Careers in criminal justice have an important role in communities and human services.
Why choose Texas State?
The faculty in criminal justice are recognized nationally and internationally for their commitment to outstanding teaching, cutting-edge research and unparalleled service to the field. Their broad practical experiences and diverse academic backgrounds contribute to a curriculum that provides students the skills needed for criminal justice program planning, implementation and evaluation.

Alumni are employed in various state and federal criminal justice agencies nationally and internationally. They currently serve in high-level positions such as chief officers, agents, faculty, trainers and directors.

Course Work
The master of science in criminal justice (M.S.C.J.) degree requires 36 credit hours. The program offers thesis and non-thesis options. Students who choose the thesis option are required to complete 12 hours of electives and a thesis totaling six credit hours. Students who choose the non-thesis option are required to complete 15 hours of electives and a professional-quality paper as a component of the degree program. All students must pass an oral comprehensive examination. The purpose of this examination is to provide a structured situation in which the candidate can demonstrate proficiency in various areas of study.
Department Mission

The goals of the School of Criminal Justice at Texas State are twofold:

» to prepare competent and responsible public servants for roles in criminal investigation and apprehension, agency administration, prosecution and correctional services

» to prepare graduates with advanced theoretical knowledge and research skills in criminal justice for leadership roles in academic, public policy and administrative positions

These goals are pursued in the context of a broad university curriculum that provides a foundation of knowledge necessary to function in a challenging world.
Faculty
Exceptional faculty and ongoing research enable the School of Criminal Justice to offer courses in areas of study such as policing, corrections, law, juvenile crime, female offending, environmental criminology, criminological theory, and management and organization. The School also offers a variety of specialized courses in crime analysis, statistics, quantitative and qualitative data analysis and administers a number of institutes and centers, including the Center for Geospatial Intelligence and Investigation and the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) center.

Career Options
The M.S.C.J. degree offers a range of career opportunities:

» state and federal correction facilities
» county jails
» local, state and federal police departments
» halfway houses and prerelease programs
» juvenile detention centers and group homes
» victim advocacy agencies
» immigration and naturalization services or homeland security
» loss prevention
» security
» research analysis
» attorney general offices
» federal law enforcement
» doctoral studies
Important Deadlines*

Admissions
Priority Fall: February 15
Fall: June 15
Priority Spring: August 15
Spring: October 15
Summer: April 15

Applications will continue to be considered on a space-available basis after the deadline.

Funding: Scholarships, Fellowships and Assistantships
Applications must be complete by the priority deadline to be considered for funding.

How to Apply
For information regarding admission requirements and submission instructions, please visit:
gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply

*International applicants can view specific deadlines and requirements at:
gradcollege.txstate.edu/international

For information on deadlines, admission requirements and funding, visit:
gradcollege.txstate.edu/programs/mscj
The faculty challenged me to think abstractly and gave me the confidence to apply criminal justice theory to the latest social phenomena.

– Valerie Hollier, M.S.C.J. alumna