Criminal Justice, MA

Ranked No. 5 in the nation by U.S. News and World Report for three years running, this fully online program provides you with coursework developed by respected professors with expertise in policing, gangs, fraud, corrections and courts. You can start nearly any time of the year and complete the program in as few as 18 months.

Program Description

**Degree Awarded: MA Criminal Justice**

The MA program in criminal justice is designed to provide criminal justice agency professionals with training in research methods and statistics.

Coursework covers topics of criminology and the operation of the criminal justice system. The degree program also provides students with advanced training in program planning and management, policy analysis and program evaluation.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** Watts College of Public Service & Community Solutions
- **Location:** online

Accelerated Program Options

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an accelerated bachelor's and master's degree with:

- Criminology and Criminal Justice, BS
Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior year, eligible students are advised by their academic departments to apply.

**Degree Requirements**

33 credit hours including the required capstone course (CRJ 505)

**Required Core (12 credit hours)**
CRJ 501 Seminar in Criminal Justice (3)
CRJ 502 Seminar in Criminology (3)
CRJ 510 Criminal Justice Planning and Program Evaluation (3)
CRJ 511 Applied Data Analysis in Criminal Justice (3)

**Electives (18 credit hours)**

**Culminating Experience (3 credit hours)**
Capstone Course: CRJ 505 Theory and Practice in Criminal Justice (3)

**Additional Curriculum Information**
Students can develop specializations in areas such as policing, corrections and management by combining required and elective coursework.

Students should see the academic unit for an approved elective course list. Electives must be at the 500 level.

**Admission Requirements**

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in criminology or criminal justice or another closely related field from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. two letters of recommendation
4. a written statement
5. proof of English proficiency
**Additional Application Information**
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency.

The written statement should be at least one page in length and describe the applicant's educational and career goals and long-term professional development strategy.

Students should see the academic unit website for application deadlines.

**Attend Online**

ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may view the program description and request more information [here](#).

**Career Opportunities**

The Master of Arts program in criminology and criminal justice is designed to help advance a career in criminal justice.

Graduates find a strong job market in the public and private sectors. Employment opportunities exist in supervisory and management positions in criminal justice agencies (federal, state and local) including:

- city, county and state government liaison to criminal justice agencies
- communications supervisor (911 and dispatch)
- court administration
- evidence and crime scene supervisor (CSI activities)
- intelligence analysis
- law enforcement
- police crime analysis supervisor
- pretrial release
- probation, parole or community supervision
- property management and evidence retention supervisor
- risk management
- veterans services

Opportunities also exist in supervisory and management positions in social service agencies including:

- child and family services (e.g., Head Start, child support enforcement, foster care, elder care)
- Department of Economic Security
- homeless outreach

Graduates also have the opportunity to work in supervisory and management positions in the private sector, including online security, as well as in the cyber security sector.