

Criminal Justice Program Podcast

Hello, my name is Kassie and I am a staff member in The Graduate School at Grand Valley State University. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Grand Valley's Master of Science in Criminal Justice program. Today we're going to cover the admissions process, program requirements, and the qualities that distinguish this program.

Let's start by explaining to you what this program entails. The mission of the MCJ program is to develop highly ethical and capable leaders, specialists, and scholars, with an advanced and practical knowledge in criminology and criminal justice. Your education in the MCJ program will prepare you to reach your future goals, whether they be in the career field, classroom, and/or your community.

This is a 36-credit hour program and can be completed in 1 ½ - 2 years as a full-time student or 2 - 3 years as a part-time student. The program includes lecture, lab, and seminar courses, and is fully hybrid. Class schedules are designed so that full time students will only need to travel to campus 1 – 2 days per week, and part time students will only need to travel to campus one day or less per week. Additionally, courses are taught in the evenings to accommodate as many students as possible.

Standard GVSU admission requirements include completion of the online application as well as a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education. Your application must include official transcripts, and if English is not your native language you must provide scores from one of our approved standardized tests such as the TOEFL, IELTS, MELAB, or the PTE Academic. There is a \$30 nonrefundable application fee, however this fee is waived if you attended GVSU previously or are currently attending GVSU.

In addition to the standard GVSU admission requirements, the Master of Science in Criminal Justice program requires students to have a 3.0 undergraduate GPA and to submit three letters of recommendation, two of which should be from university faculty members. A statement outlining each student's educational and professional goals is also required.

More program details as well as the online application can be found on the Master of Science in Criminal Justice program website, www.gvsu.edu/grad/cj.

The great news about GVSU's graduate programs is that tuition rates for Michigan resident and non-resident students are the same. In other words, there are no extra costs for being an out of state student. Current tuition costs and information about scholarships and financial aid can be found at www.gvsu.edu/financialaid or by calling 616-331-3234. For information on graduate assistantships, please contact The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu.

The Master of Criminal Justice program at GVSU is a 36-credit hour program. 18 credit hours will cover topics in criminological theory, victimology, program and policy evaluation, criminal justice systems and inequities, and research methods. An additional 12-18 credit hours will be dedicated to courses covering interdisciplinary electives, internships with criminal justice agencies, independent one-on-one study with faculty, and the option of completing a 6-credit hour master's thesis, which is highly recommended for students who intend to pursue doctoral studies. Students who elect not to

write the thesis will complete the Master of Criminal Justice Capstone Seminar as the culminating experience in the program. For a complete listing of all courses, visit www.gvsu.edu/grad/cj.

Beginning in 2023, the MCJ program will also offer a Graduate Badge in Victim Advocacy & Services. This 6-credit badge can be completed as part of the MCJ degree and offers students the opportunity to specialize in victim support services. Students will examine such topics as the crime victims' rights movement and associated legislation, the criminal-legal process for crime victims, advocacy and services for crime victims, culturally competent and trauma-informed responses to crime victims, and managing secondary traumatic stress for those who serve crime victims.

The Master of Science in Criminal Justice program at GVSU is unique for a number of reasons. This program trains leaders. Graduates are prepared as highly ethical and capable leaders, specialists, and scholars, who continuously improve the criminal justice system and profession.

This program is also interdisciplinary. Courses are designed to meet the needs of scholars, as well as victim's advocates and those who serve in adult corrections, juvenile justice, private security, and administrative positions in the field. Lastly, our graduate program is comprehensive. The curriculum encompasses applied concepts of ethics, political and social justice, historical analysis of institutions and policy, leadership and management, theories, and research.

That is just a snapshot of the Master of Science in Criminal Justice graduate program here at Grand Valley State University. We hope that you will consider applying to a graduate program at GVSU. Any questions can be directed to the Graduate Program Director, Jacquelynn Doyon-Martin, at martijd@gvsu.edu or to The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu. Thank you for your time and we hope you have enjoyed this podcast.