

<b>USC SCHOOL</b>	Bovard College		
<b>ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT</b>			
<b>GRADUATE PROGRAM</b>	Master of Science in Criminal Justice		
<b>POST CODE</b>	1747		
<b>TERM EFFECTIVE DATE</b>	Spring 2026		

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

A brief description of the graduate program.

The Master of Science in Criminal Justice program is designed to prepare professionals to advance their careers in the field of criminal justice. Our program emphasizes the skills and evidence-based principles that shape effective criminal justice leaders.

In addition to foundational theories of criminology and criminal justice, students explore policy design and implementation alongside emerging trends in the field. Students will learn to evaluate research and use statistical data to assess the efficacy of policies and practices in criminal justice. Vulnerable populations, organizational leadership and change, and technological advances in the field of criminal justice are also covered. The program will enable students to develop as ethical and skilled decision-makers in the various branches of criminal justice.

**COMMON BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAM PATHWAYS**

A list of common bachelor's degrees that undergraduate students pursue in advance of pursuing a progressive degree option with this graduate program. Some programs are restricted to certain majors while others are open to all students.

**Open to all majors.**

**PREPARATORY UNDERGRADUATE COURSES**

A list of courses at the undergraduate level that prepare students for the graduate program. Required coursework is listed first, followed by recommended courses. If not applicable, this section will be blank.

Dept. Prefix - Course #	Course Title	Required or Recommended	Units
	NONE		

**UNDERGRADUATE COURSES USED TO REDUCE GRADUATE LEVEL UNITS**

A list of undergraduate level courses that may be used to reduce the number of graduate level units required for the graduate program. If there are none, that is specified instead.

Dept. Prefix - Course #	Course Title	Units
	NONE	

**CORE GRADUATE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (# units required)**

A list of all required graduate courses for the graduate program. None of these courses may be used toward satisfying undergraduate degree requirements.

*If special exceptions for any of these courses are made by the academic department, the course # is marked with an asterisk (\*) and the exception is explained in the "Department Notes" section at the end of this course plan template.*

<b>Dept. Prefix - Course #</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Units</b>
CJ 500	Criminology	2
CJ 505	Analysis of Criminal Justice Systems	2
CJ 510	Criminal Justice Leadership	2
CJ 515	Applied Research Methods for Criminal Justice	2
CJ 520	Applied Statistics and Data Analysis in Criminal Justice	2
CJ 525	Applied Statistics and Data Analysis in Criminal Justice	2
CJ 530	Organizational Change in Criminal Justice	2
CJ 535	Youthful Offenders	2
CJ 540	Criminal Justice Policy and Program Development	2
CJ 545	Criminal Investigations	2
CJ 550	Corrections and Community Supervision	2
CJ 555	Making a Difference in Criminal Justice	2

**PRE-APPROVED ELECTIVE COURSEWORK**

Elective coursework is approved at the discretion of the academic department. Note the following details about the total number and units required of elective coursework.

**TOTAL ELECTIVE COURSES REQUIRED FOR THE TRADITIONAL GRADUATE DEGREE**

**TOTAL ELECTIVE UNITS REQUIRED FOR THE TRADITIONAL GRADUATE DEGREE**
**TOTAL UNIT COUNTS AND REQUIRED GRADUATE UNITS**

**TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED FOR THE TRADITIONAL GRADUATE DEGREE**

**TOTAL GRADUATE UNITS THAT MAY BE WAIVED (IF ANY)**

**MINIMUM NUMBER OF GRADUATE UNITS THAT MUST BE AT THE 500 LEVEL OR ABOVE**

**NOTES FROM THE DEPARTMENT**

This section highlights any unique considerations, exceptions, or requirements for the graduate program. If a program has specific restrictions (courses, majors, etc.), they are detailed below.

- Students must complete all 24 units of the MSCJ program. This is because our program is streamlined and does not have any electives.
- You may take between one course (2 units) per term and four courses (8 units) per term.
- Our program is year-round and therefore you may start in either Spring, Summer, or Fall semester. Please contact [pdp@bovardcollege.usc.edu](mailto:pdp@bovardcollege.usc.edu) for application dates and deadlines.
- Note that our academic calendar dates differ slightly from the traditional USC calendar.
- All coursework is taught online. There is a 60-minute live Zoom class each week as well as asynchronous work through Canvas.
- Because this program is taught fully online, we are unfortunately unable to accept students who require an F-1 visa.

**Name of Authorizing Master's Program Dean****Date Approved**

Anthony Bailey

3/12/2026

**Authorizing Dean's Title**

Dean, USC Bovard College &amp; Vice President for Global and Online Initiatives