



# WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## GRADUATE STUDIES FACT SHEET

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE

#### PROGRAM OF STUDY

The master of science in criminal justice offers a multidisciplinary curriculum to give students a sophisticated working knowledge of the major systems within the field. Students will take challenging and rigorous courses rooted in history, law, philosophy, psychology, research, sociology, management, and political science that involve critical analysis of complex issues.

Faculty provide a quality education to students who have demonstrated competence and commitment to learning and growth, who desire to make a meaningful contribution in the field of criminal justice, and who share the values of idealism, honesty, integrity, justice, and fairness.

Internet scheduling and evening courses make full- or part-time graduate study at West Chester University convenient for anyone interested in pursuing this degree.

The program is well-suited for current and future criminal justice professionals, as well as those who plan to pursue further graduate study.

#### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates of the program have pursued careers in criminal justice and related agencies at the local, state, and federal levels. Many students also have obtained employment as instructors at various area colleges. Several have continued on to achieve doctoral degrees from American University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Rutgers University, and Temple University, as well as law degrees.

#### THE CURRICULUM

A total of 30 semester hours is required for the master of science degree in criminal justice. Students may choose a thesis or nonthesis option.

Required courses include the following:

- CRJ 505 Criminological Theory
- CRJ 507 Justice and Professional Ethics
- CRJ 508 Research Design and Analysis
- CRJ 509 Criminal Jurisprudence
- CRJ 600 Proseminar

Students who choose the thesis option must complete CRJ 610 (thesis) and an additional 12 semester hours of criminal justice elective courses. Those choosing the nonthesis option must select 15 semester hours of elective courses.

The Department of Criminal Justice offers a number of elective courses on a variety of topics. Some of these include the following:

- Addictions
- Applied Legal Studies
- Bioterrorism and Public Health
- Controversial Criminal Jurisprudence
- Contemporary Issues in Corrections
- Crime Mapping and Analysis
- Criminal Behavior and the Law
- Criminal Justice Administration
- Criminal Profiling
- Cyber Crime
- Interviewing and Counseling Techniques in Criminal Justice
- Juvenile Law
- Topical Seminar on Race and Crime
- Victimology

#### ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Students should submit the following materials to the Office of Graduate Studies and Extended Education:

- Completed graduate application, including goals statement (apply online at [www.wcupa.edu/grad](http://www.wcupa.edu/grad))

- Official academic transcripts from all colleges and universities attended demonstrating a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.8 or better
- Two letters of recommendation
- Scores from the Miller Analogies Test (MAT)

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: Office of Graduate Studies and Extended Education  
McKelvie Hall  
102 West Rosedale Avenue  
West Chester University  
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2943

Fax: 610-436-2763

E-mail: [gradstudy@wcupa.edu](mailto:gradstudy@wcupa.edu)

Web: [www.wcupa.edu/grad](http://www.wcupa.edu/grad)

Visit: [www.facebook.com/wcugrad](http://www.facebook.com/wcugrad)

*Or contact the department:*

Write: Dr. Mary Brewster, Graduate Coordinator  
Department of Criminal Justice  
200 Ruby Jones Hall  
West Chester University  
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2630/2647

E-mail: [mbrewster@wcupa.edu](mailto:mbrewster@wcupa.edu)

Web: [www.wcupa.edu/\\_academics/sch\\_sba/g-cj.html](http://www.wcupa.edu/_academics/sch_sba/g-cj.html)

The Graduate Catalog is available online at [www.wcupa.edu/\\_information/official\\_documents/graduate.catalog/](http://www.wcupa.edu/_information/official_documents/graduate.catalog/).

#### ABOUT GRADUATE STUDIES

West Chester University offers high-quality graduate degrees in more than 70 disciplines or areas of study, as well as certificate and certification programs. The graduate studies program has grown remarkably

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since its introduction in 1960. West Chester University's program is the largest within the 14 institutions in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education enrolling more than 2,100 graduate students.

Programs can be taken on a part-time basis, and most of the graduate classes are scheduled during late afternoons and evenings for the benefit of in-service teachers and other employed persons.

## ABOUT WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

A regional, public institution, West Chester University of Pennsylvania offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate degrees, as well as certification and certificate programs,

in more than 100 subject areas. As the second largest member of the State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition.

With a rich heritage dating back to the 19th century, West Chester University was founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal School for the purpose of training teachers for the Commonwealth's newly established public schools. In 1960, West Chester State Teachers College expanded its programs to include liberal arts and graduate degrees and, as a result, dropped "Teachers" from its name. In 1983, West Chester State College became one of the 14 institutions in the State System of Higher Education. Along with its university status, the school ac-

quired a new system of governance and the opportunity to expand its degree programs.

Today, more than 15,400 graduate and undergraduate students, as well as 1,500 faculty and staff, study and work on the 406-acre campus. Situated in the Borough of West Chester, the campus is a picturesque mix of Gothic, Victorian, and modern architecture with pleasant, tree-shaded walks.

Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor, West Chester University is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington, Del. The campus is convenient to major cultural institutions, recreational activities, and commercial businesses, many of which provide internship opportunities for WCU's students.

