MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

FACULTY

Department Chair: Victor Ascolillo, Ph.D., J.D.
Department Coordinator: Veleka Gallishaw
Department Office: 333 Western Avenue
Department Telephone: (413) 572-5309
Graduate Advisor: Christopher Kudlac, Ph.D.
Graduate Faculty: Victor Ascolillo, Ph.D., J.D.
William Cook, Ph.D.
Audrelee Dallam-Murphy, Ph.D.
Christopher Kudlac, Ph.D.
Judith McDonald, Ph.D.
Daniel Price, Ph.D.
Thomas Roscoe, Ph.D.
Stephen Smith, Ph.D.
Elizabeth Stassinos, Ph.D.
Scott White, Ph.D.

Description of Program

The graduate program in Criminal Justice focuses on theoretical and applied issues in law enforcement, corrections, administration, and public law. Its goal is to further critical thinking about significant issues in crime and criminal justice. The Criminal Justice program seeks to examine how the criminal justice system works. Judges, lawyers, managers, and criminal justice researchers supplement the faculty, bringing many practical considerations to the study of the discipline.

Graduate students are required to complete 33 graduate credit hours and a comprehensive examination, or 30 credits and a capstone, or 27 graduate credit hours and a six-hour thesis. Some students may choose to satisfy the requirement for a culminating experience by completing the Addiction Studies Concentration, described below. For all three tracks, there are four required courses: Criminological Theory I, Research Methods, Administrative Theory of Criminal Justice, and Statistics. Each student is assigned an advisor who will assist in selecting courses and, if undertaking a thesis, a thesis advisor. Thesis advisors are members of the graduate faculty.

Admission Requirements

In order to be considered for admission to the program, a complete application must be presented for review, including:

1. Bachelor’s degree with a major or minor in any of the social sciences with a 2.7 GPA or a 3.0 for the last two years of undergraduate studies, class ranking will also be considered;
2. Three professional or academic letters of reference;
3. An official GRE with a combined score of 950 on two sections or a MAT score of 45 or better;
4. A narrative statement about your professional goals, academic experience, factors which support your future endeavors.

BS/MS option for high achieving students

Students must meet all three criteria listed below:

1. Westfield State University students with a GPA of 3.3 entering into their final semester or after completing their undergraduate degree would be considered for the program.
2. Students who are entering into their final semester at Westfield State University may be eligible to take two courses from graduate credit, assuming the 120 credits needed to complete their BS will be fulfilled independently of the MS coursework.

3. All students will be required to complete the entire graduate application packet, WITH THE EXCEPTION of the standardized test requirement.

**Matriculation Requirements:**

Matriculated students are those who have been admitted to a graduate program at Westfield State University. If you intend to work toward a degree, you must apply as soon as possible. A maximum of six (6) Westfield State University credits taken prior to acceptance may be applied toward your degree program. Advising is recommended.

Once matriculated, students must see the graduate advisor and work out a Program of Study in accordance with the requirements for a degree in their major program. The Program of Study will include the following:

1. prerequisites in the area of concentration;
2. a planned program of courses necessary for competency in the field of concentration;
3. elective courses.

The Program of Study form must be signed by the student and approved by the graduate advisor, the chair of the department, and the Dean. A copy of this form will be sent to the student and to the graduate advisor. The original will be kept in the student’s file.

**Specific Degree Requirements:**

**Required Courses:** (12 s.h.)

CRJU 0606 Criminological Theory I
CRJU 0603 Research Methods
CRJU 0613 Statistics
CRJU 0624 Administrative Theory of Criminal Justice

**Elective Courses:** (21 s.h.)

Completion of 21 recommended graduate semester hours in Criminal Justice

**Requirements for Master’s Degree:** 33 s.h.
Please see the following for a description of program completion options.

Program Completion Options: MS in Criminal Justice

A. Comprehensive Examination Option:
This option is intended for individuals seeking a terminal degree or wishing to continue their education beyond the master’s degree. In this option, candidates must complete a total of 33 credit hours of coursework. Students are also required to successfully complete a comprehensive exam to demonstrate knowledge gained in coursework and to relate concepts across the curriculum. The exam may be taken only after completing all required courses and a minimum of 27 credits within the Master’s program.

B. Capstone Experience Option
The capstone experience option is intended for individuals seeking a terminal degree. After completed 30 credit hours, the student will enroll in a three credit capstone experience. The capstone experience is a focused study and applied research under the direction of a faculty advisor. The student must submit an abstract for approval to the faculty advisor before undertaking the project. The Capstone must demonstrate a student’s ability to apply the knowledge and skills acquired in their academic program to real world issues and problems. The work will include an abstract of approximately 150 words and an annotated bibliography. It is expected that the paper will be approximately twenty-five pages in length. The final work is evaluated by the faculty advisor and the graduate coordinator or department chairperson. Students are required to present their Capstone in a public forum.

C. Master’s Thesis Option
This option is intended for students who wish to continue their education beyond the master’s degree. The student is required to complete 27 hours in addition to the six credit hour thesis. However, the student may register for the thesis after completing 24 credits of graduate program coursework with a B or better GPA. With the approval of a thesis advisor, the student develops a significant problem for research and study. The work is to be of publishable quality and is evaluated by a thesis committee. After the work is complete, it is to be defended in a public forum. The student is also required to provide bound copies of the thesis to the Department of Criminal Justice, Westfield State University Library, and the Dean of Graduate and Continuing Education.
Addiction Studies Concentration

The course concentration will offer graduate students studying for the Master’s Degree in Criminal Justice the opportunity to become familiar with the symptoms of substance abuse, the functions of substance abuse counselors and the diverse populations served by an extensive network of treatment modalities. It will help to enable those employed in various positions in the criminal justice system to identify individuals suffering from substance abuse and to arrange the most appropriate handling of their cases in the criminal justice environment. The concentration will combine coursework in the Criminal Justice Master’s Degree Program with course offered in the College’s Addiction Counselor Education Programs. Please see the description for CRJU 0651 in the Criminal Justice course listings for more information about this 6-credit capstone option.

As such, the concentration will require students to study the following topics:

1. Substance Abuse and Criminal Justice,
2. The Delivery of Alcoholism/Chemical Dependency Treatment Services,
3. Counseling the Alcoholic and Other Chemically Dependent Persons,
4. Psychopharmacology,
5. Family Alcoholism and Chemical Dependency Treatment, and
6. Co-occurring Disorders (Dual Diagnosis). The concentration will also include an Addiction Studies treatment facility.

The concentration itself will not be sufficient to meet the substance abuse counselor certification requirements of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It is intended only to help students who have or who aspire to professional responsibilities within the criminal justice system for making decisions about the handling or arrestees, defendants, probationers, inmates and parolees. The concentration is intended to assist those criminal justice agents in becoming more proficient at recognizing the problems of alcoholism and chemical dependency and in formulating more effective recommendations regarding the diversion of arrestees to pre-trial resources, or the disposition of defendants’ cases, or referrals to appropriate agencies, or classification within the most effective correctional programs. It will also benefit those students who choose to continue beyond the Master’s Degree requirements to complete the requirements for certification as Addictions Counselor by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

At the conclusion of the course students will be required to write a capstone paper demonstrating their mastery of the required course work and its application to individuals and to treatment service modalities as observed during the internship phase of their studies. In the capstone paper students will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the methods for identifying alcoholic and chemically dependent individuals as well as a familiarity with the techniques and modalities for treating such persons individually and on a family basis within the framework of the criminal justice process. Additionally, the student should demonstrate an ability to recognize the existence of co-occurring disorders and an understanding of the psychopharmacological dimensions of the problem. In sum, the capstone paper will demonstrate the extent to which the student has mastered the essential concepts of the files.

Upon completion of the required courses, students will work with the Addiction Counselor Education Program and the Criminal Justice department to prepare a scholarly capstone paper. The paper will include an abstract of some 150 words and an annotated bibliography. The paper will be evaluated by three Westfield State University faculty who have expertise related to the focus of the student’s work.

Please consult with the Criminal Justice graduate advisor and with Dr. L. Michael McCartney, advisor for the concentration, for specific information about applying to and completing the Addiction Studies Concentration.
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COURSES

CRJU 0600 CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN AMERICA  3 s.h.
Focuses on each of the subsystems of the criminal justice system and their relationship to each other. An overview of the administration of justice in America, the system's attempt to cope with crime, the relevant U.S. Supreme Court cases, the index crimes, and the use of discretion by various criminal justice professionals. Those without a background in criminal justice are encouraged to complete this course.

CRJU 0601 JUVENILE JUSTICE  3 s.h.
Juvenile justice nationally is in the midst of a broad conceptual shift challenging 19th century assumptions. The legal, social, and programmatic aspects of the juvenile justice system will be explored with particular emphasis on how the system has changed over time.

CRJU 0602 PROBLEMS IN CRIMINAL PROCEDURE  3 s.h.
Focuses on contemporary problems in the administration of criminal due process, with actual topics selected by the students. Suggested areas of inquiry include: pretrial liberty; the role of counsel in the adversary system; the right to a trial by jury; the process of proof; sentencing procedure; and the plea bargaining system.

CRJU 0603 RESEARCH METHODS  3 s.h.
Examines the logic of scientific inquiry and the nature and process of social research as applied to criminal justice. Concentrates on theory, concepts, methodological techniques, and demonstration of their reliability and validity. Attention will also be given to methods of sampling design, techniques of data collection, and methodological problems. (Required)

CRJU 0605 CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS IN CRIMINAL LAW  3 s.h.
An investigation of the operation of substantive criminal law in its procedural context. Topics to be investigated through the case method include mens rea; the role of mental illness in determining culpability; preparatory crimes; group liability; and justification and excuse.

CRJU 0606 CRIMINOLOGICAL THEORY I  3 s.h.
An overview of sociological, psychological, economic, environmental, and biological theories about the etiology of crime. Theories will be examined in terms of the context in which they were presented and their implications for criminal justice practices. (Required)

CRJU 0607 CRIMINOLOGICAL THEORY II  3 s.h.
An examination of theories that are currently influencing policy and research. Emphasis will be on the evaluation of these theories and their application within the criminal justice system as well as their implications for society at large.

CRJU 0608 METHODS OF OFFENDER REHABILITATION  3 s.h.
An examination of a variety of techniques for altering behavior that have been, or might be, applied in criminal corrections. Examples include psychoanalysis, behavior modification, relaxation techniques, reality therapy, work release, vocational training, etc. Techniques of implementing, administering, and evaluating these programs will be considered.

CRJU 0611 COMMUNITY BASED CORRECTIONS  3 s.h.
Examines the historical development, current status, and future direction of community-based corrections along with the theory and practice of the community based correctional treatment
programs that now exist. Specific topics will include: probation, parole, halfway houses, experimental treatment projects, and drug treatment centers.

**CRJU 0612  CORRECTIONAL CASEWORK MANAGEMENT  3 s.h.**
Examines traditional casework techniques utilized in dealing with juvenile and adult correctional clients in the United States. Casework management from an individual and organizational perspective will be analyzed. Students will be required to research and evaluate current casework techniques.

**CRJU 0613  STATISTICS  3 s.h.**
Basic statistical principles and techniques and their applications in criminal justice. Brief review of descriptive statistics, sampling distributions, hypothesis testing, t-tests, chi-square, analysis of variance, and correlational techniques. Analysis of statistics appropriate for various forms of the general linear model to include multiple regression and path analysis. (Required)

**CRJU 0615  WORKPLACE VIOLENCE  3 s.h.**
This course will take an in-depth look at a serious problem affecting the U.S. workplace—violence. Current research in this area will be critically examined. Various crimes will be examined including assault, robbery, rape and sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic violence, and homicide. Four main types of violence will be discussed (criminal intent/stranger; client, patient, & customer; employee; intimate). The cycle of violence will be examined including how and why violence occurs across types of violence and occupation/industry. In addition, preventing workplace violence will also be addressed. This course will also look at what is currently being done by various employers in terms of policies and procedures addressing violence. Case studies video scenarios and internet-based resources will be utilized to illustrate real-world situations and facilitate the learning process.

**CRJU 0616  VICTIMOLOGY  3 s.h.**
An analysis of the characteristics of crime victims to their victimization; the treatment of victims by the criminal justice system and possibilities of reform in this regard; and the attitudes of criminals towards victims.

**CRJU 0617  LAW ENFORCEMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENTS  3 s.h.**
An examination of current policies and practices of police organizations. Attention will be given to modern organizational theories, a review of police discretion, and formal and informal channels of communication for the dissemination of policy statements and goals.

**CRJU 0618  CORRECTIONS ADMINISTRATION  3 s.h.**
A critical review of the administration of correctional facilities in the United States. Problems such as crowding, prisoner rights, funding, drugs, children of inmates, and recidivism will be examined.

**CRJU 0619  CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING  3 s.h.**
Focuses on the research and design of new programs in criminal justice. In addition, the course will consider such issues as: consulting relevant agencies, enlisting community support, applying for funding, training staff, and evaluating new and existing programs.

**CRJU 0620  WOMEN IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM  3 s.h.**
Examines the historical and contemporary involvement of women as professionals, offenders, and victims in the American criminal justice system. Special areas of study will include violence by and toward women, female criminology, victimless crimes, and women in the various criminal justice professions.

**CRJU 0622  SEX OFFENDERS AND PUBLIC POLICY  3 s.h.**
This is a Corrections-based course that will provide a historical and behavioral science context for evaluating the effectiveness of policies and practices regarding sexual offenders. This course will examine the difficulties in clearly defining what constitutes a sexual offense, and how notions of what is aberrant of criminal change over time and place. It will review the major types of sex offenses coming to the attention of the sentencing courts, and the distinctions made concerning risk of future harm and blameworthiness. Given what they have learned about the psychological, social, and political dynamics surrounding this contentious issue, students will critically examine how well sex offender policies meet all of our sentencing goals, including retribution, deterrence, and incapacitation, but also rehabilitation and reintegration.

CRJU 0624 ADMINISTRATIVE THEORY OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE 3 s.h.
An examination of the management of organizations with a focus on theories of management, the individual in the organization (motivation, change, stress), groups (norms, influence, conflict), and the interaction of individuals and the organization (power, communication, leadership). (Required)

CRJU 0625 HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT 3 s.h.
Using case studies from the public sector, issues such as recruitment, training, compensation, promotion policy, appraising, disciplinary procedures, labor-management relations, equal employment opportunity and affirmative action, and productivity will be examined.

CRJU 0626 MASSACHUSETTS CRIMINAL PROCEDURE 3 s.h.
An examination of the Massachusetts Rules of Criminal Procedure and Article 12 and Article 14 of the Massachusetts Declaration of Rights relating to the suppression of evidence under Massachusetts law. The course will focus on the origin and purpose of the exclusionary rule; the law of arrest, search and seizure; stop and frisk; probable cause; the admissibility of statements and identifications; and the scope of the exclusionary rule under Massachusetts law. The course will emphasize the differences between the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and the more restrictive requirements of Article Twelve and Article Fourteen of the Massachusetts Declaration of Rights.

CRJU 0627 FEDERAL CRIMINAL LAW: THE PROSECUTION OF ORGANIZED AND WHITE COLLAR CRIME 3 s.h.
This course will emphasize the legal aspects involved in an investigation and prosecution of organized and white collar crime. The course will focus on the role of the grand jury and other investigative techniques, and on the substantive federal criminal law that typically provides the basis for the prosecution of organized and white collar crime. Topics to be considered include the evolution of federal criminal law; the role of the grand jury; mail and wire fraud; RICO; the Hobbs Act; the Travel Act; the role of federal agency investigations including both the I.R.S. and the S.E.C.; and federal wiretapping and electronic surveillance legislation.

CRJU 0628 CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS IN EVIDENCE 3 s.h.
An investigation of contemporary problems related to the admissibility of evidence. The course will focus on selected issues pertaining to the admissibility of evidence in both the federal and state courts systems, with a particular emphasis on the rules of admissibility in the criminal courts in Massachusetts. Although the actual topics to be selected will vary depending on the interest of the students, topics generally to be considered will include relevancy, hearsay and exceptions to the hearsay rule; confidentiality and confidential communications; writings and authentication; opinions and experts; scientific and demonstrative evidence; admissions, and confessions; the problems involved with the use of illegally seized evidence; the rape shield rule; fresh complaint evidence; and the admissibility of evidence based on the physical sciences (forensic evidence).
CRJU 0631 MULTINATIONAL CRIME 3 s.h.
This course will explore the newly designated area of multinational crime. Terrorism, espionage, arms and drug area of multinational crime. Terrorism, espionage, arms and drug trafficking—offenses that are organized and systematic, cutting across international borders—present new quandaries for the criminologist. Multinational crime will be described and explained with reference to current criminological theories.

CRJU 0632 CRIME AND BEHAVIOR 3 s.h.
This course focuses on the behavioral explanations for criminal and aggressive behavior. In addition, other related topics such as psychiatric commitments, competency to stand trial, the insanity defense, and the psychology of the courtroom will be explored.

CRJU 0640 HOMELAND SECURITY: ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION 3 s.h.
This graduate course will introduce students to the various aspects of homeland security. It will examine the evolution of Homeland Security as a concept, a legal framework, a redirection of national policies and priorities and also the actual implementation and creation of the Department of Homeland Security. The course provides an overview of the history of terrorist threats and U.S. responses and an introduction to the fundamental policy legislation and documents, such as national security strategies, homeland security directives, the National Response Plan (NRP), and National Incident Management System (NIMS).

CRJU 0641 ANTI-TERRORISM LAW AND CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT 3 s.h.
This course will examine criminal law—related legislation dealing with terrorism problems; detention and adjudication—related issues; and issues raised by the techniques of investigation and information gathering used in anti-terrorism criminal enforcement. Issues involving the religious, social and/or economic causes of terrorism will not be covered in this course. The approach will be strictly legal examining anti-terrorism legislation and judicial decisions that have impacted on both the interpretation of the law, and the criminal enforcement and prosecution of those individuals suspected of being terrorists.

CRJU 0642 TERRORISM AND INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS 3 s.h.
This graduate course will examine the development of modern terrorism referencing more than four decades, from origins during the Cold War to present, and study various intelligence analysis methodologies used to develop effective intelligence modeling. Students will study terrorist organizations to understand the ideologies, cultures, structures, and causative factors behind major movements. The course will, also, focus on intelligence paradigms in an effort to understand how threat information is collected, analyzed and disseminated.

CRJU 0643 COUNTER-TERRORISM AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION 3 s.h.
The nature of terrorism and the response to it has changed dramatically since the end of the Cold War. There have been a variety of factors which have driven this change, including the erosion of national borders, the increase of ease of travel, the revolution in technology and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. How to counter this new threat to the United States and its allies is a question of paramount importance. This gradate course involves the examination of counter-terrorism and infrastructure protection. Students will review definitions and typologies of terrorism and counter—terrorism, analyze specific concepts in context, and transportation and infrastructure; energy production and distribution; technology and communications. Finally students will examine the institutions, methods, and motivations that underlie counter-terrorism strategies of states, and international origination.
At the conclusion of the four core courses required for the Graduate Certificate in Homeland Security students will be required to write a capstone paper demonstrating their knowledge and understanding of the field of homeland security.

The Capstone provides students with the opportunity to explore homeland security issues and to address that issue through a focused study and applied research under the direction of a faculty member. The Capstone must demonstrate a student’s ability to apply the knowledge and skills acquired in their academic program to real world issues and problems. This final academic activity must represent graduate level work and must demonstrate competency in areas such as research, written communication, integrative and analytical thinking skills, and problem solving and decision-making ability. Capstones must contribute to the current body of knowledge in the field of homeland security.

The capstone experience is a focused study and applied research under the direction of a faculty advisor. The student must submit an abstract for approval to the faculty advisor before undertaking the project. The Capstone must demonstrate a student’s ability to apply the knowledge and skills acquired in the academic program to real world issues and problems. The work will include an abstract of approximately 150 words and an annotated bibliography. It is expected that the paper will be approximately twenty-five pages in length. The final academic activity must represent graduate level work and demonstrate competency in areas such as research, written communication, integrative and analytical thinking skills, and problem solving and decision-making ability. Capstones must contribute to the current body of knowledge in the field of homeland security.

This capstone experience is offered to graduate students who wish to enhance their criminal justice education through work in the field of alcohol studies. Separately, and at an additional expense, students will enroll in an intensive one-year series of courses including: Substance Abuse and Criminal Justice, Delivery of Alcoholism/Chemical Dependency Treatment Services, Counseling the Alcoholic and other Chemically Dependent Persons, Psychopharmacology, Family Alcoholism and Chemical Dependency Treatment and Co-occurring Disorders. A practicum, in which students work under professional supervision in a licensed alcoholism/chemical dependency treatment facility, is required. Students will write a scholarly paper that is based in these experiences and that integrates this new body of knowledge with prior graduate coursework. Prerequisite: Permission of a faculty advisor and capstone committee.

The student engaged in independent study will select and develop topics and readings in the field of criminal justice in cooperation with a professor from the Criminal Justice Department, with the approval of the chairperson and M.P.A. Program Advisor. The independent study must be in accordance with the student’s approved program of study and may be used to prepare for the M.P.A. Capstone project requirement. Course syllabus is dependent upon the topic.

The student engage in independent study will select and develop topics in the field of criminal justice in cooperation with a professor from the Criminal Justice Department, with the approval of the chairperson and advisor. Independent study work should be developed in accordance with the student’s approved program of study. Course syllabus is dependent upon the topic. This course allows students to more fully develop their knowledge based in specialized areas of criminal justice. Students often take this course, but if not in the current catalog.
CRJU 0698  SPECIAL TOPICS  3 s.h.
This course offers an in-depth study of a limited or specialized area within the criminal justice
discipline. Course content will vary according to the area of specialization of the instructor and the
interest of the students. This course may be repeated if course content differs.

CRJU 0699  THESIS  6 s.h.
A capstone option for the graduate program, a thesis is undertaken with the department’s permission
and the supervision of a thesis advisor, a member of the graduate faculty approved by the department
Chair and the Graduate Dean. The thesis experience allows students to select a topic relevant to the
field, perform a literature review, choose a research methodology and determine a process for data
evaluation. Thesis completion should occur within an academic year.