

MASTER OF ARTS CRIMINAL JUSTICE (GCJ)

Updated June 2, 2025

Criminal Justice Graduate Program Chair: Associate Professor K. Maier; Professors: M. Bertrand, S. Kohm, K. Walby, M. Weinrath; Associate Professors: B. Dobchuk-Land, K. Gorkoff; Assistant Professors: M. Cassiano, A. Tepperman, D. Kennedy; Instructors: A. Curran, S. Heath, J. Torres.

INTRODUCTION

Criminal Justice is an interdisciplinary field that examines police, courts, corrections, victims, and youth justice. Criminal Justice at the University of Winnipeg focuses on multiple aspects of the justice system, exploring social responses to crime and policies designed to ameliorate its effects. Organizations are relying more and more on research-based decision-making and policy development. Modern and progressive police forces, legal agencies, and correctional organizations are increasingly recruiting individuals with education in related areas such as criminal justice. Thus, whether your intention is for the MA to be your terminal degree or to go on to a PhD, such knowledge and skills are becoming more and more important.

Our 24-month program provides opportunities for advanced training in theory, methods and research. The program may be completed on a part-time or full-time basis and students may pursue a Course and Knowledge Synthesis Project-based or a Course and Thesis-based program of study. Because of its flexibility and options for practical and applied studies, the Master of Arts in Criminal Justice will appeal to both traditional students seeking to pursue advanced studies in the social sciences and/or go on to PhD programs, as well as in-service professionals.

Objectives

Students will gain:

- a) a strong understanding of contemporary criminal justice theories;
- b) a strong grasp of research methodology, study design and application;
- c) knowledge of critical and historical perspectives on the criminal justice system, its agents and its strengths and limitations in responding to the socially disadvantaged.

Admission (Application Deadline February 1)

How to Apply:

1. Complete the on-line application form available at:
<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/graduate-studies/future-students/online-application-form.html>
2. Provide official/notarized transcripts of academic work completed to date, sent directly from the issuing institution. If the transcript does not show that a completed degree has been conferred, an official/notarized copy of your diploma or a letter indicating the expected date of graduation is also required prior to September.
3. You will need to provide the email addresses of two individuals most familiar with your academic work and relevant experience who can provide references towards your ability to succeed in graduate school. Referees' emails should be university or other work- or institution-based email addresses.
4. Within the application, you will be asked to provide a narrative statement, proposal for a Knowledge Synthesis Project or Thesis, and a description of any other achievements, each of which needs to be 1800 characters or less. You will also be asked to identify your desired faculty supervisor.
5. If applicable, attach your curriculum vitae. Pertinent listings include scholarships, awards, grants, and other distinctions; conference papers, other presentations, and publications; and volunteer and community service.
6. Include a writing sample written in English. This will preferably be your Honours thesis, but if not completed at the time of application or if you did not do a thesis, it should be a final paper from a recent course with the instructor's comments visible on the essay. The committee will also consider supplementary materials.
7. Applicants for whom English is an additional language should include an official copy of TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo scores.

Application Deadline:

Application packages will be on hold until ALL required documents are received. The application deadline is **February 1** for all applicants. All application materials must be received by this deadline in order to receive consideration for admission in September of a given year and to be considered for funding. Late applications will not normally be considered for admission, but if they are, financial assistance cannot be guaranteed for late applicants. The normal date to begin the program is September. Information on awards and how to apply is outlined at: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/graduate-studies/> **Look to the left and click on “Funding” under Graduate Studies Links.**

English requirement for applicants for whom English is an additional language:

A minimum TOEFL score of 600 (paper-based), 250 (computer-based), or 100 (internet-based), with a score of at least 22 on the writing and speaking component; or an IELTS score of 7.5, or a Duolingo score of 125. Please note that the TOEFL requirement is higher for the MA in Criminal Justice than the general requirement for Graduate Studies at the University of Winnipeg.

The test should have been taken within a year of the date on which a completed application is filed.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for admission to the Master of Arts in Criminal Justice, students will preferably hold a recognized Honours degree in Criminal Justice or Criminology with a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 or higher. Students with a four-year social science degree, strong backgrounds in theory and methods and a minimum GPA of 3.0 or higher will also be considered.

Students without a strong background in criminology or criminal justice may be asked to take additional courses at the third- and/or fourth-year level or complete a qualifying year.

Individuals with five or more years of experience at the line level (police officer, probation officer) in the justice field may be given credit for CJ-3800/6 field placement, although this will only be put towards qualifying year courses. There may be other professional experiences that can be considered.

Further inquiries should be directed towards Graduate Program Chair Dr. Katharina Maier at k.maier@uwinnipeg.ca

REQUIREMENTS FOR AN MA IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Options

MA Courses and Thesis

MA Courses and Knowledge Synthesis Project (KSP)

Length	Expected
Full time	24 months
Part Time	48 months

Credit Hours 27

It is the objective of the Criminal Justice Master's degree program to equip graduates to think and write critically, and to conduct empirical or legal research. The Criminal Justice Master's program anticipates students taking one of two streams to accomplish this.

In the Courses and Knowledge Synthesis Project-based stream, students will complete 27 credit hours: 4 required courses (12 credit hours), 4 elective courses (12 credit hours), and the Knowledge Synthesis Project (3 credit hours).

In the Courses and Thesis-based stream, students will complete 27 credit hours: 4 required courses (12 credit hours), 2 elective courses (6 credit hours), and the Thesis (9 credit hours).

Electives for either stream may be taken from CJ electives, approved courses from the MPA or Indigenous Governance graduate programs, and/or through the Western Deans agreement.

Differences between the two streams pertain to their breadth and scope. Thesis stream students are required to propose and execute an original and elaborate research study and provide an extensive written manuscript. KSP students will complete a project that synthesizes an existing body of knowledge based on specific methodologies (e.g., scoping review, systematic review, meta-analysis). More details can be found on the Criminal Justice website under the Graduate Program section: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/criminal-justice/graduate-program-and-courses/index.html>

Both streams require students to have a faculty supervisor. For either the Thesis or KSP, the faculty supervisor must be a member of the Criminal Justice Department. The supervisor will provide direction to the student on the program of study, direct research, and supervise the KSP or Thesis.

Students are expected to obtain a minimum grade of B (grade point of 3.0) in all courses presented for graduation.

REQUIREMENTS – COURSE AND KNOWLEDGE SYNTHESIS PROJECT BASED OPTION

27 Credits

Required (15 hours)

GCJ 7101/3 Conceptualizing Criminal Justice
GCJ 7117/3 Research Design
GCJ 7130/3 Constitutional Issues in Criminal Law
GCJ 7140/3 Criminal Justice Policy
GCJ 7801/3 Knowledge Synthesis Project

Electives (12 hours; note that not all electives are offered each year)

*GCJ 7102/3 Advances in Qualitative and Visual Methods
*GCJ 7105/3 Youth & the Criminal Justice System
*GCJ 7116/3 Program & Policy Evaluation
*GCJ 7300/3 Critical Criminal Justice Theory
*GCJ 7400/3 Selected Topics
GCJ 7401/3 Directed Readings
*GCJ 7500 Colonialism and Criminal Justice in Canada
*GCJ 7654 Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Preventing Wrongful Convictions

*May not be repeated if taken at the 4000 level.

REQUIREMENTS – THESIS BASED OPTION

27 Credits

Required (21 hours)

GCJ 7101/3 Conceptualizing Criminal Justice
GCJ 7117/3 Research Design
GCJ 7130/3 Constitutional Issues in Criminal Law
GCJ 7140/3 Criminal Justice Policy
GCJ 7900/9 Thesis

Electives (6 hours; note that not all electives are offered each year)

*GCJ 7102/3 Advances in Qualitative and Visual Methods
*GCJ 7105/3 Youth & the Criminal Justice System
*GCJ 7116/3 Program & Policy Evaluation
*GCJ 7300/3 Critical Criminal Justice Theory
*GCJ 7400/3 Selected Topics
GCJ 7401/3 Directed Readings
*GCJ 7500 Colonialism and Criminal Justice in Canada
*GCJ 7654 Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Preventing Wrongful Convictions

*May not be repeated if taken at the 4000 level.

Select courses from the Master's of Public Administration and Indigenous Governance may also serve as electives:

Indigenous Governance

GIS-7021(6) Pathways to Indigenous Wisdom
GIS-7022(6) Indigenous Research Methodologies and Ethics
GIS-7024(3) Biocultural Diversity Conservation: Balancing Scientific and Indigenous Knowledge Practices.
GIS-7026(3) Community Food Security: Indigenous and International Perspectives.
GIS-7028(6) Human and Indigenous Rights in Latin America

Public Administration

GPOL 7385(3) Special Topics in Public Administration

Students interested in taking electives through the Western Deans Agreement should contact the CJ Graduate Program Chair.