

General Information

Faculty

Our faculty have graduated from a number of the top programs in the country. They are dedicated to student learning and fulfilling the mission of New Mexico State University.

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Visit our department:

Room 107, Breland Hall

New Mexico State University



Department of Criminal Justice



Be Bold. Shape the Future.
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Criminal Justice

NM STATE UNIVERSITY College of
Arts and Sciences

Our Mission

The mission of the Department of Criminal Justice is to offer quality undergraduate and graduate educational programming that provides students with valuable insights into the criminal justice system through a diverse and inter-disciplinary curriculum, experiential learning, and faculty-led research opportunities. Students will develop the skills necessary for successful careers in fields related to criminology and criminal justice. The department supports and encourages scholarly, experiential, and applied research endeavors, including those involving collaboration with local, state, and federal agencies dealing with crime, law enforcement, corrections, justice studies, law, juvenile justice, social justice, immigration, punishment and the borderlands.

Our Vision

The vision of the Department of Criminal Justice is to be one of the nation's premier academic units specializing in crime and criminal justice issues, including those of the southwestern borderlands region. The curriculum shall continue to evolve to embrace this uniqueness toward supporting NMSU's Federal Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI), Minority Serving Institution (MSI), and Land Grant missions. We seek to promote interdisciplinary inquiry in our approach to education with real-world experience, and theoretical, policy-oriented, and applied research in criminology, law, social justice, juvenile justice, human trafficking, and corrections. The department seeks to prepare traditional and non-traditional students with the tools necessary to excel as future professionals and leaders in the field of Criminal Justice.

More specifically, we would like for our students to:

Critically analyze the criminal justice systems developing critical thinking, reading and writing skills

- Through the use of logic
- Scholarly research
- Internships

Develop an understanding of crime as a social construct

- Through an overview of criminological theory
- Historical perspectives
- Qualitative and quantitative methods

Develop an understanding of the role of power and control in the criminal justice system, including

- Race, gender, social class, religion, sexual orientation, age, cultures
- Historical perspectives
- Internships

Understand the importance of ethics in criminal justice

- Through an understanding of justice

The NMSU Department of Criminal Justice

Is committed to the aforementioned objectives and aims to fulfill them by emphasizing in coursework the following skills

- Reading
- Writing
- Oral communication
- Applied projects

Bachelor of Criminal Justice

A minimum of 33 credits of CJ Coursework
Required Courses:

LOWER DIVISION

Must be completed prior to taking upper division courses *

CJUS 1110G – Introduction to Criminal Justice (prerequisite for all other CJ classes)

CJUS 1120 - Criminal Law I

UPPER DIVISION

CJUS 300 – Introduction to Criminal Justice Research

CJUS 301 - Advanced Research Methods.

CJUS 302 - Crime, Justice and Society

CJUS 425 - Issues in Ethics, Law and Criminal Justice

Choose one upper division theory course from the following 3 options:

CJUS 303 - Criminological Theory

CJUS 304 - Historical Perspectives in Criminal Justice

CJUS 414 - Race, Crime and Justice

Master of Criminal Justice

There are two options to complete the MCJ degree, and one of these options is offered both online and through campus-based courses. The Coursework option culminates in a Comprehensive Exam (Comps) during the second year. This option can be taken either completely online or "live" with traditional campus-based classes. The Thesis option can only be completed through traditional coursework culminating in a thesis defense. Both of these options are designed to be completed within two years (four semesters), though in some cases students may take longer.