

# Master of Science in Criminal Justice

Program Director: Joseph A. Sorgini, DPA.

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE (30 credits)

Through an interdisciplinary approach, remote delivery, and relevant curriculum, including exploration of timely topics in the field, Immaculata University's Online Master of Science in Criminal Justice will prepare you to enhance student knowledge in the fields of criminal justice and criminology, improve speaking and writing skills, expand research competencies and improve critical thinking. Graduates from the program will be trained to become better leaders in their profession and scholars in the field. They will also be able to expand the ethical, moral and practical foundations of the criminal justice system and help advance criminological knowledge. The Master of Science in Criminal Justice program is ideal for anyone interested in the deeper study of behavioral analytics, criminal justice, cybercrime, forensics, policing and community relations, the American legal system and sociology.

Program outcomes include:

- Apply the integration of knowledge and skills learned in social theory, research methods, and data analysis in criminology.
- Employ the basic conceptual tools, methods, and theories necessary to address social behavior including criminal behavior, social groups, and society.
- Demonstrate the ability to document a deepening awareness of society's needs and exercise their commitment to criminal justice.
- Provide evidence of proficiency for working with diverse populations in the public or private sector.
- Display skills in working with and helping people in the criminal justice professions.
- Exhibit a knowledge base appropriate for graduate study in criminal justice, and degree programs in other related fields.
- Develop the understanding that leadership is the ethical and respectful application of power within a specific cultural context.
- Learn to exercise various practices for negotiation and consensus building in the strategic mitigation of conflict.

## REQUIRED COURSES (30 credits)

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| <b>LDR 621</b> Strategic and Critical Problem-Solving* | (3) |
| <b>CRJ 600</b> Criminological Theory                   | (3) |
| <b>CRJ 601</b> Ethics in the Criminal Justice System   | (3) |
| <b>CRJ 602</b> Research Design and Data Analysis       | (3) |
| <b>CRJ 603</b> Criminal Law and Procedure              | (3) |
| <b>CRJ 604</b> Pro-Seminar in Criminal Justice         | (3) |
| <b>LDR 600</b> Foundations of Leadership*              | (3) |
| <b>LDR 604</b> Theories of Change*                     | (3) |
| <b>LDR 605</b> Politics of Leading*                    | (3) |
| <b>CRJ 609</b> Cybersecurity                           | (3) |

\*Courses required to complete the graduate certificate in strategic leadership. Students must submit the certificate request form upon completion to earn certificate.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **LDR 621 Strategic and Critical Problem-Solving (3)**

This course explores strategy development and adopts an interdisciplinary approach to this process by drawing on history, sociology, literature and game theory. A historical overview of the field of strategy is analyzed, along with contemporary approaches that introduce and demonstrate real-world application. A combination of game theory and practice in all relevant aspects of strategic and critical thinking is emphasized.

### **CRJ 600 Criminological Theory (3)**

This course focuses on the foundations of criminological theory, with an emphasis on classical readings and familiarizes students with key research questions and assumptions of theoretical approaches, their core propositions and challenges for measurement/testing, as well as policy implications.

### **CRJ 601 Ethics in the Criminal Justice System (3)**

This course examines the ethical foundation upon which the American system of criminal justice operates. During the course, students examine numerous societal issues that directly concern the criminal justice practitioner and the application of discretionary powers. In addition, this course examines the ethical issues specifically related to the criminal justice profession. Issues include professional communications in government regulation and policy, free speech, client/victim/investigative privacy, accuracy in media and the impact of science and technology on communications.

### **CRJ 602 Research Design and Data Analysis (3)**

This course examines data analysis and statistics used by criminologists in quantitative research that attempts to make causal inferences about how the social world works. The course provides students with extensive experience in analyzing data and in writing research and covers basic data analysis and statistical methods, from univariate and bivariate descriptive and inferential statistics through multivariate regression analysis. This course focuses on observational data used in cross-sectional statistical analysis, but also considers issues of research design more broadly.

### **CRJ 603 Criminal Law and Procedure (3)**

This course provides an in-depth exploration of the laws and constitutional cases governing criminal procedure in the American criminal justice system. The course focuses on the investigation, arrest and prosecution phase of the criminal process, including custody and seizures, arrests, interrogation and identification procedures.

It also provides a survey of the rules of evidence in criminal proceedings, their origins and history, the use of both direct and circumstantial evidence in proving guilt or innocence, witness reliability, hearsay and the use of inference. The course also highlights both procedural and evidentiary rules governing the investigative and prosecutorial phases of law enforcement, including the role of investigating grand juries, and the defense and police misconduct aspects of entrapment.

### **CRJ 604 Pro-Seminar in Criminal Justice (3)**

This course provides a comprehensive review of criminal justice, focusing on how the American criminal justice system functions in theory and practice and analysis of specific

policies relevant to crime and the administration of justice and how these policies are used. This course is an in-depth study of the American criminal justice system and the field of criminology, including the history, theories, responsibilities and functions of primary parts of the system. Students have the option to complete a thesis or ending capstone in this course in order to graduate.

**LDR 600            Foundations of Leadership (3)**

Students will identify the unique nature, characteristics and relationship of the Self and others in regard to leader-follower relationship. Students will build upon a foundational understanding that improves the quality of work culture and overall productivity for the betterment of the collective organization. This course lays the foundation for other courses in the program to include semiotics, ethics, power, strategy, change and self-care.

**LDR 604            Theories of Change (3)**

This course draws upon a variety of interdisciplinary methods to analyze and better understand the societal aspects of organizational groups— change, memory and stability—which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to formulate initiatives to reach their full potential through growth and change. This course emphasizes how leaders can be effective in generating organizational transformation. Learners integrate knowledge of organizational change theory into the understanding of a leader’s role as an influencer toward change.

**LDR 605            Politics of Leading (3)**

This course will explore lobbying, persuasion, bargaining, consensus building and opinion management as key aspects of strategic leadership. Terms like politics and lobbying are often associated with government, but they are also a common aspect of human interaction and organizational leadership.

**CRJ 609            Cybersecurity (3)**

This course covers the duties of cybersecurity analysts who are responsible for monitoring and detecting security incidents in information systems and networks and for executing a proper response to such incidents. The course introduces tools and tactics to manage cybersecurity risks, identify various types of common threats, evaluate the organization’s security, collect and analyze cybersecurity intelligence and handle incidents as they occur.