CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CRIMINOLOGY, MS/SOCIAL WELFARE, PHD

The Joint Master of Criminal Justice and Doctor of Philosophy in Social Welfare program prepares students to make significant contributions to both education and research in the social sciences. The goals and objectives of both the MSCJ and PhD programs reflect the department’s concerns with urban social problems, social and economic equity and well-being, cultural diversity, and the empowerment of individuals, families, organizations, and communities to effect change.

Admission Requirements

Application Deadlines
Application deadlines vary by program, please review the application deadline chart (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/program-deadlines/) for specific programs. Other important dates and deadlines can be found by using the One Stop calendars (https://uwm.edu/onestop/dates-and-deadlines/).

Admission

Relevant application materials must be submitted to both the Graduate School and the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare and will be accepted for admission in the Fall semester only. All applications must be completed and submitted on or before January 2. Applications received after January 2 will be considered only if space is available after other applications are reviewed.

Students who apply and are accepted to the joint MSCJ/PhD program will be able to earn both degrees in the course of their studies and will not be required to apply to the PhD program after earning the MSCJ degree, assuming their progress is consistent with departmental, school, and Graduate School standards. Applicants who are not offered admission to the joint program will still be considered for admission into the MSCJ-only program.

All applicants must meet Graduate School requirements plus the following school requirements:

1. Have an undergraduate grade point average of 2.75 or better.
2. Have completed at least 21 semester credits in the social and behavioral sciences (i.e., psychology, sociology, political science, economics, anthropology, and/or their equivalents).

In the Personal Statement section of the Graduate School application form, applicants must indicate:

1. That, of the PhD program’s four areas of specialization (Criminal Justice, Addiction and Behavioral Health, Applied Gerontology, or Family and Child Welfare) they wish to pursue the Criminal Justice option.
2. Their reasons for seeking a doctoral degree.
3. Their goals as future scholars.
4. A topic or issue in the field that they consider to be particularly challenging and worthy of study.

In other materials submitted to the Graduate School, applicants must:

1. Provide a current copy of a professional résumé or curriculum vitae. This should contain information on:
   - All post-secondary education, including institutions, degrees and dates of completed programs of study, plus institutions, dates, and types of study that did not lead to a degree.
   - All employment by the applicant in criminal justice, social work, and related areas, including dates and employing organizations.
   - Employment unrelated to criminal justice or social work within the past five years.
   - Any past or current professional licenses held.
2. Submit scores from within the past five years on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test.
3. Submit three letters of recommendation from persons familiar with the applicant’s achievements and academic potential, including at least one current or former academic instructor.
4. Submit a sample of written work that demonstrates: the applicant’s knowledge of social welfare theory, practice, and research; ability to think analytically; and writing skills. The sample should be at least 1000 words in length and represent work for which the applicant was the sole author, or if it is jointly authored should indicate which sections were primarily done by the applicant.

Advisement

The school will assign each MSCJ/PhD student a major professor. This assignment is based on congruence between the applicant’s interests and the expertise of the major professor. In consultation with the director of the PhD program, the student may change major professors after beginning the program, but no applicant will be admitted unless a doctoral faculty member agrees to serve as major professor.

Financial Assistance

Through a combination of tuition remission, teaching assistantships, research assistantships, fellowships, and other options, the program will attempt to provide financial assistance to all admitted students during their first four years in the program. Applicants needing additional information on other sources of financial assistance, such as student loans, should contact the campus Department of Financial Aid.

Residence

Students must meet minimum Graduate School residency requirements.

Credits and Courses

The Criminal Justice MS (MSCJ) portion of the joint curriculum requires a minimum of 21 graduate credits. Another 12 Masters-level credits will be replaced by the same number of PhD-level credits. Courses at the Masters level are:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRM JST 743</td>
<td>Proseminar: Administration of Criminal Justice Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRM JST 756</td>
<td>Proseminar: Analysis of Criminal Justice Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRM JST 773</td>
<td>Criminological Perspectives</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRM JST 920</td>
<td>Criminal Justice Masters Capstone Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or CRM JST 990</td>
<td>Thesis or Research Project</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRM JST 795</td>
<td>Issues in Law Enforcement Practice and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MSCJ courses to be replaced by PhD-level courses are:

**Code** | **Title**                                                                                                                                 | **Credits**
---|---
CRM JST 713 | Measuring Crime & Analyzing Crime Data (replaced by SOC WRK 961) | 3
CRM JST 999 | Independent Reading in Criminal Justice (replaced by SOC WRK 791 or SOC WRK 932) | 1-3
Criminal Justice and Criminology, MS/Social Welfare, PhD

The Preliminary Examination assesses students' ability to articulate their research interests, analyze and synthesize empirical knowledge, and show familiarity with relevant theoretical concepts. The exam may be retaken only once. Students must pass the preliminary examination within five years of initial enrollment.

Prior to initialing the preliminary examination, students must complete an application for the examination through the Graduate School's Milestones system. Students who fail the preliminary examination may not proceed to the dissertation. The exam may be retaken only once. Complete policies regarding forming a preliminary examination committee, writing the proposal, and taking the examination are available in the Social Welfare PhD program handbook.

Dissertation Proposal Defense
All students must successfully complete an oral defense of their dissertation proposal to determine their preparation for independent research. The defense must be completed successfully within four years of initial enrollment.

Dissertation
Students who have successfully completed the Preliminary Examination and one-page preliminary dissertation proposal are formally admitted to doctoral candidacy. In accordance with Graduate School policies, students must then register for three research or thesis/dissertation credits each semester until the dissertation is submitted to the Graduate School. To meet the requirements for the dissertation, the candidate must complete an original independent research project that adds meaningfully to the existing body of knowledge in social welfare. It should be of a caliber that warrants publication in respected journals in the field.

Dissertation Defense
As the final step toward the degree, the candidate must pass an oral examination before their doctoral committee in defense of the dissertation. The examination may also cover general topics relevant to the student's area of study. This requirement may not be completed until all other degree requirements are satisfied.
Time Limit
It is expected that most students will complete all degree requirements within seven years of initial enrollment in the joint MSCJ/PhD program. All requirements MUST be completed within ten years from the date of initial enrollment.