Criminal Justice Policy and Administration

Graduate Program Head
Jennifer Gibbs

Program Code
CJPA

Campus(es)
World Campus (M.P.S.)

Degrees Conferred
Master of Professional Studies (M.P.S.)
Integrated B.A./B.S. in Criminology and M.P.S. in Criminal Justice Policy and Administration

The Graduate Faculty
View (https://secure.gradsch.psu.edu/gpms/?searchType=pro&prog=CJPA)

Admission Requirements
Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (http://gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/).

Educational Background
Students who do not have an undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 will be considered on a case-by-case basis depending on the quality of their overall application. Work experience will be considered for applicants who have more than two years of experience in a related field.

Core Application Packet
• Completed official online Graduate School application (http://gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/) and payment of a nonrefundable application fee.
• Statement of purpose: a 2-3 page essay articulating career and educational goals that demonstrate the student’s written communication skills and describes their background with basic statistics education and/or usage.
• A current curriculum vitae (vita) or résumé.
• Three letters of recommendation that attest to the student’s readiness for graduate study. Letters must be submitted through the online application system. Within the online application you will be asked to enter the names and email addresses of three individuals who will be providing your recommendation. Those individuals will receive a note via email asking them to complete a brief form that will serve as your recommendation. Please inform all recommenders they must submit the form in order for your application to be complete.
• Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended (http://www.gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/new-applicants/requirements-for-graduate-admission/).

Degree Requirements
Master of Professional Studies (M.P.S.)
Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/).

The 30-credit program of study emphasizes social science perspectives to the study of criminal justice. The degree consists of core courses (18 credits) and allows students to choose from among several electives.

Total required credits for the M.P.S.: 30 credits. At least 18 credits must be completed at the 500 level or 800 level, with at least 6 credits at the 500 level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CJPA 501</td>
<td>Criminal Justice Institutions</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CJPA 502</td>
<td>Theories of Crime</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CJPA 803</td>
<td>Advanced Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIMJ 503</td>
<td>Advanced Statistics in Criminal Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CJPA 820</td>
<td>Criminal Procedure</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CJPA 865</td>
<td>Criminal Justice Ethics in a Diverse Society</td>
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</table>

Electives
Select 9 elective credits 1

Culminating Experience
CJPA 808 Capstone Project in Criminal Justice Policy and Administration 3

Total Credits 30

1 Students will have the opportunity to tailor their program of study to their interests by choosing from a list of elective courses. The elective courses will be chosen in consultation with the student’s advisor. The list of approved elective courses is maintained by the graduate program office.

The capstone course provides students with an opportunity to apply their knowledge from their courses to a project. The choice of project topic and exact form will be mutually determined by faculty mentors and the student. For example, the capstone experience could be an academic research project, an evidence-based policy evaluation, or the development of a program. The student will work with a faculty mentor/adviser on a capstone project that will be written up as a capstone report. Students are expected to utilize theories, literature, and methods acquired during other courses in the M.P.S. in Criminal Justice Policy and Administration. The report will be formally presented to peers in the M.P.S. and faculty members at the end of the semester. The capstone report must be approved by the faculty mentor/adviser as meeting the course requirements.

Course Substitutions
Substitutions for the above prescribed courses, either with resident-education courses, alternate online courses, or courses from other institutions, will be considered on a case-by-case basis subject to restrictions outlined in GCAC-309 Transfer Credit (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-309/).
Plan of Study
Prior to being admitted to the program, and in consultation with their Criminology and CJPA advisers, students must prepare a detailed plan of study for years 4 and 5 of the program. The plan is periodically reviewed by the student and advisers, and revised as necessary. Students must sequence their courses so all undergraduate degree requirements are fulfilled before taking courses to count solely towards the graduate degree.

Degree Requirements
Students must fulfill all degree requirements for each degree in order to be awarded that degree, subject to the double-counting of credits as outlined below. Degree requirements for the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Criminology are listed in the Undergraduate Bulletin (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/). Degree requirements for the Master of Professional Studies in Criminal Justice Policy and Administration degree are listed on the Degree Requirements tab. If students accepted into the IUG program are unable to complete the M.S. degree, they are still eligible to receive their undergraduate degree if all the undergraduate degree requirements have been satisfied.

Students are expected to complete the undergraduate degree requirements within the typical time to degree for the undergraduate major. In the semester in which the undergraduate degree requirements will be completed, IUG students must apply to graduate, and the undergraduate degree should be conferred at the next appropriate Commencement.

Up to 12 credits may be double-counted towards the degree requirements for both the graduate and undergraduate degrees; a minimum of 50% of the double-counted courses must be at the 500 or 800 level. Independent study courses and credits associated with the culminating experience for the graduate degree cannot be double-counted.

### Courses Eligible to Double Count for Both Degrees

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<tr>
<td>CRIM 430</td>
<td>American Correctional System</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIM 432</td>
<td>Crime and the American Court System</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIM 433</td>
<td>Sentencing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIM 467</td>
<td>Law and Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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### Minor
A graduate minor is available in any approved graduate major or dual-title program. The default requirements for a graduate minor are stated in Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/) and GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/), depending on the type of degree the student is pursuing:

- GCAC-611 Minor - Research Doctorate (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-600/gcac-611-minor-research-doctorate/)
Student Aid
World Campus students in graduate degree programs may be eligible for financial aid. Refer to the Tuition and Financial Aid section (http://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/tuition-and-financial-aid/) of the World Campus website for more information.

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.

Criminal Justice Policy and Administration (CJPA) Course List (https://bulletins.psu.edu/university-course-descriptions/graduate/cjpa/)

Learning Outcomes
Upon graduation from this program, students should be able to:

- Describe and summarize crime rates, trends, and patterns, and apply foundational knowledge of criminological theories devoted to explaining crime. This objective coincides with goals # 1, # 2, and # 3 of the Graduate School, by teaching students core disciplinary knowledge, and requiring its application and communication.
- Describe organizational structures, processes, and challenges of criminal justice institutions, and analyze past and current criminal justice policies and evidence-based practices. This objective coincides with goals # 1, # 2, and # 3 of the Graduate School, by teaching students core disciplinary knowledge, and requiring its application and communication.
- Apply the foundations of contemporary ethical practices and effective leadership in the criminal justice profession. This objective coincides with goal #5 above of the Graduate School by requiring students to learn and engage in ethical research and practice in criminal justice.
- Employ advanced knowledge in social science research and applied statistical methods, specifically focused on criminal justice issues. This objective coincides with goals # 2 and # 4 of the Graduate School, by teaching students social science research methods, and requiring their use in studying criminal justice topics.
- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of criminal procedure. This objective coincides with goal # 1 of the Graduate School, in that it emphasizes the learning of core disciplinary knowledge in criminal justice.

Contact
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