

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNSELING SPECIALIST CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED STUDY

General Information

The Departments of Criminology and Counseling have collaborated on the establishment of a Certificate of Advanced Study in Criminal Justice Counseling at CSUF for students who are fully classified in the MS Counseling, MFCC Option, or MS Program in Criminology or graduates of either of the two programs. The program would award a Certificate of Advanced Study in Criminal Justice Counseling focusing on the areas of criminology and counseling. For counseling students, courses in criminology would be taken and for criminology students, courses in counseling would be taken. The Criminal Justice Counseling Specialist Certificate of Advanced Study will not be awarded in place of the Masters Degree in either the Criminology or Counseling Programs.

The offender population in California is on the increase due to the growing crime rate and recent legislation such as "Three Strikes." In 1997, California's inmate population exceeded 147,000 and the nation's prison population exceeded 1 million. In California, there are in excess of 101,000 persons on parole and many more on probation and in our jails. As a result of such staggering statistics and with the costs of incarceration skyrocketing (21,500 per year to house the average adult inmate and \$31,000 per year to house the average juvenile in California institutions), criminal justice treatment specialists are in demand and it is projected that this trend is expected to continue or increase in the foreseeable future. The California Department of Corrections, county probation agencies, private community corrections agencies, and juvenile halls are some examples of organizations that are in need of employees with the skills that this certificate is designed to provide.

How to Apply

The Criminal Justice Counseling Specialist Certificate is highly selective. Counseling students interested in applying must submit applications prior to February 10 to the CJCSC Coordinator in Criminology. Criminology students interested in applying must submit applications prior to February 10 to the CJCSC Coordinator in Counseling. At the time of application, students must also submit documentation of GPA, three letters of reference, and a personal essay including a statement of the student's values and goals.

Program Specifics

The Criminal Justice Counseling Specialist Certificate is designed for students who are currently enrolled in the MS Counseling-MFCC Option, MS Program in Criminology or graduates of either of the two programs.

Admission/Entry Requirements

The Program admission/entry requirements are as follows:

- The student must be enrolled as a fully classified graduate student of Criminology or M.S. Counseling or be a graduate of either masters program.
- The student must have a 3.0 undergraduate GPA in the last sixty units of study.
- Graduates of either masters program must maintain at least a 3.0 GPA overall and within the respective program.
- Currently enrolled students must be advanced to candidacy in their respective programs before applications to the Certificate of Advanced Study Program will be accepted. All applications must be completed on or before February 10. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.
- If the student has already graduated, he/she must reapply to the University and must be regularly enrolled in Certificate of Advanced Study classes.
- Students must demonstrate excellent academic, professional, and personal characteristics. Applicants will be evaluated on GPA, letters of reference, personal interviews, and a personal essay which will include a statement of the student's values and goals.
- The certificate must be completed within four years from the time of admission to the Certificate Program.

Program for Counseling Students

Counseling students working on a Master's Degree in MFC Counseling will be required to take the following five (5) criminology courses totaling 16 units. The Counseling Department will allow its graduate students up to six (6) units of electives in criminology that will be counted toward the total number of units needed for a master's degree. For Counseling students, CRIM 100 is a prerequisite to CRIM 201. Students who may have taken an undergraduate, upper-division course listed in the program as a baccalaureate student will be required to substitute additional coursework and will not be permitted to use the pre-masters work for the Criminal Justice Counseling Specialist Certificate. All Certificate coursework must be post-baccalaureate.

- CRIM 130 (3 units) – Corrections in America
- CRIM 153 (3 units) – Psychology of Crime
- CRIM 201 (3 units) – History of Western Criminological Thought
- CRIM 203 (3 units) – Criminal Justice Administration
- CRIM 281 (4 units) – Supervised Professional Experience (must be taken for letter grade)

16 units (total for counseling students)

Program for Criminology Students

Criminology students working on a Masters Degree in Criminology will be required to take the following five (5) counseling courses totaling 16 units. The Criminology Department will allow its graduate students up to six (6) units of electives in counseling that will be counted toward the total number of units needed for its master's degree. For criminology students, COUN 174 or PSYCH 174 (Introduction to Counseling) is a prerequisite for the certificate. Students who may have taken an undergraduate upper-division course listed in the program as a baccalaureate student will be required to substitute additional coursework and will not be permitted to use the pre-masters work for the Criminal Justice Counseling Specialist Certificate. All Certificate coursework must be post-baccalaureate.

- COUN 176 (3 units) – Counseling and Mental Health
- COUN 200 (3 units) – Seminar in Counseling Techniques
- COUN 207 (3 units) – Psychopathology and the DSM
- COUN 208 (4 units) – Practicum in Counseling
- COUN 239 (3 units) – Field Practice in Professional Services Counseling

16 units (total for criminology students)

CRIM 281 and COUN 239 are the program's culminating experience. Criminology students would be required to take COUN 239 and Counseling students would be required to take CRIM 281.