Overlapping Careers

The fields of public administration and criminal justice are closely connected, and they can overlap in careers in public, nonprofit and private organizations. This program emphasizes research, theory, policy and organizational administration in both fields and prepares students for leadership roles in careers in which the fields overlap.

Public Administration and Criminal Justice at UCF

UCF offers a Master of Public Administration (42 credit hours) and a Master of Science in Criminal Justice (36 credit hours). The M.P.A. + M.S.CJ Dual Degree Program enables students to earn both degrees concurrently in 51 credit hours.

Master of Public Administration

The NASPAA*-accredited M.P.A. program equips students with the skills and analytic techniques needed for successful careers as public administrators. The program is oriented towards problems facing local government, including those associated with finance, human resources, emergency management and growth management.

Master of Science in Criminal Justice

The M.S.CJ program educates students about the complexities of the criminal justice system in the U.S. and abroad. The curriculum focuses on management, administrative and criminal justice theory, basic research methods, and descriptive statistics. Students learn to become critical consumers of criminal justice research.

Program Highlights:

- Comprehensive education for criminal justice and public administrators
- Part-time, full-time, evening and online options
- Two degrees in fewer credit hours

Program Content Includes:

- Public Policy and Governance
- Public Budgeting and Finance
- Human Resources and Organization Management
- Strategic Planning and Management
- Criminal Justice Organizations
- Criminal Justice Policy Analysis
- Theories of Crime and Criminality
- Research Methods and Statistics

For complete program requirements, see the UCF Graduate Catalog at graduatecatalog.ucf.edu.

cohpa.ucf.edu/dual-mpa-mscj
WHERE CAN I GET A JOB?

Graduates of the M.P.A. + M.S.CJ Dual Degree Program will be well-positioned to secure leadership positions in federal, state and local government agencies; nonprofit organizations and non-governmental organizations; higher education; and private sector companies that require in-depth knowledge of criminal justice and public administration. Individuals with knowledge and skills in both disciplines will stand out among applicants for jobs as administrators, managers, analysts and researchers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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QUICK FACTS:

Curriculum

• Dual degree curriculum includes core courses from each graduate program
• Students choose two electives from a list of approved courses that enhance the curriculum
• Capstone course provides students with an opportunity to reflect on their graduate education and apply the skills, knowledge and values they gained to public problems

Application and Admission

• Prospective students apply to either graduate program and select its dual degree track
• Both graduate programs review applications and determine admissions to the M.P.A. + M.S.CJ Dual Degree Program
• Apply at admissions.graduate.ucf.edu

DID YOU KNOW?

To help incarcerated individuals reenter society, U.S. governments at all levels work closely with community-based nonprofit organizations, philanthropic foundations, university-based researchers and think tanks to evaluate strategies for successful reentry. Anyone involved in leading or managing an effort must be prepared to work effectively across the sectors. — publicservicecareers.org

POSSIBLE JOB TITLES:

• Public Policy Analyst
• Security Director
• Budget/Finance Director
• Public Safety Communications Manager
• City/County Administrator
• Criminal Justice Research Associate
• Nonprofit Executive Director
• Correctional Services Specialist
• Emergency Operations Director
• Prison Warden
• Public Safety Manager
• Law Enforcement Administrator