Criminology and Criminal Justice MA

Master of Arts in Criminology and Criminal Justice
The department offers a Master of Arts degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice, which provides students with advanced theoretical and methodological training for research and management careers in criminal justice.

Admission Requirements
The minimum GPA for regular admission to graduate study is 3.0 on a 4-point scale and students are expected to begin their course of study in the Fall semester. Admission is competitive.

Degree Requirements
The M.A. in Criminology and Criminal Justice requires the completion of 33 credit hours, at least 21 of which are required to be in courses housed in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. 12 of these hours represent the core of the curriculum. Students may choose between a thesis and nonthesis course of study. Students whose cumulative GPAs fall below 3.0 after 9 or more hours of work will be placed on probation and given one semester to raise their cumulative GPAs to at least the 3.0 threshold.

Expected Learning Outcomes
• Develop a comprehensive understanding of the theories, methods and substance of issues in criminology and criminal justice and demonstrate an ability to synthesize knowledge in these areas.
• Develop a comprehensive understanding of interdisciplinary underpinnings (e.g., from sociology, psychology, political science, economics) of criminology and criminal justice issues and policies.
• Develop critical thinking and communication skills through the application of criminological theory and social science research methods.
• Develop a comprehensive understanding of the structure and functioning of the fundamental institutions (e.g., legislatures, police, punishment, supervisory) that are part of criminal justice systems.
• Develop comprehensive understanding of the role of research and its application for informing policies about criminal justice issues.

Plan of Study
• Required Coursework (12 hours)
  • CRIMIN 5415 Foundations of Criminological Theory (core) 3
  • CRIMIN 6400 Proseminar (core) 3
  • CRIMIN 6405 Methods (core) 3
  • CRIMIN 6410 Statistical Applications in Criminology and Criminal Justice (core) 3

• Three additional Criminology and Criminal Justice seminars at the 6000 level (9; non-core)
• Electives (12 hours)
  Twelve elective hours of coursework are required; some or all of these credits may be earned in Criminology and Criminal Justice

Transfer Courses
Transfer courses are evaluated for acceptance on a case-by-case basis subject to the rules and regulations of the Graduate School. A maximum of 11 credit hours earned at other institutions can be credited toward the UMSL M.A. degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice.