Advance Your Knowledge in the Program with a Rich History in Criminal Justice

Gain the recognition that comes with a degree from one of the nation’s oldest criminal justice graduate degree programs founded on the campus of Wichita State University by renowned police chief and scholar O.W. Wilson, who is considered one of the most important reformers in American police history.

Over the years, the Criminal Justice program at Wichita State University has evolved from strictly a police science focus into a program that encompasses the entire criminal justice system.

Faculty in the program have a national reputation and have conducted research and published books and academic papers in the areas of policing, crime prevention, sexual violence, comparative criminology, human trafficking, cybercrime, racial profiling, terrorism, and corrections.

Founded in 1934, the Criminal Justice program at Wichita State University is the second oldest program of its type in the United States. The program aims to teach students to assimilate knowledge, acquire skills, and develop professional judgment and behaviors appropriate for wise and ethical practice. Our faculty members are dedicated to graduating fully competent students for additional academic degrees as well as skilled professionals in the criminal justice field.
Degree Requirements

All degree candidates are required to complete each course with a grade of B- or better. All core courses should be completed in the first two semesters of study.

Students pursuing the MA degree in Criminal Justice may follow either a thesis or a non-thesis option. Both program options require a minimum of 36 hours. Students selecting the thesis option may count up to 6 hours of thesis credit toward the required 36-hour total and must pass an oral defense of the thesis.

CORE COURSES (12 HOURS):

- CJ 802 - Quantitative Methods for Public Sector Professionals
- CJ 893 - Seminar in Application of Criminological Theory
- CJ 894 - Proseminar in Criminal Justice
- CJ 897 - Advanced Research Methods (or an approved graduate-level methods course)

ELECTIVE COURSES (24 HOURS – 12 hours must be 700-level or above):

- CJ 501 - Integrity in Public Service
- CJ 513 - Violent Crime
- CJ 515 - Sex Crimes
- CJ 516 - Profiling
- CJ 517 - Homicide Investigation
- CJ 518 - CJ & Crime in Film
- CJ 521 - Forensic Social Work
- CJ 530 - Private Security
- CJ 593 - Crime Causation & CJ Policy
- CJ 598 - Contemporary Issues in CJ
- CJ 600 - Forensic Anthropology
- CJ 610 - Correctional Counseling
- CJ 641 - Forensic Psychiatry
- CJ 652 - Juvenile Justice & Social Policy
- CJ 692 - Community Policing
- CJ 781 - Cooperative Education/Internship
- CJ 783 - Advanced Special Topics in CJ
- CJ 796 - Criminal Typologies
- CJ 817 - Crime in Popular Culture
- CJ 820 - Terrorism & Modern Societies
- CJ 853 - Crime Prevention through Environmental Design
- CJ 855 - Seminar in Juvenile Justice
- CJ 861 - Police Administration
- CJ 873 - Advanced Criminal Law
- CJ 874 - Qualitative Methods
- CJ 882 - Individual Directed Study
- CJ 891 - Seminar in Judicial Process
- CJ 895 - Seminar in Policing
- CJ 896 - Seminar in Corrections
- CJ 900 - Thesis

Faculty

- **Andra Bannister**: PhD, Michigan State University, 1995. Community policing, terrorism, law enforcement.
- **Michael Birzer**: EdD, Oklahoma State University, 2000. Police behavior, police operations, qualitative research methods, racial profiling.
- **Breanna Boppre**: PhD, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 2018. Corrections
- **David Klamm**: Senior Special Agent (Ret.), Kansas Bureau of Investigation; IAI-certified crime scene investigator. 3D scanning/mapping, forensic photography, bloodstain pattern analysis.
- **Martha Smith**: PhD, Rutgers University, 1996; JD, New York University, 1981. Crime and transportation (including taxis), situational crime prevention, decision making models, crime victims.

Graduate Assistantship Opportunities

Our program awards approximately six graduate assistantships on a semester-to-semester basis. Students awarded graduate teaching assistantships assist faculty teaching, including coordinating instructional activities and grading assignments. Additional teaching opportunity is available. The appointments are typically twenty hours per week. Assistantships provide a stipend and, for non-Kansas residents, a waiver of non-resident tuition rates. Students awarded a graduate assistantship may also qualify for a waiver of up to 100% of their tuition.