

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURE GRADUATE CREDIT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Person-in-Charge	Ahmet Guler
Program Code	CJAP_GCT
Campus(es)	World Campus

The Graduate Certificate in Criminal Justice Administration and Procedure aims to provide students with a broad understanding of the social science study of criminal justice institutions, their decision-making processes, and criminal procedure. The program analyzes key sentencing concepts and criminal justice theoretical perspectives on court organization and criminal procedure. The program also presents a comprehensive overview of ethical systems, theories of justice, moral development, police ethics and discretion, legal behavior, and misconduct in the criminal justice system, with a focus on ethics in law enforcement, the courts, and corrections. This 9-credit graduate certificate consists of three required courses from the Master of Professional Studies in Criminal Justice Policy and Administration (MPS CJPA) program.

Courses taken in the certificate program may be applied toward the M.P.S. in Criminal Justice Policy and Administration, subject to restrictions outlined in GCAC-309 Transfer Credit (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/gcac-309-transfer-credit/>). Certificate students who wish to have certificate courses applied towards a graduate degree must apply and be admitted to that degree program. Admission to the graduate degree program is a separate step and is not guaranteed.

Effective Semester: Fall 2025

Ending Semester: Spring 2030

Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-admissions/how-to-apply/>). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>). International applicants may be required to satisfy an English proficiency requirement; see GCAC-305 Admission Requirements for International Students (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/gcac-305-admission-requirements-international-students/>) for more information.

Applicants to a postbaccalaureate (including graduate) credit certificate program must have received either (1) a bachelor's degree from a U.S. institution accredited by an accepted agency (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/gcac-301-qualifications-admission/accepted-u-s-accreditation-agencies>) or (2) a postsecondary degree that is equivalent to a U.S. baccalaureate degree from an officially recognized degree-granting international institution.

Certificate Requirements

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in Graduate Council policy GCAC-212 Postbaccalaureate Credit Certificate Programs (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-200/gcac-212-postbaccalaureate-credit-certificate-programs/>).

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
CJPA 501	Criminal Justice Institutions	3
CJPA 820	Criminal Procedure	3
CJPA 865	Criminal Justice Ethics in a Diverse Society	3
Total Credits		9

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.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to explain how criminal justice organizations constitute an institutional system and explain the interaction between the different parts of the criminal justice system.
2. Students will be able to describe the organization and activities of the different parts of the criminal justice system (policing, prosecution, defense, courts, corrections, etc.).
3. Students will be able to explain the origins and evolution of criminal procedure, from its ancient roots through colonial times, the due process revolution, and modern law.
4. Students will be able to identify sources of modern criminal procedure, including statutory law, Supreme Court opinions, case law, rules, regulations, and organizational rules.
5. Students will be able to critically apply ethical theories and concepts to various aspects of the criminal justice system and propose solutions to ethical dilemmas.