

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
ACCELERATED MASTER'S PROGRAM IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The Accelerated Master's program allows exceptional undergraduate criminal justice students to complete their Master's degree in three semesters beyond the Bachelor's degree.

ADMISSION PROCESS:

Upon completion of 60 undergraduate credit hours, eligible Criminal Justice majors can apply to the Accelerated Master's program. A minimum GPA of 3.5 for the Criminal Justice major, an overall cumulative GPA of 3.5, and successful completion of CJ 325 (Applied Research Methods) is required prior to admission to the program. Students may apply while enrolled in CJ 325, but must earn a minimum grade of "B" prior to beginning graduate coursework. Interested students may apply by completing an application on the NDSU graduate school website [NDSU Graduate School | North Dakota State University](#) requesting at least two letters of recommendation from faculty or instructors, and submitting a statement of intent explaining why the applicant wants to pursue a Master's degree in Criminal Justice. Interested students should apply early in the criminal justice program as credits from completed 400 level courses cannot be retroactively applied to the Accelerated Master's program.

COURSES:

Once admitted to the Accelerated Master's program, students will take 12 credits out of the following 400/600 level courses (CJ 606 Crime and Delinquency; CJ 607 Deviant Behavior; CJ 660 Criminal Court System, CJ 661 Corrections, and/or CJ 665: Gender, Race, & Ethnicity in Criminal Justice) to fulfill the requirements for their Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and also receiving credit toward a Master's degree in Criminal Justice. Students enrolling in these courses at the 600 level can expect additional reading and writing beyond expectations for students completing these courses for 400 level credit. Students are required to earn a minimum of a "B" in order for the course to count toward the Master's degree. Failing to earn a "B" in any of the 400/600 cross-listed courses will be allowed one "re-take" of that course. Students receiving anything below a "B" in a retaking of a 400/600 level course will be removed from the program and will not be allowed to re-apply for admission into the Accelerated program or the traditional Master's program. Transfer credits from courses completed at other universities are not accepted for the Accelerated Master's program. Upon successful completion of the requirements for a baccalaureate degree, students will begin taking 700 level graduate courses.

POLICY PAPER/THESIS/CULMINATING PROJECT:

Students have a choice between the following: (1) writing a policy paper summarizing research evaluating a policy or practice of the student's choosing; (2) a thesis, which describes the student's original research with the guidance of a faculty advisor; or (3) a culminating project where the student delivers a 45-60 minute oral presentation on a topic or issue relating to criminal justice and approved by a faculty advisor. Students who wish to pursue additional graduate studies are encouraged to participate in the thesis option. Additional information about the policy paper/thesis/culminating project can be found in the criminal justice graduate handbook located on the NDSU Department of Criminal Justice (www.ndsu.edu/criminaljustice).

SAMPLE CURRICULUM FOR ACCELERATED MASTER'S PROGRAM:

Year 1, 2 CJ 201 Introduction to Criminal
Justice
CJ 210 Introduction to Policing
CJ 230 Criminology & Criminal Law
CJ 270: Introduction to Corrections

* Year 2 **Spring semester:**

CJ 325 Applied Research Methods
CJ Elective course

*Apply to Accelerated Master's Program upon completion of 60 credit hours

Year 3 **Fall semester:**
CJ 330 Criminal Law & Procedure (3 credits)
*CJ 406/606 Crime and Delinquency

Year 3 **Spring semester:**
*CJ 460/660 Criminal Court System (3 credits)
*CJ 407/607 Deviant Behavior (3 credits)

Year 4 **Fall semester:**
*CJ 461/661 Corrections or (3 credits)
*CJ 465/665 Gender, Race, & Ethnicity in Criminal
Justice

**Bachelor's degree completed

Year 4 **Spring semester:**
CJ 703 Advanced Criminology (3 credits)
CJ 702 Program Evaluation (3 credits)

Year 5 **Fall semester:**
CJ 734 Advanced Criminal Justice Methods (3 credits)
CJ 709 Criminal Justice Policy (3 credits)
STATS 725 Applied Statistics (3 credits)

Year 5 **Spring semester:**
CJ 797, 798, or 799 Thesis/Policy Paper/
Culminating Project (3 credits)

**Master's degree completed: 30 credits