Criminal justice plays an important role in communities and human services. Our curriculum provides students the skills needed for criminal justice program planning, implementation and evaluation. Careers in criminal justice are available at every level of government, from local to federal, and numerous career opportunities are available in the major divisions of the criminal justice field. Continuing job growth is expected as the need for human resources in the criminal justice system increases in Texas and nationally.

Our graduate faculty have broad practical experience and diverse academic backgrounds. Our faculty have made significant contributions to the field through research and publications. They also have provided valuable community service in their areas of concentration.

“The faculty challenged me to think abstractly and gave me the confidence to apply criminal justice theory to the latest social phenomena. After graduation, I hope to gain field experience in corrections so I can build a solid foundation for a career in education. I want to teach at the graduate level and have plenty of experiences to share with my students.”

— Valerie Hollier CRIMINAL JUSTICE MASTER’S STUDENT
Course Work
The master of science in criminal justice degree requires 36 semester hours. The program offers thesis and non-thesis options. Both options require the completion of the following courses:
- Administration of Justice
- Advanced Research Methods in Criminal Justice
- Current Legal Issues in Criminal Justice
- Statistics for Criminal Justice
- Management Principles in Criminal Justice
- Advanced Crime Theory

Students who choose the thesis option are required to complete 12 hours of electives and a thesis totaling six semester 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.

Admission Policy
Applicants must hold a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited university. A degree in a criminal justice-related field is preferred but not required. Applicants may be required to complete additional course work as a condition of admission.

Two admission procedures are available:
1. A student with a GPA of 3.0 or above for the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate work before receipt of a bachelor’s degree (plus any previously completed graduate work) will be eligible for regular admission by approval of the director of the master’s program in criminal justice.

2. Conditional admission is available for students with a GPA below 2.99 for the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate work. They may be eligible for admission consideration upon review by the program’s faculty.

Each applicant must submit the following to the Graduate College:
- the online Graduate College application through ApplyTexas
- application fee
- one official transcript from each senior-level, post-secondary institution attended
- official Graduate Record Exam (GRE)

Visit www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply for access to an online application, where to send application documents and additional details. Applications must be submitted by June 15 for the fall semester, October 15 for the spring semester and April 15 for summer. Preferred admissions deadlines are February 15 for the fall semester and August 15 for the spring semester.

Career Options
Career possibilities for graduates with a master of science in criminal justice include positions in the following:
- 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

Financial Assistance
For more information about scholarships, financial aid and application deadlines, visit the Graduate College website at www.gradcollege.txstate.edu and click on Financing Your Graduate Education. Please note that program admission priority deadlines must be met in order to be considered for scholarships, fellowships and assistantships.

Contact
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