Master of Arts in Criminal Justice

The Criminal Justice program at Wichita State University is one of the oldest in the United States. Founded by renowned police chief and scholar O.W. Wilson in 1937, only one other active criminal justice department has a longer history.

O.W. Wilson is considered one of the most important reformers in American history. He is credited with being the lead architect of the professional police movement from the 1920s through the 1960s. A protégé of Chief August Vollmer, Wilson worked for Vollmer as a Berkeley, California police officer. Wilson eventually became chief of police at Fullerton, California; Wichita, Kansas and Superintendent of Police in Chicago, Illinois.

While Wilson was Chief in Wichita, the Wichita Police Department became known as the West Point of Law Enforcement and developed an international reputation of innovative police practices. He started the first police science program in the nation at the Municipal University of Wichita (later Wichita State University). Wilson developed a list of the major aspects of a police officer’s job. From the list, he eliminated low level skills, tasks which could be best taught by a police department or a training academy, and subjects which could not achieve a degree of academic respectability among professors. From those tasks remaining he constructed seven courses: criminal law, personal identification, police patrol practices, criminal evidence, traffic control, criminal investigation, and police administration. Subsequently, these seven courses were added to the college curriculum in 1936.

Through the years the program at Wichita State has evolved from strictly a police science program into a program that encompasses the entire criminal justice system including criminological theory.

Faculty in the program have an international reputation and have conducted research and published books and academic papers, which have contributed to our growing understanding of crime, criminals and the criminal justice system. The interdisciplinary faculty hold degrees in criminology, criminal justice, psychology, sociology, law, and public administration.

At Wichita State University criminal justice is viewed as a broad, interdisciplinary study which encompasses the scientific study of crime, criminals, the criminal justice system and the process of law-giving. The Master’s program focuses on solid theory and criminal justice practice in the belief that neither stands alone. The integration of theory and practice prepares students for positions in criminal justice system practice, management, policymaking, as well as in research, teaching, and preparation for law school or further graduate study.

Admission Requirements

In addition to the Graduate School admission requirements, applicants must submit: (1) three letters of reference from people acquainted with the applicant’s background and potential and (2) a brief autobiographical statement describing particular interests, experiences and goals related to academic and professional work in criminal justice.

Applicants are evaluated with respect to (1) undergraduate grade point average; a minimum GPA of 3.0 based on the last 60 hours is required for consideration of admission to degree status; (2) amount, type and scope of undergraduate preparation; and (3) reference letters. Final recommendation on a candidate’s admission to the MACJ program is made to the Graduate School by the graduate coordinator of the Criminal Justice program.
The MACJ degree requires a minimum of 36 hours, including 24 hours taken in courses numbered 700 or above.

Degree Requirements
Students pursuing the MA degree in criminal justice may follow either a thesis or a non-thesis option. Both program options require a minimum of 36 hours, including 24 hours taken in courses numbered 700 or above. Core Curriculum. All degree candidates are required to complete CJ 802, 893, 894, and 897 with a grade of B or better in each course. All core courses should be completed in the first two semesters of study. Students selecting the thesis option may count up to 6 hours of thesis credit toward the required 36-hour total.

Examinations
Students selecting the thesis option must pass an oral defense of the thesis.

Core Courses (12 hours)
CJ 802 Quantitative Methods for Public Sector Professionals (must be completed in the first two semesters of study)
CJ 893 Seminar in Applied Criminal Theory
CJ 894 Proseminar in Criminal Justice (must be completed in the first two semesters of study)
CJ 897 Advanced Research Methods - or an approved graduate level methods course

Electives (24 hours)
CJ 501 Integrity in Public Service
CJ 513 Violent Crime
CJ 515 Sex Crimes
CJ 516 Profiling
CJ 517 Homicide Investigation
CJ 518 Criminal Justice & Crime in Film
CJ 541 Medical & Legal Aspects of Death Investigations
CJ 551 Workshop in Criminal Justice
CJ 593 Crime Causation & Criminal Justice Policy
CJ 600 Forensic Anthropology
CJ 610 Correctional Counseling
CJ 641 Forensic Psychiatry
CJ 643 Forensic Science
CJ 651 Dispute Resolution
CJ 652 Juvenile Justice & Social Policy
CJ 692 Community Policing
CJ 781 Cooperative Education/Internship
CJ 783 Advanced Special Topics in Criminal Justice
CJ 796 Criminal Typologies
CJ 797 Public Policy Analysis & Program Evaluation
CJ 816 Correctional Administration
CJ 820 Terrorism & Modern Societies
CJ 850 Workshop
CJ 853 Crime Prevention through Environmental Design
CJ 861 Police Administration
CJ 873 Advanced Criminal Law
CJ 874 Qualitative Methods
CJ 882 Individual Directed Study
CJ 891 Seminar in Judicial Process
CJ 895 Seminar in Policing
CJ 896 Seminar in Corrections
CJ 898 Applied Research Paper
CJ 900 Thesis

Dr. Michael Birzer, Graduate Coordinator
978-7200
michael.birzer@wichita.edu
http://wichita.edu/cj

Fairmount College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
School of Community Affairs
316 Lindquist Hall