

Criminal Justice Policy

Degrees Available at SIUE

- Master of Science

Course Format

- Fully online

Criminal Justice Policy at SIUE

This unique, fully online program focuses on the advanced study of criminal justice policy and practice, including:

- Analysis of controversial issues
- Examination of possible future practices
- Collaborating with criminal justice professionals in the courts, corrections and law enforcement areas

A strong foundation in theory and methods will be combined with innovative criminal justice initiatives and focus areas. The program offers real-world experience with a capstone project option targeting the needs of the student's home agency, and recognizes the value of such experience with the option of prior learning assessment. The master's in criminal justice policy is housed in the Department of Criminal Justice Studies within the College of Arts and Sciences.

Prior Learning Assessment

The program will incorporate Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) to provide up to three credit hours based on previous experience. Courses to consider for PLA credit include policy analysis, planning and budgeting, civil liability, correctional theory and practice, special topics, and readings in criminal justice. Students interested in applying for PLA credit will submit a portfolio project to the graduate program director to determine if credit will be awarded.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the online criminal justice policy master's program use their degree as a stepping stone to new careers or for advancement in professional positions that serve the criminal justice community and the public at large.

During development of the graduate program, faculty in the SIUE Department of Criminal Justice Studies surveyed 81 criminal justice agencies. A majority of respondents (63.3 percent) indicated the completion of a master's degree in criminal justice policy would provide enhanced promotional opportunities within their agency.

Hands-on Learning

The capstone project option is geared toward the working professional. Students propose a policy, procedure or program development that would benefit their home agency, while incorporating the knowledge learned in the criminal justice policy master's program.

Admission Requirements

- Graduate School application and \$40 fee
- Submission of all post-secondary academic transcripts
- Successful completion of a bachelor's degree prior to enrollment
- Minimum GPA of 2.5
- Two letters of recommendation (can both be from undergraduate faculty or one can be from a current employer)
- Statement of purpose
- GRE score (optional)

Applications are reviewed by an Admissions Committee composed of graduate faculty in criminal justice studies. Admission is competitive and the committee will evaluate each applicant based on the above criteria and GPA in prior coursework in criminal justice or criminology. The statement of purpose should describe the student's reasons for applying and expectations upon graduation as well as any current or prior employment in criminal justice.

Program application materials may be uploaded during the application process, but official transcripts must be sent directly from the school attended and test scores must be verifiable with the appropriate testing service. Please contact the Graduate Admissions Office with questions regarding the application submission process at graduateadmissions@siue.edu.

Graduate Faculty

Graduate Program Director

Kevin D. Cannon, PhD

2001, University of Nebraska at Omaha
kcannon@siue.edu

P. Ann Dirks-Linhorst, PhD, JD

2003, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Ekaterina Gorislavsky, PhD

2014, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Erin Heil, PhD

2008, University of Illinois at Chicago

Dennis Mares, PhD

2004, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Trish Oberweis, PhD

1999, Arizona State University

Matthew Petrocelli, PhD

1997, Arizona State University

Graduation Requirements

The six-hour capstone project or thesis project culminates in one of the following two exit alternatives:

1. The capstone project option is geared towards the working professional. The student would propose a policy, procedure, or program development that would benefit his/her home agency, while incorporating the knowledge learned in the Online Master's program. This proposal would need to be approved by a committee composed of three faculty members. Once the capstone project is completed, the student would record and upload a presentation to Blackboard collaborate or similar software in use at the time, and then the presentation would be placed on a streaming server. The committee of three faculty members would then be able to view the presentation in the capstone course shell via the link housed on the streaming server.
2. The thesis project option is envisioned to be a traditional research paper. The topic of the thesis would be approved by a committee of three faculty members. The final thesis would be uploaded and defended to the committee of three faculty members online via Skype or other appropriate technology. The thesis would be uploaded to ProQuest and have formatting approved by the Graduate School.

Curriculum

The two-year program offers six consecutive semesters of classes. The one-year program offers four consecutive semesters of classes. Students receiving Prior Learning Assessment credit will reduce the program by one summer semester. Each cohort would begin in the fall semester. Students are required to take 15 credits of required core credits, 15 credits of electives, and 6 thesis or capstone credit hours, for a total of 36 hours. All 500-level courses are eight weeks in duration. All 400-level elective courses are 16 weeks in duration and may be offered online or in a physical classroom. Elective courses rotate. Contact the Graduate Program Director to determine elective availability.

Required Core Courses

- CJ 502 Applied Research in Criminal Justice
- CJ 505 Criminological Theory
- CJ 513 Criminal Justice Statistics
- CJ 515 Criminal Justice Planning and Budgeting
- CJ 517 Policy Analysis
- CJ 598 Capstone I and II OR CJ 599 Thesis I and II

Elective Courses

- CJ 508 Disparate Treatment in the Criminal Justice System
- CJ 527 Cybercrime
- CJ 528 Civil Liability
- CJ 529 Human Trafficking
- CJ 535 Seminar in Juvenile Justice
- CJ 540 Seminar in Correctional Theory and Practice
- CJ 590 Special Topics
- CJ 596 Readings in Criminal Justice Policy

Elective Senior Level Courses for Graduate Credit

- CJ 408 Critical Issues in Law Enforcement
- CJ 410 Judicial Process in Criminal Cases
- CJ 420 United States Drug Policy
- CJ 464 Criminal Justice and the Mental Health System
- CJ 465 Theories of a Just Society

Two-Year Track

Year 1 Fall Semester

- (1st 8 weeks) CJ 502 Applied Research in Criminal Justice
- (2nd 8 weeks) CJ 505 Seminar in Criminology

Year 1 Spring Semester

- (1st 8 weeks) CJ 515 Criminal Justice Planning and Budgeting
- (2nd 8 weeks) CJ 517 Policy Analysis

Year 1 Summer Semester

- CJ Elective

Year 2 Fall Semester

- (1st 8 weeks) CJ Elective
- (2nd 8 weeks) CJ 513 Criminal Justice Statistics

Year 2 Spring Semester

- (1st 8 weeks) CJ 598 Capstone or CJ 599 Thesis
- (1st 8 weeks) Elective
- (2nd 8 weeks) Elective

Year 2 Summer

- CJ Elective (or PLA credit)

One-Year Track

Year 1 Summer Semester

- CJ Elective (or PLA credit)

Year 1 Fall Semester

- (1st 8 weeks) CJ 502 Applied Research in Criminal Justice
- (1st 8 weeks) CJ Elective
- (2nd 8 weeks) CJ 505 Seminar in Criminology
- (2nd 8 weeks) CJ 513 Criminal Justice Statistics

Year 1 Spring Semester

- (1st 8 weeks) CJ 515 Criminal Justice Planning and Budgeting
- (1st 8 weeks) CJ Elective
- (1st 8 weeks) CJ 598 Capstone or CJ 599 Thesis
- (2nd 8 weeks) CJ 517 Policy Analysis
- (2nd 8 weeks) CJ Elective

Year 1 Summer Semester

- CJ Elective