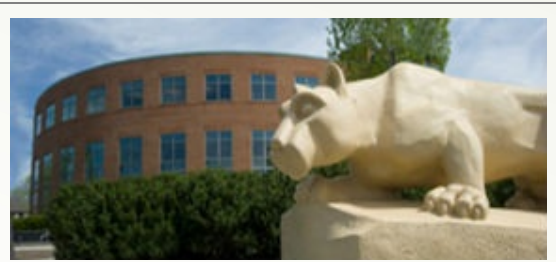


Master of Arts in Criminal Justice

The program reflects the numerous complexities of the discipline. It provides academic leadership for students to work within corrections, institutionalized and non-institutionalized settings, victim services, adult and juvenile services, policing and law enforcement, private security, courts, and other human service organizations serving the clients of these institutions. It also helps develop research acumen for those students who may wish to consider doctoral studies.



Contact

Administrative Support Assistant
Jaime Vargas
jlh379@psu.edu

Professor-in-Charge
Jennifer Gibbs, Ph.D.
jcf25@psu.edu
+1 717 948 6046

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PennState
Harrisburg

777 West Harrisburg Pike
Middletown, PA 17057
Phone: 717-948-6058
Fax: 717-948-6320
harrisburg.psu.edu

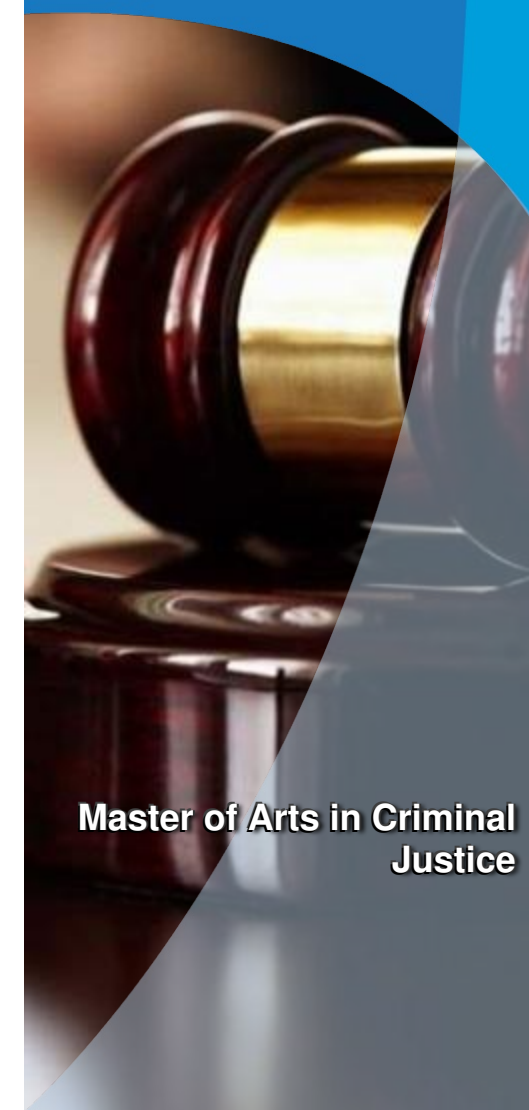
Program Website:

<https://harrisburg.psu.edu/public-affairs/criminal-justice/master-arts-criminal-justice>



PennState
Harrisburg

School of Public Affairs



**Master of Arts in Criminal
Justice**

Curriculum

1. The thesis track requires 30 credits. Six of the credits (CRIMJ 600) will be for the thesis.
2. The master's paper track requires 30 credits. Three of these credits will be awarded for successful completion of a master's paper, for which a student will register for three credits of CRIMJ 594.
3. All credits must be at the 400, 500, 600, or 800 level, with a minimum of 18 credits at the 500 or 600 level. A minimum of 24 credits must be at the 500, 600, or 800 level.
4. A minimum grade-point average of a 3.0 must be earned for course work taken as a graduate student.
5. Students are required to take the following courses:
 - CRIMJ 500
 - CRIMJ 501
 - CRIMJ 502
 - CRIMJ 503
 - CRIMJ 504
6. Students must complete a [9 credit concentration](#). Students in the non-thesis track will also be required to complete an additional 3-credit elective. A list of courses required for each concentration and additional approved elective courses is maintained by the graduate program office.
7. Students who believe they have completed a course substantially similar to one of the specific course requirements may apply to have their previous work evaluated for the purposes of exemption to that requirement. If approved, another course will be taken in place of that requirement.
8. A maximum of 10 credits of completed graduate work may be transferred in from another accredited institution, subject to restrictions outlined in the [Transfer Courses](#) section of the Graduate Bulletin.

Student Aid

Graduate assistantships available to students in this program and other forms of student aid are described in the [Student Aid](#) section of the Graduate Bulletin. Students on graduate assistantships must adhere to the [course load limits set forth in the Graduate Bulletin](#).

Courses

Graduate courses carry numbers from 500 to 699 and 800 to 899. Advanced undergraduate courses numbered between 400 and 499 may be used to meet some graduate degree requirements when taken by graduate students. Courses below the 400 level may not. A graduate student may register for or audit these courses in order to make up deficiencies or to fill in gaps in previous education but not to meet requirements for an advanced degree.

Suggested MACJ Concentrations CRIMJ System Components

Select three courses from the following:

- CRIMJ 563 — Concepts and Practices in Police Administration
- CRIMJ 564 — Administrative and Legal Aspects of Corrections
- CRIMJ 565 — Courts in the Criminal Justice System
- CRIMJ 567 — Juvenile Justice: Issues and Practice

Policy Analysis, Planning, and Evaluation

Select three courses from the following:

- PL SC 490 — Policy Making and Evaluation
- P ADM 507 — Introduction to Public Policy Analysis
- P ADM 535 — Policy Analysis and Planning
- P ADM 550 — Policy and Program Evaluation

Homeland Security

Take:

- HLS (P ADM) 401 (will become HLS 811 SU17) — Introduction to Homeland Security

Select one course from the following:

- HLS (P ADM) 404 — Homeland Security and Defense in Practice
- CRIMJ 435 — Border Security
- CRIMJ 439 (PL SC 439) — The Politics of Terrorism

Select one course from the following:

- HLS 802 (P ADM 802) — Multifaceted Approaches to Homeland Security
- HLS 804 (P ADM 804) — Strategic Planning and Organizational Imperatives in Homeland Defense and Security

Visit for complete details.

Program Requirements for Admission

Requirements	More Information
GPA	Minimum GPA of a 3.0 for the last 60 credits of undergraduate study is generally required.
Supporting Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ If GPA is less than 3.0, a satisfactory score on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT), or Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) is required.✓ Students who seek funding must take one of the above standardized tests, preferably the GRE.✓ three letters of recommendation✓ a brief two-page statement of purpose or a writing sample✓ Some foundational course work may be required for those students who did not major in criminal justice as an undergraduate. This decision will be made by the MACJ Program Coordinator after a close review of the undergraduate transcript.

In exceptional cases, the program may approve admission to students with special backgrounds, abilities, and interests.

Application Deadline

This program has rolling admission, that is, no specific deadline. Note that it may take 4-6 weeks to receive transcripts and process an application.