister for the course and notify the graduate coordinator of his or her intention to sit for the exam at least one semester before the exam. Students MUST register for the comprehensive exam course to sit for the exam during the final semester of course work.

However, the examination should be taken no later than one year following completion of all coursework in the program of study. A student may request a delay of the exam for well-documented exceptional circumstances with approval of his/her faculty advisor and the graduate coordinator.

Exams are not normally scheduled during the summer. Each student must pass the comprehensive exam (written and oral components) to graduate from the program.

Eligibility:

- a. Students must have completed a minimum of 27 credit hours of program courses and have received satisfactory grades (B or above in core courses) in all.
- b. Students cannot enroll in CJUS 598 or sit for the exam if they have any of the following grades: I (incomplete) or U (unsatisfactory).
- c. Any student on academic probation cannot enroll in CJUS 598 or sit for the comprehensive exam. (Any student with a cumulative GPA below 3.0 is considered on probation per the University Catalog).
- d. Students can only take the comprehensive exam once per semester. Any retakes of the written (in its entirety or in a particular content area) or oral components of the examination MUST take place in a subsequent semester.

Comprehensive Examination-Questions:

- a. Questions for the exam will be created by the Comprehensive Examination Committee.
- b. The examination will consist of four questions students must successfully answer. There will be one question covering each of the following content areas: policy, research methods/statistics and theory. The fourth question will cover general areas in the field and may allow students to select from multiple questions.

Grading Procedures:

- a. Students will have approximately four days to complete the written exam and turn it in as instructed.
- b. Once a student has passed the written exam, the oral component of the comprehensive exam will be scheduled within a reasonable time.
- c. A student who does not successfully complete the oral defense component must retake the comprehensive examination in its entirety (both the written and oral components).
- d. The exam is pass/fail. Students must pass both components of the examination (written and oral) to have successfully completed the comprehensive examination.
- e. If a student fails 3 or more questions on the written examination, there will be no oral exam, and the student will have to retake the written examination in its entirety.
- f. If a student fails 1 or 2 questions on the written examination, the student will be allowed to retake the failed written question(s) in the particular content area(s).
- g. All retakes will include new questions and/or research topics. Previously used contemporary criminal justice topics cannot be used again.
- h. All attempts to complete the written examination whether in its entirety or select question(s) in a content area will count as an attempt to pass the examination.
- i. A student who fails to successfully complete the written examination in 3 attempts (initial attempt & 2 retakes) will be terminated from the graduate program. The student does have the right to petition the department chair and graduate coordinator for additional consideration.

CJUS 590 MASTER'S PROJECT - 3 semester hours

This course is required for candidates who select Plan B toward fulfilling the requirements for the Master of Science in Criminal Justice. Students taking this option will complete a Policy Paper under the guidance of a criminal justice faculty member.

Courses Descriptions

Core Courses (18 credit hours required of all students)

CJUS 501 THEORIES OF CRIME AND CRIMINOLOGY - 3 semester hours , Fall

Survey of the contemporary theories of crime and criminality. Study of the biological, psychological, and sociological perspectives on crime and deviance, and assessment of theoretical advances including integration and general theories of crime. Understanding of relations between theories and crime policy.

CJUS 502 CONTEMPORARY CRIMINAL JUSTICE - 3 semester hours, Fall

This course will examine the evolving nature of the contemporary criminal justice system in the United States. The students will gain knowledge about the evolution of the Bill of Rights, competing interpretations of the constitution, Supreme Court cases, and other laws and institutions unique to the American Criminal Justice System.

CJUS 503 RESEARCH METHODS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE - 3 semester hours, Fall

Introduction to research design as applied to problems in crime and criminal justice. Logic, design analysis and ethical principles in criminal justice research. Design and preparation of Master's Thesis proposal.

CJUS 504 STATISTICS AND DATA ANALYSIS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE - 3 semester hours, Spring

The study of descriptive and inferential statistics in analyzing criminal justice data from such agencies as the Bureau of Justice Statistics, UCR system of the FBI, National Incidence Based Reporting System, and National Archives of Criminal Justice Data. Students will learn to use of SPSS and SAS in relation to data entry and data analysis, and the use and modification of secondary data sets.

CJUS 505 POLICY ANALYSIS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE - 3 semester hours, Spring

The course will examine the federalization of crime policy, key actors in crime policy-making, enactment of different crime legislations by federal and state government, and public attitudes towards crime and terrorism. Students will learn how crime policy is made, who make them, and how crime policy-making impacts on crime control and punishment.

CJUS 506 ETHICS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE - 3 semester hours, Spring

This course will examine the standards and codes of responsibility in criminal justice professions, such as the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics, ABA Standards of Professional Responsibility, American Jail Association Code of Ethics, and the American Correctional Code of Ethics. The students will also obtain knowledge about different systems of ethical thoughts and morality related to criminal justice.

The program was designed to offer four concentrations, however at this time no particular concentration is being offered. Instead, students will be able to choose from a variety of CJUS electives that are offered.

Concentrations:

**Domestic and International Security Issues
Criminal Justice Administration and Management
Correctional Administration
Minorities and the Criminal Justice System**

CJUS 511 INTRODUCTION TO HOMELAND SECURITY - 3 semester hours

This course will introduce students to the history, structure and the development of the institutions of homeland security in America. The course will particularly focus on the various aspect of Homeland Security as outlined in the Office of Homeland Security's publication "National Strategy for Homeland Security". Through the use of case-based instructions, students will learn how different federal, state, and local agencies collectively work for homeland security in a highly complex environment.

CJUS 512 NATIONAL SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM – 3 semester hours

This course will examine the rise of global terrorism and its impact on national security in America. The students will obtain knowledge about the Weapons of Mass, Destruction, bioterrorism, and cyber terrorism, and the threats they pose to America's homeland security, and the challenges they bring to America's criminal justice system.

CJUS 513 CYBER TERRORISM - 3 semester hours

This course will introduce students to the nature of cyber terrorism - a new digital weapon that poses serious threats to our financial system, transportation, communications, and emergency services and public safety. The course will examine the detection, prevention, and response to this emerging threat.

CJUS 514 TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME - 3 semester hours

In recent years, there has been an explosive growth of organized criminal groups who are engaged in transnational money laundering, drug trafficking, trafficking of women and children for sex, and illegal human trafficking. This course will examine the impact of these organized crime cartels on the institutions of the criminal justice system in America and other major industrialized countries.

CJUS 515 COMPARATIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE - 3 semester hours

This course will examine the nature and the philosophy of the American Criminal Justice System by comparing and contrasting it with those of other industrialized countries such as the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, China, and Japan. The course will particularly focus on how these different countries are responding to global terrorism, and restructuring their domestic security institutions.

CJUS 516 CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE - 3 semester hours

This course will examine the impact of various recent legislations related to Homeland Security, such as the USA Patriot Act of 2001 and the National Homeland Security Act of 2003, on individual rights and civil liberties in America. The students will gain insights about the problem of balance between security and individual liberty in the context of the evolving problem of globalization and global terrorism.

CJUS 517 CRIME POLICY IN AMERICA - 3 semester hours

This course will examine the recent growth in legislations and policy related to domestic security and global terrorism in America and other major industrialized countries. The students will also obtain knowledge about the development of various security agencies and their broader impact on the criminal justice system.

CJUS 518 SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS - 3 semester hours

This course will examine the various recent federal and state legislations and policy initiatives related to emergency management and preparedness. The students will develop an understanding of the changing environment of domestic security in the context of global terrorism, and develop expertise to work in the areas of criminal justice related to emergency preparedness, both nationally and locally.

CJUS 530 MINORITIES & CRIME - 3 semester hours

Interdisciplinary theories introduced to facilitate understanding of particular groups affected by the criminal justice system, including definitions and characteristics of behaviors as well as management, control, and prevention relative to these groups.

CJUS 531 THE POLICE & INNER CITY PROBLEMS - 3 semester hours

Role of the police officer in relation to the customs and problems of urban inner city communities. Comparative analysis of techniques used by law enforcement agencies to deal with crime specifically in inner cities.

CJUS 532 PROBLEMS OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM - 3 semester hours

Review of advanced research on crime and African-American communities with special attention to different aspects and role players in criminal justice system. Brings historical perspective in understanding the relationship that exists currently between the members of African-American community and the members of criminal justice agencies.

CJUS 533 AFRICAN-AMERICANS & CRIMINOLOGICAL THOUGHT – 3 semester hours

The role of new pedagogical thought in examining crime issues relative to society. Focuses on African-American criminology and its importance to the field of criminology.

CJUS 534 CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN A MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY 3 - semester hours

Society in a global economy tends to be multicultural and diverse. Maintaining law and order in a highly diverse environment requires special emphasis on the cultural dimensions of different ethnic, racial and religious groups. This course identifies issues surrounding offenders of different ethnic and religious groups and provides research based methods about how to deal with them.

CJUS 535 WOMEN AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE - 3 semester hours

Identifies issues surrounding women as offenders, victims, and criminal justice professionals. Investigates explanations for the involvement of women in illegal activities. Functions, powers, procedures, and limitations germane to women, with particular emphasis on those operating in the criminal justice field. Reviews the participation of women in law enforcement, judicial proceedings, corrections, and law making.

CJUS 536 COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES ON CRIME - 3 semester hours

Explores crimes from a global perspective and finds the involvement of foreign elements with the domestic law and order situation. Compares and contrasts law enforcement in the United States with police system in selected countries. Identifies similarities and differences in administration, organization, principal functions and objectives.

CJUS 537 CRIME, SEX, LAW AND ORDER - 3 semester hours

Explores the global ties that exist between the international trafficking of sex workers and local criminal interest groups. With the rise of global economy and internet connections, pornography has become a lucrative business enterprise for many members of organized crimes. The course examines the globalization of sex crimes and the issues of illegal trafficking of women and children.

CJUS 538 POLICE AND THE GHETTOIZATION OF COMMUNITIES - 3 semester hours

Examines the various perspectives on the nature of police roles in urban ghettos, particularly in African-American communities. Understanding of the perceptions of police in urban ghettos as law enforcement agents and as preservers of social order.

CJUS 550 SEMINAR IN ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION - 3 semester hours

This course will provide a comprehensive overview of criminal justice administration and management with an emphasis on organizational theories. Different theories of organization and organizational behavior will be examined and their relevance to the administration of criminal justice agencies will be explored.

CJUS 551 HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT - 3 semester hours

This course will introduce the theories and principles of human resource management as tools for management in criminal justice agencies. The students will also learn the impact of various federal and state laws on human resource management in criminal justice agencies including hiring and promotion, reward system, gender equality, issues of cultural diversity, and dispute resolutions.

CJUS 552 RESEARCH METHODS AND PLANNING RESOURCES - 3 semester hours

This course will examine the different theories of strategic planning as they relate to criminal justice organizations. The students will learn to synthesize research-based knowledge for effective management of criminal justice agencies.

CJUS 553 COMMUNITY THEORIES AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE - 3 semester hours

Surveys and analyzes literature on relations between crime and communities. Examines the theories of relations between crime, demography, and ecology, and assess their impact on justice administration. Different models of community crime preventive strategies and their administrative implications are examined.

CJUS 554 SEMINAR IN LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT - 3 semester hours

Explores the theories of leadership and their relevance to criminal justice management: The students will learn the art and the principles of strategic leadership and their use in effective and innovative management of criminal justice organizations.

CJUS 555 LAW AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT - 3 semester hours

Examination of the legal issues commonly facing managers in justice agencies related particularly to personnel management, human resource management, labor laws, and intra-agency dispute resolution. Both state and federal statutory and case laws are examined.

CJUS 556 COMPUTER AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT – 3 semester hours

The course is designed to teach the applications of computer in matters of storage, processing, and dissemination of criminal justice data and information. The students will gain understanding of contemporary federal and state criminal justice information networks systems and programs.

CJUS 557 PROGRAM EVALUATION IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT - 3 semester hours

Principles and techniques of program evaluation as they relate to crime and justice programs. Understanding of the different models of program evaluation, and their relative significance in criminal justice management.

CJUS 558 BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT - 3 semester hours

Study of criminal justice management from the perspectives of the different models of budgeting. Understanding of state and federal budgetary principles and allocations in justice programs.

CJUS 559 INTRODUCTION TO CORRECTIONS - 3 semester hours

Nature of correctional work, aims and objectives of correctional administration, probation and practices, and the evolution of modern correctional institutions and practices.

CJUS 560 PRINCIPLES OF CORRECTIONAL OPERATIONS - 3 semester hours

Applying modern management methods and principles in correctional administration. Theoretical approaches for understanding modern correctional problems.

CJUS 561 MAJOR CLASSICS ON CORRECTIONS - 3 semester hours

Seminal works in the birth and evolution of modern prison and correctional institutions. The course will expose students to the classics of correctional thought and philosophy.

CJUS 562 INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT AND THE OFFENDERS - 3 semester hours

This course will examine the modern philosophy and methods in the treatment of adult offenders and juvenile delinquents in correctional institutions. The students will learn the impact of institutional treatments on recidivism, and gain knowledge about the differences between institutional and community-based treatments.

CJUS 563 CORRECTIONS: REHABILITATION OF THE OFFENDERS – 3 semester hours

Analyzes the growth and evolution of the rehabilitative ideal and its application in correctional settings. The impact and evolution of different rehabilitative methods, including community-based interventions, faith-based interventions, counseling, self-help program, diversion, community services, and probation will be discussed. The future of the rehabilitative ideal in the context of the rise of new penology will be examined.

CJUS 564 CORRECTIONS: DRUG USE AND ABUSE - 3 semester hours

Nature and extent of drug abuse by inmates and probationers. Relations between drug abuse and recidivism. Prison-based drug addiction treatment and counseling program.

CJUS 565 PRISON DESIGN AND PRISON VIOLENCE - 3 semester hours

Relations between prison design and inmate behavior, violence, and rehabilitation. Study of the different models of prison design, including linear International Surveillance model, the Popular Remote Surveillance model, and Popular Direct Surveillance model.

CJUS 566 HEALTH CARE AND MENTAL HEALTH IN PRISON - 3 semester hours

Study of health care delivery systems in federal and state prisons. Explores the effects of long-term imprisonment on health care cost and other management consequences.

CJUS 567 ETHICS IN CORRECTIONAL MANAGEMENT - 3 semester hours

An overview of ethical issues related to corrections and correctional management. Understanding of contemporary correctional issues and their broader ethical contexts and significance.

CJUS 570 ADVANCE DATA ANALYSIS AND USE OF SPSS - 3 semester hours

Study of the use of statistical data and models in the development and management of criminal justice projects. Will focus on discussing issues in crime analysis and crime mapping.

CJUS 571 USE OF SECONDARY DATA SOURCES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE - 3 semester hours

Application of advanced statistical models and computer methodologies in the use and analysis of secondary data sources from the National Institute of Justice and other federal agencies. Will focus on learning the art of research synthesis using statistical and computer models.

CJUS 572 JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM -3 semester hours

Reviews the history and philosophy of the juvenile justice system in America. Study of federal and state statutes and court decisions related to juvenile justice. Also provides comparative overview of juvenile justice practices in major industrialized countries.

CJUS 574 THEORIES OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY - 3 semester hours

Examines the major medical, psychological, and sociological theories of juvenile delinquency and the recent efforts for theoretical integration in juvenile delinquency studies and research.

CJUS 575 PRISON AND PENOLOGY - 3 semester hours

Reviews the history of punishment with emphasis on the changing role of penitentiary in the criminal justice system. The goal of punishment, including deterrence, incapacitation, and rehabilitation are discussed and examine.

CJUS 576 COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING - 3 semester hours

The nature, philosophy, and the evolution of community policing as a model for law enforcement. Organization, strategies, and the role of community-policing in crime control and prevention strategies.

CJUS 577 CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM - 3 semester hours

Analyzes the role of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights in shaping the American criminal justice system. Landmark decision of the U.S. Supreme Court related to substantive and procedural criminal justice issues.

CJUS 579 JUSTICE THEORIES - 3 semester hours

The nature of different justice theories: retributive justice, therapeutic justice, restorative justice, and community justice. How different justice theories define crime and punishment and interpret the balance between individual liberty and public order.

CJUS 580 VICTIMOLOGY - 3 semester hours

Study of the victim's experience with the criminal justice system. Topics in this course will include psychological impacts of crime, the process and impacts of victimization, legal approaches to victims, services provided to victims, restorative justice and emerging understandings of the victim.

CJUS 590 MASTER'S PROJECT - 3 semester hours

This course must be taken by students in the Master of Criminal Justice program who are under Plan B: Non-Thesis Option. This course will prepare students for the Comprehensive Examination.

CJUS 591 INDEPENDENT STUDY IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE – 3 semester hours

This course allows graduate students to pursue a specialized area of research under the supervision of one of the Criminal Justice graduate faculty. Students will meet with their faculty instructor on a mutually agreed upon schedule and will be expected to do a substantial amount of reading, research and writing. This course may not be repeated for credit.

CJUS 597 RESEARCH AND MASTER'S THESIS PART I – 3 semester hours

Students pursuing the Thesis Option will register and a Graduate Committee consisting of three faculty will be assigned. Students will be required to select research topic, formulate a hypothesis, complete a literature review and begin writing the thesis.

CJUS 598 COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION – 0 semester hours

This course must be taken by students in the Master of Criminal Justice program who are under Plan B: Non-Thesis Option. The course must be taken during the semester the student plans to take the comprehensive examination. The course may be repeated consistent with the policy of the Criminal Justice Program.

CJUS 599 RESEARCH AND MASTER'S THESIS PART II - 3 semester hours

Students pursuing the thesis will complete the research and write the report under the supervision of Thesis Committee. The thesis must be prepared according to the guidelines of the Graduate School. The thesis must be successfully defended in an oral defense.

School of Graduate Studies

Graduation Fee:

Students are required to file for graduation and pay the applicable administrative fee for processing the master's diploma. Additional fees are assessed for keepsake cap, gown, and hood necessary for University graduation ceremonies. For more details contact the Graduate Office.

Application for Graduation:

A candidate for the master's degree must file an Application for Graduation by dates published in the official academic year calendar for the appropriate Commencement Exercise.

For additional information please contact the Graduate Studies Office.

Phone: (804) 524-5985

Website: <http://www.vsu.edu/pages/252.asp>