

# Master of Criminal Justice

## Focused Coursework Option – 36 Total Credits

Fall 2007 - Present

### Core Courses

Semester Course  
Taken Grade

#### Analysis: Methods & Policy Sequence (6 credits)

*Take one of the following courses:*

CJ 501 – Research Methods in Criminal Justice, 3 credits, or  
CJ 502 – Criminal Justice Statistics, 3 credits or  
CJ 503 – Seminar in Criminal Justice Research Methods, 3 credits, or  
CJ 555 – Feminist Research Methods, 3 credits, or  
GOVT 502 – Research Methods in Government, 3 credits, or  
GOVT 503 – Qualitative Research Methods, 3 credits, or  
MSW 560 – Social Work Research, 3 credits, or  
SOC 553 – Seminar in Sociological Research, 3 credits, or  
WS 555 – Advanced Feminist Research Methods, 3 credits

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*Take one of the following courses:*

CJ 510 – Advanced Criminal Justice Administrative  
Systems, 3 credits, or  
CJ 541 – Seminar in Criminal Justice Policy Analysis  
and Planning, 3 credits, or  
CJ 542 – Seminar in Applied Criminal Justice Analysis,  
3 credits, or  
GOVT 530 – Seminar in Public Policy, 3 credits, or  
MSW 500 – Social Problems and Social Welfare Policy, 3 credits

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#### Theory: Criminology, Diversity & Ethics (9 credits)

*Take one of the following two courses:*

CJ 511 – Nature of Crime, 3 credits, or  
SOC 491 – Criminological Theory

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*Take one of the following two courses:*

CJ 514 – Race, Crime and Justice, 3 credits, or  
CJ 521 – Law & Social Control, 3 credits

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*Complete the following course:*

CJ 525 – Issues in Ethics, Law and Criminal Justice, 3 credits

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**CJ Electives - Total Credits Required = 12**

*No more than three (3) credits of Directed Readings (CJ 591), Internship (CJ 593), or Independent Research (CJ 592) may be used as CJ electives.*

	<b>Semester Taken</b>	<b>Course Grade</b>
Course: _____	_____	_____
Course: _____	_____	_____
Course: _____	_____	_____
Course: _____	_____	_____

**General Electives/Minor - Total Credits Required = 9;**

These credits may be selected entirely from the Criminal Justice curriculum or may be selected from the graduate curriculum of any other department at NMSU.

*No more than three (3) credits of Directed Readings (CJ 591), Internship (CJ 593), or Independent Research (CJ 592) may be used as general electives.*

*A minor is optional and is earned by completing nine credit hours in any one department outside of Criminal Justice that offers a minor at the graduate level. Information about the availability and requirements of a specific minor can be obtained by inquiring with the academic department where you are interested in pursuing a minor.*

	<b>Semester Taken</b>	<b>Course Grade</b>
Course: _____	_____	_____
Course: _____	_____	_____
Course: _____	_____	_____

**Minor Designation (Optional):** \_\_\_\_\_

## Comprehensive Examination

Students choosing the ***focused coursework*** option are required to pass a formal written comprehensive examination. Only those students who have completed all five of the required core courses are eligible to take the written comprehensive examination.

The comprehensive examination is given electronically once each semester. The comprehensive examination is typically scheduled during October and March.

The comprehensive examination has two components reflecting the primary areas of the core curriculum; **Analysis and Theory**. Each student must write a passing answer to the provided examination component from each core curriculum area in order to pass the comprehensive examination.

Each semester the date and time of the comprehensive examination is posted in various areas within the Department of Criminal Justice and on the student listserv, and announced in graduate classes. All students taking the examination at a scheduled date will answer the same component questions. Student answers to the questions are blind-graded by two professors for each exam component. Exams are graded as either (1) pass with distinction; (2) pass; (3) not pass.

A student receiving a grade of ***not pass*** on any component of the examination is required to retake that component of the examination. A student receiving a grade of ***not pass*** two times on the same component must meet with a panel of faculty members for an oral examination over the exam component that was not passed. If after the oral examination the student's performance does not receive a ***passing*** grade, that student will be required to wait until the next regularly scheduled comprehensive examination to retake the exam component receiving a ***not pass*** grade.

As a point of reference, a ***passing*** grade requires a "B" or better effort. An effort of "C" or lower is considered ***not passing***.