2003

Master of Science in Criminal Justice Online Program Brochure 2003

Nova Southeastern University
Master of Science in Criminal Justice Online

NSU Southeastern University
Beyond the Classroom

Criminal Justice Institute
The Criminal Justice Institute

Law enforcement, crime prevention, and the justice system have become extremely complex and sophisticated, drawing on broad bodies of knowledge such as law, psychology, systems theory, business and administration, medical sciences, human factors, physical fitness education, and others. The nature of these criminal justice activities requires multidisciplinary perspectives, integrating efforts that emphasize training and education, research, and service activities.

The skills, knowledge bases, and judgments made by those involved in administering criminal justice programs require a high level of sophistication and expertise. The Criminal Justice Institute (CJI) at Nova Southeastern University facilitates college, center, and school initiatives, coordinating existing and future criminal justice work, and establishes Nova Southeastern University as a leader in addressing emerging social priorities.

The Program

For more than a decade, research has indicated the number of people applying for positions in law enforcement has risen at a considerably faster rate than the number of positions available. The roles that law enforcement personnel play require a more advanced and broader understanding of criminal justice, law, behavioral science, administration, leadership, and conflict resolution. Data indicate better-educated law enforcement personnel are likely to be more effective problem solvers and better communicators with the public. While many law enforcement departments use a high-school diploma as a minimum entrance requirement, professionals actually hired will continue to pursue advanced degrees with additional skills, abilities, and experiences.

The master of science in criminal justice trains those interested in law enforcement and the justice system through an interdisciplinary focus. The program prepares students through the core curriculum and allows for specialty training through various tracks. This facilitates choice for students and fosters the development of specialized expertise.

Additionally, students may choose among elective courses available at the graduate level throughout NSU.
Program Objectives

The program will provide students with

1. a solid background in the theoretical, historical, public policy, behavioral, and political perspectives related to criminal justice

2. an introduction to the organizational structure, operation, administration, and management of the criminal justice system at the federal, state, and local levels

3. an in-depth knowledge of the legal issues that govern criminal justice activities, including fundamental principles and concepts of criminal and civil law, rules of law and evidence, and state and constitutional laws and their development

4. a foundation in evaluation methods of criminal justice programming

5. special knowledge in an area of choice including, but not limited to, business management, psychology, organizational leadership, substance abuse counseling and education, conflict resolution, community policing, and information management security

Program Delivery

Understanding the demanding scheduling needs of law enforcement personnel, the program is available online. The delivery may be customized for individual department needs.

Program Benefits

1. Enhanced abilities in critical thinking, evaluation, problem solving, and communication

2. Preparation for advancement to supervisory and leadership positions

3. In-depth knowledge in specialized skill areas

4. Increased value to the agency in terms of performance and knowledge
Undergraduate Program

For those without an undergraduate degree who are considering the M.S. program, a special track provides an opportunity to complete the undergraduate degree at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences. Such candidates will complete their undergraduate degree and immediately enter the M.S. program. This creates a seamless transition and the possible award of dual-credit for some courses, which expedites degree completion.

Faculty

Faculty members teaching in the CJI, many of whom are members of the CJI, bring diverse knowledge and experience to the classroom. All faculty members possess graduate degrees in their fields. In addition, some hold special credentials as certified police officers and are sought as experts/lecturers throughout the United States.

Admission Requirements

1. baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution
2. grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher in the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate coursework, or a total score of 950 or higher on the combined verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) taken within the past five years, or other similar measures
3. relevant professional experience or accomplishment
4. referral from contracting agency (if customized on-site program)
5. prerequisite coursework that includes college-level math (3 credits), English (3 credits), and behavioral science (3 credits)

Applicants will also be required to submit a brief statement of interest in the program, articulating career plans, capabilities, special achievements, etc., accompanied by letters of reference. Students will be admitted to graduate study and accepted for degree candidacy after successful completion of the core with a GPA of 3.0 or better.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sex, age, nondisqualifying disability, religion or creed, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school, and does not discriminate in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, Telephone number: 404-679-4501) to award associate's, bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees.

06-243-03 ESJ
Curriculum (36 credits required for total program)

Core Courses (required of all criminal justice students) (15 credits)
- Survey Issues in Criminal Justice
- Program Evaluation in Criminal Justice
- Social Administration of Criminal Justice
- Investigative Processes
- Legal Issues in Criminal Justice

Specialty Tracks (choose one of the following)

Track I Organizational Leadership is offered through the Fischler Graduate School of Education and Human Services.
- Leadership in the Information Age
- Leadership and Excellence
- Leading Change in Education and Human Service Organizations
- Strategic Leadership for Education and Human Services
- Current Organizational Issues and Trends

Track II Behavioral Science is offered through the Center for Psychological Studies.
- Law Enforcement and the Mentally Disordered Offender
- Police Psychology and Criminology
- Police Stress and Mental Health
- Forensic Psychology
- Behavioral Criminology

Track III Business Administration is offered through the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship.
- 21st Century Management Practices
- The Legal, Ethical, and Social Values of Business
- Managing Organizational Behavior
- Managing Human Resources
- Delivering Superior Customer Value

Track IV Public Administration is offered through the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship.
- Ethics and Public Administration
- Public Administration in Theory and Practice
- Public and Nonprofit Strategic Management
- Public Sector Human Resource Management
- Alternative Dispute Resolution

Track V Substance Abuse Counseling and Education is offered through the Fischer Graduate School of Education and Human Services.
- Psychopharmacology of Illicit and Licit Drugs
- Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment in the Criminal Justice System
- Substance Abuse Treatment in the Community
- Cultural Factors in Treatment with Substance Abuse Issues and the Criminal Justice System
- Special Topics in Substance Abuse and the Criminal Justice System

Track VI Community Solutions and Partnership is offered through the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences.
- Human Factors
- Violence Prevention
- Culture and Conflict
- Trauma, Violence, and the Family
- Strategic Community Planning and Partnerships

Track VII Information Systems and Security is offered through the Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences.
- Computer Security
- Legal and Ethical Aspects of Computing
- Electronic Commerce on the Internet
- Database Systems
- Telecommunication and Computer Networking

Track VIII Conflict and Crisis Management is offered through the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences.
- Human Factors
- Violence Prevention
- Conflict and Crisis Management: Theory and Practice
- Conflict and Crisis Negotiation
- Critical Incidents: Response, Management, and Resolution

Track IX Child Protection and Juvenile Justice is offered through the Fischler Graduate School of Education and Human Services.
- Theory of Child Protection, Investigation, and Advocacy
- Juvenile Justice: Systems, Structure, and Process
- Family Dynamics: Motivation, Support, and Communications
- Victimology: Child Abuse and Exploited Children
- Safe Schools: Climate and Culture

Electives (choose one of the following for a total of 6 credits)
- Courses: two three-credit classes may be taken through numerous schools throughout the university, with permission from the academic and the Criminal Justice Institute.
- Practicum placement: gaining hands-on experience within the field of criminal justice.
- Master's Thesis: work with an NSU faculty member creating your own research project.

Cost
Cost per credit is $425. Financial aid—e.g., grants and loans—is available to qualified students.
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NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
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