

CRIMINAL JUSTICE (M.S.) - PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Important: This degree plan is effective for those starting this degree program in fall 2025 through summer 2026. This degree plan will remain in effect for students who do not break enrollment or who do not change degree programs, concentrations, or cognates.

Code	Title	Hours
Core Courses		
CJUS 500	Criminal Justice Integration	3
CJUS 520	Administration of Justice Organizations	3
CJUS 530	Human Resource Management in Criminal Justice Organizations	3
CJUS 550	Topics and Trends in Criminal Justice	3
CJUS 601	Criminal Justice Program Evaluation ¹	3
CJUS 610	Leadership, Ethics and Policing ¹	3
Total Hours		18

¹ May register for CJUS 601 Criminal Justice Program Evaluation (3 c.h.) and CJUS 610 Leadership, Ethics and Policing (3 c.h.) after successfully completing 12 hours of graduate level CJUS courses

Code	Title	Hours
Public Administration Cognate		
PADM 501	Fundamentals of Public Administration	3
PADM 530	Politics, Strategies, and Initiatives of Community Economic Development	3
PADM 550	Public Policy Analysis	3
PADM 610	Management of Public Sector Organizations	3
Total Hours		12

Code	Title	Hours
Thesis or Elective Courses ^{1,2,3}		
CJUS 688	Thesis Proposal	3
CJUS 689	Thesis Research ^{4,5}	3
CJUS 690	Thesis Defense	0
Total Hours		6

¹ Students may take two elective courses instead of CJUS 688 Thesis Proposal (3 c.h.), CJUS 689 Thesis Research (3 c.h.), and CJUS 690 Thesis Defense (0,3 c.h.)

² Choose from the following courses: Any 500-600 level courses offered by the Helms School of Government. Other 500-600 level courses will be considered on a case-by-case basis

³ Public Safety Professionals who graduate from a National or Regional Command College and who have received graduate credit from a regionally accredited sponsoring university, and who have not previously used such credit for a degree, may transfer up to 12 hours of graduate credit associated with the Command College to the Master of Science in Criminal Justice as Experiential-Learning credit

⁴ Any thesis student who is not ready for enrollment in CJUS 690 Thesis Defense (0,3 c.h.) after completing CJUS 689 Thesis Research (3 c.h.) may be required, as determined by the student's thesis chair, to repeat CJUS 689 Thesis Research (3 c.h.) until deemed ready for enrollment in CJUS 690 Thesis Defense (0,3 c.h.)

⁵ While CJUS 689 Thesis Research (3 c.h.) may be taken more than once, only one enrollment in the course will be permitted to count toward degree requirements

All applicable prerequisites must be met

Graduation Requirements

- Complete 36 hours
- A maximum of 50% of the program hours may be transferred if approved and allowable, including credit from an earned degree from Liberty University on the same academic level
- 3.0 GPA
- No more than two grades of C may be applied to the degree (includes grades of C+ & C-)
- No grade of D or below may be applied to the degree (includes grades of D+ & D-)
- Degree must be completed within 5 years
- Submission of Degree Completion Application must be completed within the last semester of a student's anticipated graduation date

Program Offered in Online Format Course Sequence

Course	Title	Hours
First Semester		
CJUS 500	Criminal Justice Integration	3
CJUS 520	Administration of Justice Organizations	3
CJUS 530	Human Resource Management in Criminal Justice Organizations	3
Hours		9
Second Semester		
CJUS 550	Topics and Trends in Criminal Justice	3
PADM 501	Fundamentals of Public Administration	3
PADM 530	Politics, Strategies, and Initiatives of Community Economic Development	3
Hours		9
Third Semester		
CJUS 601	Criminal Justice Program Evaluation ¹	3
CJUS 610	Leadership, Ethics and Policing ¹	3
PADM 550	Public Policy Analysis	3
Hours		9
Fourth Semester		
CJUS 688	Thesis Proposal	3
CJUS 689	Thesis Research ^{2,3,4,5}	3
CJUS 690	Thesis Defense ^{2,4,5}	0
PADM 610	Management of Public Sector Organizations	3
Hours		9
Total Hours		36

¹ May register for CJUS 601 and CJUS 610 after successfully completing 12 hours of graduate level CJUS courses.

² Public Safety Professionals who graduate from a National or Regional Command and who have received graduate credit from a regionally accredited sponsoring university, and who have not previously used such credit for a degree, may transfer up to 12 hours of graduate credit

associated with the Command College to the Master of Science in Criminal Justice as Experiential-Learning credit.

³ While CJUS 689 may be taken more than once, only one enrollment in the course will be permitted to count toward degree requirements.

⁴ Any student who is not ready for enrollment in CJUS 690 after completing CJUS 689 may be required, as determined by the student's thesis chair, to repeat CJUS 689 until deemed ready for enrollment in CJUS 690.

⁵ Students may take two elective courses⁶ instead of CJUS 688, CJUS 689, and CJUS 690.

⁶ Choose from the following courses: Any 500-600 level course offered by the Helms School of Government. Other 500-600 level courses will be considered on a case-by-case basis.