

THE MASTER'S DEGREE

General Requirements

The curricular structure of the M.S. program is listed below. Students will select one of two tracks: an **Applied Track** will be oriented to students who wish to apply criminal justice principles and research to a management or policy-based position in criminal justice. This track focuses on providing knowledge relevant for career advancement and the improvement of criminal justice system operations to practicing professionals (e.g., law enforcement officers, correctional directors). Students in this track are required to complete a policy-based paper as a final step in the course of study. The **Criminology Track** is open to students who may subsequently wish to pursue a Ph.D. in criminology or criminal justice or who are simply more interested in the behavioral and/or theoretical approaches in criminology. This track culminates in the writing of a Master's Thesis, which will make an original contribution to knowledge in the field of criminal justice/criminology.

The curricular structure of the program for Master's applicants entering the Applied track is:

Foundation Courses	15 cr.
Corrections Elective	3 or 6 cr.
Policing Elective	3 or 6 cr.
Policy-Based Paper (CJ797)	6 cr.
Total	30 cr.

**Substitutions can be made for elective courses with the permission and approval of the Graduate Coordinator. If completing 3 Corrections Elective, must complete 6 Policing Elective, and vice versa.

The curricular structure of the program for Master's applicants entering the Criminology track is:

Foundation Courses	15 cr.
Theory Courses	3 cr.
Elective Courses	6 cr.
Master's Thesis (CJ798)	6 cr.
Total	30 cr.

**Substitutions can be made for elective courses with the permission and approval of the Graduate Coordinator

All students are required to achieve a grade of “B” or better in all courses. Nine credits per semester are considered a full-time graduate load. Full-time graduate assistants (20 hours/week) are expected to maintain a full-time course load. Any graduate assistant wishing to register for more than 10 credits in a regular semester must secure the approval of their academic dean and the Dean of the Graduate School.

All requirements for the M.S. degree must be completed within a period of 10 consecutive years. Graduate credit for any course work that is more than 10 calendar years old at the time of graduation may not be used to satisfy degree requirements.

Interested students may apply by completing an application on the NDSU graduate school website. [NDSU Graduate School | North Dakota State University](#)

M.S. “Applied” Track Curriculum Details

REQUIRED COURSES

FOUNDATION COURSES (Student must complete **all** courses for a total of 15 credits)

CJ703 (3)	Advanced Criminology
CJ709 (3)	Criminal Justice Policy
CJ702 (3)	Program Evaluation
Stat725 (3)	Applied Statistics
CJ 734 (3)	Advanced Criminal Justice Methods

ELECTIVE COURSES

(Student must complete **one** course from one area and **two** courses from the other area for a total of 9 credits)

CORRECTIONS (3 Credits)

CJ707 (3)	Juvenile Corrections
CJ 733 (3)	Issues in Institutional Corrections
CJ762 (3)	Community Corrections
CJ763 (3)	Correctional Rehabilitation
CJ764 (3)	Punishment and Society

POLICING (3 Credits)

CJ755 (3)	Administrative Policing
CJ760 (3)	Police and Race Issues
CJ761 (3)	Police Effectiveness
CJ754 (3)	Police and Society
CJ765 (3)	Classics in Policing

TERMINAL PAPER

CJ797 (6)	Policy-based Paper
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M.S. "Criminology" Track Curriculum Details

REQUIRED COURSES

FOUNDATION COURSES (Student must complete **all courses** for a total of 15 credits)

CJ703 (3)	Advanced Criminology
CJ709 (3)	Criminal Justice Policy
CJ702 (3)	Program Evaluation
Stat725 (3)	Applied Statistics
CJ 734 (3)	Advanced Criminal Justice Methods

THEORY COURSES (Student must complete **one** course for a total of 3 credits)

CJ721 (3)	Individual Theories of Crime
CJ722 (3)	Structural Theories of Crime

ELECTIVE COURSES (Student must complete **two** of these courses for a total of 6 credits)

CJ606 (3)	Crime and Delinquency
CJ750 (3)	Violence
CJ752 (3)	Criminogenic Commodities
CJ607 (3)	Deviant Behavior
CJ768 (3)	Gender and Justice

TERMINAL PAPER

CJ798 (6)	Master's Thesis
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Master's Paper/Thesis

A written Master's Paper or Thesis, as required by the respective M.S. tracks must be completed and orally presented to the student's committee for defense. The Master's Paper must show originality and demonstrate the student's capacity to locate, digest and integrate relevant empirical and other information to create an effective policy analysis. Specifically, the policy paper should include the following items: (1) Introduction - present and discuss the policy featured in your paper; (2) Review existing research/literature on the policy; (3) Create a research design that describes how you could evaluate the efficacy or utility of the policy; (4) Justify your research design, and (5) Conclusions. The goal of the Master's Thesis is to demonstrate the student's ability for independent, original research productivity. In particular, the Thesis must embody results of original research focusing on a significant problem or issue in criminal justice which constitutes a definitive contribution to knowledge.

Paper/Thesis Requirements

General instructions on format are included in the North Dakota State University Graduate School *Guidelines for the Preparation of Disquisitions*, which is available at the Varsity Mart, and can be found at <http://www.ndsu.edu/gradschool>.

Paper/Thesis Committee

Each prospective candidate for the M.S. degree must select a Paper/Thesis advisor who will then assist in the selection of a three person advisory committee. The student, with the approval of the department chair, will select a major advisor. The advisor-student relationship must be mutually acceptable. The advisor will act as the chair of the student's advisory committee. The advisor and student shall agree upon two additional committee members. One of these members must be from the faculty. The other member may be either a faculty member or a qualified off-campus expert in the field (off-campus experts must have a PhD and be approved by the student's advisor and the Graduate Council). One committee member must be from outside the student's academic college.

NOTE: Other qualified individuals may participate as committee members following approval by the graduate dean upon a recommendation accompanied by rationale and curriculum vitae by the appropriate department/program chair and academic dean.

The advisory committee agreed upon by the advisor and student and approved by the department/program chair and the academic dean shall be recommended to the Dean of the Graduate School for final approval. Each committee member shall have an equal vote in committee decisions.

The plan of study should be submitted to the Graduate School for approval not later than the term immediately after the supervisory committee is formed and must be filed in the Graduate School prior to scheduling of the preliminary oral examination. Revisions in the program of study must be approved by the student, advisory committee, department/program chair (when required) and Dean of the Graduate School. The graduate dean will officially notify the student, advisory committee, department/program chair, and the academic dean of all changes.

Oral Prospectus Hearing

After the advisory committee is approved the student will prepare a proposal for the conduct of the Master's Paper/Thesis and attend an oral prospectus hearing. All committee members must be present at this hearing, which will encompass a demonstration of the interplay of student knowledge and their Paper/Thesis project and committee members will provide relevant feedback as the appropriate methods to be used and topical content for the Paper/Thesis project. This will constitute a defense of the proposal for the Paper/Thesis. After successful completion of this oral proposal defense, the student will be granted permission by the committee to begin work on the Paper/Thesis in line with the recommendations made as to the structure of this project. At least one academic semester must elapse between the oral prospectus hearing and the final oral examination of the Paper/Thesis.

Oral Defense Hearing

Students must be registered for at least one credit in the semester in which they plan to defend their Paper/Thesis and graduate. The graduate dean will formally notify the committee and the student when and where the examination has been scheduled. The examining committee shall consist of the student's advisory committee. The Paper/Thesis in a near final form must be given to the committee members at least seven (7) days prior to the final examination.

Paper/Thesis Approval

At the conclusion of each oral examination, the examining committee shall record in writing its approval or disapproval of the candidate and file its report with the graduate dean. The committee's decision filed on the Report of the Final Examination signifies that the student has been examined with respect to the knowledge required in the major area and that all course work has been satisfactorily completed. This form should be filed in the Graduate School within seven (7) days.

After the exam, the student incorporates into the Paper/Thesis corrections suggested at the oral examination. One copy of the Paper/Thesis, on regular paper, is presented to the Graduate School for editing and a format check by a disquisition editor in the Office of Graduate Studies.

After editorial, format, and graduate dean approval, five (5) final copies of the Paper/Thesis, on the required paper and bearing the disquisition approval form signed by the advisor, all other supervisory committee members, and the department chair, are to be presented, unbound, to the Office of Graduate Studies. With each copy, the candidate must submit an abstract not exceeding 350 words. These five (5) final copies must be accompanied by a receipt from the Business Office for the cost of the binding. Two (2) bound copies of the Paper/Thesis go to the University Library. The remaining three (3) bound copies are for the student, the student's adviser, and the student's department. Each candidate who passes the final examination must also submit a sixth copy of the Paper/Thesis, accompanied by an additional copy of the title page and an additional copy of the Abstract signed by the major adviser.

The student has one (1) year from the date of the final examination to deliver the six (6) final copies to the Office of Graduate Studies and complete all other degree requirements. Should the disquisition not be deposited as specified or all other degree requirements not be completed, the student must repeat the final examination. If a period of time two years or greater lapses before the final copies are submitted, the student must reapply to the Graduate School and must register for a minimum of two (2) credits.