
THE KINNANE GRADUATE PROGRAM IN ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY AND CONTENT

The AOJ program philosophy is based on the assumption that criminal justice is a true profession dedicated to serving society and preserving the basic rights and freedoms of all people. To fulfill these goals, the criminal justice profession requires efficient, knowledgeable, sensitive, ethical and competent leaders. The Administration of Justice program is built on a common core of courses involving a broad overview of government management, organizational and interpersonal dynamics, professional ethics and research competence.

Mercyhurst University has a service orientation that recognizes the special needs of both new and practicing professionals. The program is committed to in-service professionals whose career and personal responsibilities make it very difficult to acquire advanced managerial training. Accordingly, the Mercyhurst program offers evening courses each term.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE MASTER'S DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Core Courses

AOJ 501	Research Methods in Criminal Justice
AOJ 502	Organizational and Human Behavior
AOJ 506	Professional Ethics
AOJ 604	Criminal Justice Planning and Evaluation
AOJ 605	Government Management
AOJ 621	Advanced Criminology or
AOJ 511	Historical and Comparative Criminal Justice

Elective Courses (choose five)**

AOJ 503	Issues in Correctional Administration
AOJ 511	Historical and Comparative Criminal Justice
AOJ 515	Organized and White Collar Crime
AOJ 519	Victimology
AOJ 520	Issues in Criminal Justice
AOJ 532	Public Law and Public Administration
AOJ 550	Politics of Crime
AOJ 595	Women and Crime
AOJ 610	Law and Society
AOJ 616	Issues in Juvenile Justice
AOJ 620	Forensic Science
AOJ 621	Advanced Criminology
AOJ 625	Theories in Corrections and Criminal Justice
AOJ 628	Seminar: Crime Analysis
AOJ 630	Policy, Politics, Community Coalitions in Administration of Justice
AOJ 631	Political Crime and Terrorism
AOJ 634	Seminar: Criminology and Crime Policy
AOJ 637	Seminar: Special Topics in Juvenile and Criminal Justice
AOJ 650	Supervised Justice Administration Readings
AOJ 675	Justice Administration Thesis

** Students who elect a six-credit thesis take only three criminal justice electives. The thesis substitutes for the fourth and fifth elective courses.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

AOJ 501

Research Methods in Criminal Justice 3 credits

This course deals with scientific research methodology applicable to the field of criminal justice. The course will focus upon formulation, model construction, research designs and data gathering strategies including survey sampling, data analysis, proposal writing and data presentation. Completion of the course will provide the student with basic skills necessary to undertake supervised thesis work and independent research in the area of criminal justice systems.

AOJ 502

Organizational and Human Behavior 3 credits

This course explores organizational behavior based upon research and theory from the behavioral sciences. The course focuses on an analysis of the expected organizational effects of a variety of individual, team and group behaviors. Among the topics discussed are performance evaluation, creative and innovative leadership, group decision making, cooperation, competition and intergroup conflict. Communication, leadership and planned change in organizations are emphasized.

AOJ 503

Issues in Correctional Administration 3 credits

This course focuses on the structure, function and operation of modern correctional administration, both institutional and community based. Target issues relevant to inherent systematic problems are explored in detail.

AOJ 506

Professional Ethics 3 credits

This course is designed to provide a philosophical blend of both theoretical principles and practical issues as they bear on criminal justice professionals. Special emphasis is placed on the role of professional ethics and customs as they affect and are affected by contemporary values.

AOJ 511

Historical and Comparative Criminal Justice 3 credits

This course is a survey of the origins and development of the criminal justice system

in the United States. Emphasis is placed on studying the evolution of the law enforcement and corrections components of this system. Comparisons are drawn with the British and some continental European criminal justice systems.

AOJ 515

Seminar: Organized and White Collar Crime 3 credits

This course examines corporate, occupational, professional and organized crime – the biggest growth area of crime and law enforcement activity today. Through analysis of cases, students explore recent legal developments and literature and emerging trends in the criminal justice system's reaction to these types of crimes

AOJ 519

Victimology 3 credits

This course focuses upon a recent and rapidly developing branch of criminology which is designed to study the crime victim. Included will be victim vulnerability – the susceptibility of certain groups of people to victimization – and culpability – the actions on the part of individuals which, under certain circumstances, suggest victims may be partly responsible for their own victimization. Recently enacted laws pertaining to the rights of victims will be examined, as well as programs that aid victims in their plight

AOJ 520

Issues in Criminal Justice 3 credits

This course offers a concentrated study of selected critical issues in the criminal justice system. The issues are timely and of concern to both academicians and practitioners of law enforcement and corrections.

AOJ 532

Seminar: Public law and Public Administration 3 credits

This seminar provides the opportunity to examine "the administrative process" and the constitutionality of the frequently broad discretion granted to agencies. Focus is on the wisdom and legality of delegation as well as the political, administrative, and legal elements of administrative actions.

AOJ 550

Seminar: Politics of Crime 3 credits

This seminar studies the ideological, theoretical, and conceptual perspectives of social organization, criminality, public policy, and the mechanics of social control. Topics include the use of power and position in the development of criminal justice policies and the rhetoric and symbolic aspects of crime control. The seminar also covers public perceptions and reactions to crime and criminal justice issues.

AOJ 595

Seminar: Women and Crime 3 credits

This seminar provides a study of the female offender with emphasis on the different treatment received by male and female offenders. Attention is given to female criminality, special problems in supervising female offenders and women in prison. Through a critique of contemporary research and literature, the myths surrounding women and crime are examined.

AOJ 604

Criminal Justice Planning and Evaluation 3 credits

The objective of this course is to focus on developing new projects from inception to completion. It deals with establishing priorities, securing funding, administering programs, and designing and implementing evaluative criteria. It incorporates empirical data evaluation, including parametric and nonparametric techniques, and the use of computers in evaluation.

AOJ 605

Government Management 3 credits

Emphasis in this course is placed on primary areas of personnel and fiscal administration. Personnel areas such as labor/management relations, motivation, planning, control, recruitment, selection, training and evaluation are covered. In addition, students explore basic accounting principles and procedures including budgeting, financial statements, short- and long-term sources and the uses of capital, grantsmanship and managerial control models.

AOJ 610**Seminar: Law and Society****3 credits**

Through the examination and critique of sociological studies, this seminar features various theoretical, empirical and legal approaches to understanding the relationship between law and society. This is not only a study of the legal system, but an attempt to understand the nature of social order through a study of law.

AOJ 616**Issues in Juvenile Justice****3 credits**

The majority of serious adult criminals begin their deviant careers as juveniles, therefore an investigation of the origins of juvenile delinquency is simultaneously an examination of many of the origins of crime and deviance generally. Students explore juvenile crime from a variety of perspectives and contemporary theoretical approaches to the origins of delinquent youth. This entails a critical examination of the contemporary juvenile justice system and discussion of current efforts to reform the system. The seminar also includes discussions of the connections among child abuse, drug abuse, gang involvement, familial and social factors and juvenile crime.

AOJ 618**Seminar: Computers, Crime and Criminology****3 credits**

Computers have had a profound impact on recent history. This seminar explores the impact of the growing computer technology in relationship to crime, criminology and the criminal justice system. Topics include the use of computers as a research tool, as a law enforcement investigative tool, and the types of, and control of, computer crime.

AOJ 620**Seminar: Forensic Science****3 credits**

This semester is a special study of the newest techniques used by science in the administration of justice. It includes case studies, laboratory techniques, interpretation of proof and the available scientific resources. Some laboratory work is required; previous work in criminalistics is helpful.

AOJ 621**Seminar: Advanced Criminology****3 credits**

The purpose of this seminar is to provide access to most of the significant current research and literature in the field of

criminology. Through the examination and critique of contemporary works, the nexus of theory and method is addressed. Major consideration is given to typologies such as criminal behavior systems.

AOJ 625**Theories in Corrections and Criminal Justice****3 credits**

As a study of the major issues and conflicts characteristic of corrections, this course focuses on empirical and theoretical literature reflecting legal, sociological, psychological and public-policy viewpoints affecting corrections and criminal justice. Emphasis is placed on the ideologies that reflect and shape the development of corrections as both a subsystem and a goal of the criminal justice system.

AOJ 628**Seminar: Crime Analysis****3 credits**

This integrated lecture and application course emphasizes practical skills and the use of computerized tools; designed to develop both basic and advanced skills in criminal analysis.

AOJ 629**Seminar: Drugs, Crime and Culture****3 credits**

This seminar focuses on critical issues at the nexus between drug use and the American criminal justice system. Topics include examining drug use in America from the historical, sociological and biopsychological perspectives. This seminar also reviews the American criminal justice policy as related to drug use. A variety of approaches to the problem of drug use and the treatment of drug use will be explored.

AOJ 630**Seminar: Public Policy Analysis****3 credits**

This seminar is based on several premises, all of which relate to the idea that the complex task of public administration is "about" policy making; which means that it is "about" politics, and that politics is increasingly "about" leadership, inter-governmental management, and the establishment of community coalitions. To complicate matters, all of this must take place in a public environment of uncertain competition, democratic ideals, ethical and legal concerns and the ever-present media

AOJ 631**Seminar: Political Crime and Terrorism****3 credits**

This seminar examines ideological

crimes both by and against governments including human rights violations, secret police activities, genocide and crimes by police. Students also explore domestic and international terrorism, protest, assassinations and espionage.

AOJ 634**Seminar: Criminology and Crime Policy****3 credits**

The seminar incorporates an academic review of prevailing criminological theories and a critique of crime policies. Conceptual and ideological perspectives are used to examine assumptions and objectives of public policy responses to crime. Seminar themes include the use of empirical information in policy decision-making, the social construction of crime, and the limits of crime policy.

AOJ 637**Seminar: Special Topics in Juvenile and Criminal Justice****3 credits**

Independent study and directed reading course is designed for second-year students with the approval of the graduate director. This course is for preliminary thesis research.

AOJ 650**Supervised Justice Administration Readings****3 credits**

This individualized course is designed to meet the students' special interests in an area of law enforcement or corrections administration. The course may include a mixture of law enforcement or corrections administration as well as reading, projects, special seminars or lectures, which may relate to the students' learning goals. Students are expected to meet with their tutors at least 15 hours to discuss, review and evaluate their progress. No student may enroll in this course without filing a learning plan for approval by the graduate program director.

AOJ 675**Justice Administration Thesis****6 credits**

The thesis should be planned research on a unique topic related to corrections administration. In the completed thesis, the student must demonstrate a knowledge of the relevant literature. The research project is executed and evaluated through a written document and an oral presentation. Thesis topics must be approved by the program director and the thesis advisor prior to beginning the research.