



# ONLINE MASTER'S IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

LEAD IN TODAY'S ADVANCED FIELD OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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| <b>DELIVERY FORMAT</b><br>100% Online        | <b>TIME TO COMPLETE</b><br>20+ months        | <b>CREDIT HOURS</b><br>30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>TIME COMMITMENT</b><br>10–20 hours weekly | <b>START DATES</b><br>Fall, Spring, & Summer | <b>COST</b><br>Earning a master's degree in Criminal Justice from OU Online will give you the leadership skills to advance and succeed in higher-paying roles in law enforcement. Tuition and fees for the program are \$21,150 (\$705 per credit hour). Books and additional materials are not included. |

## AT A GLANCE

The online Criminal Justice master's program at OU Online is designed to develop the skills necessary to set yourself apart as a strong leader in the complex criminal justice field.

Led by criminal justice experts from across the nation, you can earn your degree in as little as 20 months, gaining skills that open pathways for job advancement and allowing you to positively impact the communities you serve.

## WHAT CAN I DO WITH A CRIMINAL JUSTICE MASTER'S DEGREE

The criminal justice landscape is complex and ever-changing, requiring leaders with a strong foundation in policy reform. Your degree will help you stand out as a leader and accelerate your career in these areas:

- Chief of police
- Manager/supervisor in corrections
- Professor/instructor
- Federal agencies
- Restorative justice policy
- Victim advocacy

## INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

- Median Pay: \$77,270
- Job Outlook: Employment for police and detectives is expected to grow 4% by 2033
- Job Openings: 63,000 openings for police and detectives are projected each year, on average, over the next decade

*Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*

## PROGRAM OUTCOMES: WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

The program ensures a foundational understanding of a variety of topics, including restorative justice, drug abuse policy, and ethical decision-making in criminal justice, setting you up with the leadership skills necessary to thrive in today's criminal justice field.

- Gain the knowledge, skills, and abilities to navigate and innovate in the criminal justice field
- Understand how to use research methods and data analysis for practical and ethical decision-making
- Learn the latest law enforcement strategies, practical mediation, intelligence-led policing, cyber-forensics, conflict resolution, and restorative justice models to improve efficacy within the criminal justice system

**TO APPLY: [HTTPS://ONLINE.OU.EDU/ADMISSIONS/GRADUATE/](https://online.ou.edu/admissions/graduate/)**

**FOR MORE INFO: [HTTPS://ONLINE.OU.EDU/PROGRAM/MS-IN-CRIMINAL-JUSTICE/](https://online.ou.edu/program/ms-in-criminal-justice/)**

## COURSE DETAILS

The criminal justice master's degree curriculum combines theoretical approaches to real-life case studies that you can apply to your work, starting on day one. Choose 18 hours of graduate electives from a list maintained by the academic unit and approved by the Graduate College.

## COURSE STRUCTURE

You earn 30 credit hours across 10 courses – 3 core courses, 6 electives and 1 demonstration project. Each semester is broken into two modules. During the Fall and Spring semesters, you'll take one course in each 8-week module. During the Summer semester, you'll take one 7-week course. An accelerated option also exists, where you take two courses per module.

Live lectures will take place every other week in each course. Attendance at these live sessions is strongly encouraged, but not required.

Your final Demonstration Project course will run the full term of your final semester (either 14 or 16 weeks) to allow for deeper engagement and more meaningful application.

### INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Credit Hours: 3

This course provides a comprehensive overview of the American criminal justice system. Students will examine the historical foundations and evolution of key institutions, policies, and practices. A critical lens will be applied to analyze how structural inequality has contributed to disparate outcomes for marginalized groups.

### RESEARCH METHODS FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Credit Hours: 3

This course introduces students to conducting and evaluating scientific research of the criminal justice system. Research methods overview the basics of research methodologies, with a focus on measurement and data collection. Statistical analysis overviews basic statistical techniques for analysis of criminal justice data, with a focus on both descriptive and inferential statistics.

### QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

Credit Hours: 3

This course is designed as an introduction to quantitative statistical methods and their application in criminology and criminal justice research. The course features an overview of the use and interpretation of descriptive, inferential, and predictive statistics. Basic regression and data analysis techniques are discussed, along with bivariate and multivariate techniques.

### DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Credit Hours: 3

The Demonstration Project is meant to be the culmination of the M.S. program in Criminal Justice. It gives students an opportunity to demonstrate the skills they have developed in the program, providing a "final experience" that fits with their specific interests.

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# WHY CHOOSE OU ONLINE FOR A CRIMINAL JUSTICE MASTER'S DEGREE

OU Online offers high-quality, affordable, professional undergraduate and graduate programs in a flexible, online format from a top-tier public institution. OU is dedicated to providing professionals with ethics, decision-making, and front-line leadership skills needed to thrive as leaders in today's criminal justice field, making it a great place to earn a master's in criminal justice.

## FACULTY EXPERTISE

Working with faculty who have industry experience along with criminal justice experts nationwide, you'll learn how to communicate effectively with diverse audiences, analyze complex problems, and develop positive public engagement.

## ROBUST STUDENT SUPPORT

OU Online offers robust student support services, including academic support, online tutoring, mental health counseling, and an online career development center. The program accommodates the needs of working professionals, allowing you to expand your criminal justice expertise while maintaining full-time employment.

## GLOBAL ALUMNI NETWORK

With more than 250,000 alumni across the world, becoming a Sooner means you'll have access to a strong network of criminal justice leaders to accelerate your career. As a Sooner, you'll be part of a powerful network of leaders working in law enforcement organizations across the world.

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# COST & FINANCIAL AID

Earning your master's in Criminal Justice is an investment in your future — and OU Online is committed to making that investment as accessible and transparent as possible.

Students pay \$705 per credit hour, totaling \$21,150 for the program. Books and additional materials are not included.

Financial aid, scholarships, and employer tuition assistance may be available to help offset the cost. If you have questions about financial aid for your online program, don't hesitate to get in touch with the Online Aid office by emailing [onlineaid@ou.edu](mailto:onlineaid@ou.edu) or calling 405-325-2929.

A nonrefundable deposit of \$350 is required upon admission to secure your place in the program. This deposit guarantees your spot in your first semester of courses and will be applied toward your first semester's tuition.

*\* Please be aware that tuition and fees may change, as determined by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.*

## TRANSFER CREDIT

This program accepts a maximum of 6 credit hours of graduate-level transfer credit per Graduate College policy and with approval of the department.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT FINANCIAL AID: [HTTPS://ONLINE.OU.EDU/COST-AND-AID/GRADUATE/](https://online.ou.edu/cost-and-aid/graduate/)**

## TAKE THE NEXT STEP

To apply to the online Master of Science in Criminal Justice program, you must hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university (or the international equivalent).

## APPLICATION PROCESS

- Complete the online application at <https://gograd.ou.edu/apply/>
- Submit transcripts
- Provide a current resume
- Provide a personal statement outlining their goals and how they align with the program
- International students must demonstrate English proficiency

## APPLICATION TIMELINE

Applications are reviewed year-round on a rolling basis for fall, spring, and summer sessions.

A nonrefundable deposit of \$350 is required upon admission to secure your place in the program. This deposit guarantees your spot in your first semester of courses and will be applied toward your first semester's tuition.

### STEP 1

Contact an Enrollment Coach to discuss your qualifications and interest in the program.

### STEP 2

Complete the online application at <https://gograd.ou.edu/apply/>

### STEP 3

Provide supplemental materials, including a resume, official college transcripts, and a personal statement.

**TO APPLY: [HTTPS://GOGRAD.OU.EDU/APPLY/](https://gograd.ou.edu/apply/)**