MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Program Director
Dr. Christopher M. Bellas
1420 Cushwa Hall
(330) 941-2167
cmbellas@ysu.edu

Program Description
The Master of Science in criminal justice at YSU provides professional education for criminal justice students. Criminal Justice faculty members are currently involved in research in police management theory, applied police management, correctional organization and treatment, crime statistics, and criminological theory. Students are encouraged to participate in this ongoing research.

Students considering a career in the field of criminal justice should be aware that many employers and agencies may require applicants to meet certain preemployment qualifications. These may include, but are not limited to,

- lack of a criminal record,
- satisfactory background checks,
- physical standards and conditions, and
- emotional stability.

Combined Bachelor's/Master's Program
The 4 plus 1 accelerated program in Criminal Justice allows admitted Criminal Justice students to complete both their Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree in a total of five years instead of six. Students can take a maximum of nine graduate credit hours and apply them to both degrees, once admitted into the program. The goal of the program is to allow students to enter the competitive job market sooner rather than completing two separate programs.

Admission Requirements
While an undergraduate degree in this discipline is not required for admission, a substantial background in the social sciences is preferred. Students lacking such preparation will, at the discretion of the department, be required to make up deficiencies. Each student must have completed:

- the equivalent of CRJS 1500 Introduction to Criminal Justice,
- a course in criminology and/or crime and delinquency,
- an introductory course in statistics, and
- a research methodology course.

Students admitted with deficiencies in any of these requirements must remove them by completion of the second semester of graduate coursework.

Regular Admission
To obtain regular admission, students must have a cumulative grade point average in undergraduate work of 3.0 or higher (on a 4.0 scale) or a satisfactory standardized test score (30th percentile or higher on the GRE overall, or MAT group overall score) and undergraduate GPA of 2.7 or higher. If students meet these criteria but have undergraduate coursework deficiencies, they may be granted provisional admission.

Provisional Admission
A student with a cumulative GPA in undergraduate work below a 3.0 must have either of the following two criteria in order to obtain provisional admission:

1. a satisfactory standardized test score (30th percentile or higher on the MAT, GRE, or GMAT)
2. an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher (on a 4.0 scale) in the last 30-40 hours of coursework.

Upon admission to the criminal justice graduate program and selection of emphasis area, each student is guided by a committee of three faculty members. The student selects a graduate advisor in the area of concentration from the Criminal Justice faculty. This advisor serves as the chair of the student’s graduate committee. The student and advisor select the other two members of the committee, both of whom must be members of the graduate faculty and one of whom may come from a program other than Criminal Justice. This committee will assist the student as appropriate with the planning of the program, preparation and oral defense of the thesis, or the graduate paper and its defense in the case of the nonthesis option.

Academy Training and Life Experience
Opportunities are available through the Department of Criminal Justice and Consumer Sciences for students who do not have life experience or police academy training.

Combined Bachelor's/Master's Program
Admission to take part in the 4 plus 1 program includes: 78 hours completed as an undergraduate student majoring with a BSAS in Criminal Justice; an undergraduate GPA of 3.0; and admission into the YSU College of Graduate Studies. Students must complete an “intent to enroll in the accelerated program” by their junior year, so that they can begin taking courses that would apply to the graduate program. Students who have taken “swing courses” cannot retroactively apply them to the accelerated program.

Graduate Faculty
Christopher M. Bellas, Ph.D., Professor
Capital punishment; court process; law; jury decision-making; criminology victimization.

John M. Hazy, Ph.D., Professor, Chair
Community/behavioral health (drugs and crime); methodology and assessment; life course and cultural issues; teaching effectiveness

Monica Merrill, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
Criminology; victimization; inequalities

Christian C. Onwudiwe, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
Comparative criminal justice systems; international relations; corrections; restorative justice

Patricia Bergum Wagner, J.D., Associate Professor
Substantive criminal law; court structure; appellate practice

Richard Lee Rogers, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Social problems and criminology; organizational and economic sociology; statistics and research methods; social history; Anglo-American religious movements; ecological analysis

The graduate program in criminal justice adheres to the position that the administration of criminal justice is a continuous, integrated process from prevention of crime through completion of all legal intervention. The program is designed to provide society with individuals who have both a substantial awareness of the overall system and the essential competencies required to perform professional roles within it. To achieve this objective, the program broadens the student’s knowledge of the total criminal justice process and provides professional education so that its graduates may assume positions of leadership within the criminal justice system. The program also prepares students for doctoral studies in criminal justice or criminology.

Students seeking the M.S. degree in criminal justice may elect either a thesis or non-thesis option. The Criminal Justice program will accept courses from...
other departments offering 5000- or 6000-level courses. Students should see the graduate coordinator when selecting these courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>S.H.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRJS 6975</td>
<td>Applied Police Correction Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRJS 6910</td>
<td>Law and Criminal Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRJS 6920</td>
<td>Criminal Justice Studies, Practices, and Theories</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRJS 6942</td>
<td>Research and Statistics in Health and Human Services</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRJS 6998</td>
<td>Graduate Capstone Project</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRJS 6999</td>
<td>Research and Thesis</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Core Courses (12-15 hours)**

9 hours from a special menu of courses can be applied to the graduate program from a student's undergraduate program. Of these 9 hours, 2 courses (6 hours) must be core courses. The special menu includes the selection of one CRJS swing (5800-level) course or CRJS 6925 and 2 out of these 9 6900-level courses (CRJS 6910, CRJS 6915, CRJS 6920, CRJS 6942, CRJS 6945, CRJS 6949, CRJS 6950, CRJS 6975, and CRJS 6990). After completing the required 120-124 hours of the undergraduate program, 4+1 students then choose a completion path involving either a thesis or a graduate project in the same manner as a non-accelerated student except the 4+1 students get to carry over 9 of their graduate hours earned in their 4th year.

For the thesis path, students need 21 more hours given they are starting with 9 carry over from the 4th year in the form of 9-12 hours of electives. Students can use only 12 hours of 5800 level courses if they choose the non-thesis (Graduate Project) option.

**Learning Outcomes**

SLO1: Students will demonstrate knowledge on how to evaluate programs, policies, theories, and research related to the Criminal Justice system.

SLO2: Students will demonstrate knowledge on how to use key Criminal Justice concepts to administrate programs and lead others.

SLO3: Students will demonstrate knowledge on how to perform their own research related to the Criminal Justice system.

**Graduate Courses**

| CRJS 5802 | Corrections Law and Liability | 3 s.h. |
| CRJS 5825 | Criminal Procedures and Constitutional Issues | 3 s.h. |
| CRJS 5831 | Violence in America | 3 s.h. |
| CRJS 5840 | Critical Incidents and Homeland Security | 3 s.h. |
| CRJS 5841 | Terrorism and Countersurveillance | 3 s.h. |

This course provides an overview of emergency planning at all stages from the initial development of an emergency plan to the management of crisis situations to the evaluation of the response. The course culminates in the creation of an emergency preparedness plan for jurisdiction or agency of the student's choosing, and the student is encouraged to select a situation consistent with present work or long-term career plans. Students can use only 9 hours of 5800 level courses for those who choose the thesis option.

For the non-thesis option (i.e. the Graduate Project path), students need 26 hours to accompany the 9 hours of carry over from the 4th year in the form of these guidelines:

- 2 hours of CRJS 6998 Graduate Project
- 3 hours of law/policy core CRJS 6910 or CRJS 6990
- 3 hours of theory/core CRJS 6915 or CRJS 6920
- 3-6 hours of methods/core CRJS 6942 or both CRJS 6940 and CRJS 6945
- 3 hours of management/core CRJS 6975 or CRJS 6950
- 0-8 hours of electives.

Students can use only 12 hours of 5800 level courses if they choose the non-thesis (Graduate Project) option.
CRJS 5865  Gathering and Using Information in Criminal Justice  3 s.h.
Specialized communication skills to prepare criminal justice practitioners in
information-gathering techniques, written presentation techniques, verbal and
nonverbal communication skills within constitutional guidelines.
Prereq.: CRJS 2601 or graduate student standing.

CRJS 5872  Drugs and Crime  3 s.h.
This course will cover the drug-crime connection. In doing so, a wide variety
of topics will be highlighted from a history of criminal justice policies on
various drugs to ways to prevent and treat substance abuse. The three
learning objectives (LO) that will be pursued in this course are: 1) explain
the context of the criminal justice approaches to specific types of drugs; 2)
apply criminal justice (CJ) theories on drug use and abuse; and 3) analyze and
assess drug-control policies and criminal justice intervention/management
strategies. These three course objectives relate to the overall CJ degree
learning outcomes in fostering critical thinking relative to CJ policies, literature
review development, and the inter-relationships within the CJ system.

CRJS 5875  Juvenile Justice System  3 s.h.
In-depth analysis of the specialized agencies and procedures developed
to deal with problems of juveniles from a historical and philosophical
perspective. Consideration of the juvenile court, community-based programs,
institutionalization.
Prereq.: Graduate student standing or CRJS 2602 and CRJS 2603.

CRJS 6900  Law and Criminal Justice  3 s.h.
An historical analysis of criminal law as a social control. An overview of
substantive criminal law and criminal procedural law in the United States.

CRJS 6910  Advanced Criminology  3 s.h.
A comprehensive analysis of the causes of crime from an interdisciplinary
perspective. Major criminological theories are considered in light of
contemporary empirical research.
Prereq.: CRJS 3735 or equivalent or permission of the Graduate Coordinator.

CRJS 6920  Criminal Justice Studies, Practices, and Theories  3 s.h.
A critical analysis of the field of criminal justice studies including crime
statistics, crime causation, the criminal justice process, and the agencies
involved.
Prereq.: CRJS 1500.

CRJS 6925  Administration and Management Theory  3 s.h.
Administration and management theory as applied to criminal justice
agencies. Includes the functions of the executive, the nature of authority
and leadership, organizational communication, and theories of employee
motivation.

CRJS 6940  Statistical Techniques in Health and Human Services  3 s.h.
A consideration of the courses of statistical information in the human resource
systems and the limits of such data, with primary emphasis upon multivariate
statistics and their application to the field.

CRJS 6942  Research and Statistics in Health and Human Services  3 s.h.
A consolidated statistical and research course in human services to design
and use qualitative and quantitative research, use and interpret descriptive and
inferential statistics, and evaluate the research of others.

CRJS 6945  Research Methods in Health and Human Services  3 s.h.
An analysis of the design and execution of both quantitative and qualitative
research in the human services, and the development of research designs
most useful to human services research problems.

CRJS 6950  Selected Topics in Criminal Justice  3 s.h.
Addresses specific topics relating to the crime problem and the criminal
justice process. The topics may vary from semester to semester and will be
announced prior to enrollment. This course is repeatable provided it is on
different topics.

CRJS 6955  Independent Study  3 s.h.
Study under the personal supervision of a faculty member with the approval of
the graduate coordinator. May be repeated once.

CRJS 6957  Readings in Criminal Justice  1-4 s.h.
Extensive reading assignments in the student’s interest area under the
supervision of a graduate faculty member. May be repeated for no more than a
total of six semester hours.
Prereq.: Approval of graduate coordinator.

CRJS 6960  Program Planning and Evaluation  3 s.h.
A systematic review and evaluation of human services programs with special
attention to the posting of questions in context; questions relating to the
selections of design, method, and process of summative evaluation; and
assessing the effectiveness of programs.

CRJS 6975  Applied Police Correction Management  3 s.h.
Systematic examinations of the principles and practices of criminal justice
organizations and the historical contexts of their implementation. Readings
emphasize best practices, legal standards, and interdisciplinary cooperation
affecting law enforcement and corrections, especially as they affect financial
management, human resources, community relations, homeland security, and
the treatment of vulnerable populations.

CRJS 6985  Grant Writing  3 s.h.
Insight into the methods, strategies, and techniques of grant writing, with
emphasis on the proposal components and exploration of funding sources.
Each student will exhibit competence in planning, developing, and evaluating
a proposal as well as creating a draft of a grant proposal based on an actual
Request for Proposals.

CRJS 6990  Criminal Justice Public Policy Seminar  3 s.h.
Types of policy and how policies are formulated are covered. The evaluation of
policy, with attention to what constitutes good public policy. Special attention
is given to the impact of crime control policies, particularly crime legislation
and current laws.

CRJS 6995  Criminal Justice Practicum  3-6 s.h.
Supervised experience in an applied criminal justice setting.
Prereq.: Approval by graduate director; Permit required.

CRJS 6998  Graduate Capstone Project  2 s.h.
Under the direction of a graduate committee, led by the committee advisor,
this course will provide the student with the structure and support to develop
a scholarly project or paper related to the field of Criminal Justice. The course
will allow students to search, review, critique, and appraise current research
and evidence in the field of Criminal Justice and to develop a project or paper
making a significant contribution to the discipline. Permission of the Graduate
Coordinator.
Prereq.: Permission of the Graduate Coordinator.

CRJS 6999  Research and Thesis  1-6 s.h.
A research project under the supervision of a full-time faculty member of the
department in CRJS with graduate faculty status. Permission of the Graduate
Coordinator. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 semester hours.