



# Widener University

Master of Arts in Criminal Justice  
2011–2012 Graduate Catalog



# Master of Arts in Criminal Justice 2011–2012 Catalog

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## GENERAL DIRECTORY

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### INFORMATION LINE

610-499-4600

### BOOKSTORES

Main Campus, 610-876-7300

Delaware Campus, 302-478-0606

Harrisburg Campus, 717-541-3905

### BUSINESS OFFICES

Main Campus, 610-499-4150

Delaware Campus, 302-477-2207

Harrisburg Campus, 717-541-3905

### CAMPUS SAFETY

Main Campus, 610-499-4201

Delaware Campus, 302-477-2200

Harrisburg Campus, 717-541-3948

### FINANCIAL AID

Main Campus, 610-499-4174

Delaware Campus, 302-478-2209

Harrisburg Campus, 717-541-3961

### LIBRARIES

Main Campus, 610-499-4066

Delaware Campus, 302-477-2244

Harrisburg Campus, 717-541-3926

### REGISTRAR

Main Campus, 610-499-4141

Delaware Campus, 302-477-2009

Harrisburg Campus, 717-541-3904

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# Widener University Information

## UNIVERSITY POLICY

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It is the policy of Widener University not to discriminate on the basis of sex, age, race, national origin or ethnicity, religion, disability, status as a veteran of the Vietnam era or other covered veteran, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status in its educational programs, admissions policies, employment practices, financial aid, or other school-administered programs or activities. This policy is enforced under various federal and state laws, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended by the Civil Rights Act of 1991, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Further, in compliance with state and federal laws, Widener University will provide the following information upon request: (a) copies of documents pertinent to the university's accreditations, approvals, or licensing by external agencies or governmental bodies; (b) reports on crime statistics and information on safety policies and procedures; and (c) information regarding gender equity relative to intercollegiate athletic programs—Contact: Senior Vice President for University Advancement, Widener University, One University Place, Chester, PA 19013, 610-499-4123. Comments or requests for information regarding services and resources for disabled students should be directed to: Director of Disability Services, Widener University, One University Place, Chester, PA 19013, 610-499-1266; or Dean of Students, Delaware Campus of Widener University, P.O. Box 7474, Wilmington, DE 19803, 302-477-2177.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination based on gender in educational programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. Such programs include recruitment, admissions, financial aid, scholarships, athletics, course offerings and access, hiring and retention, and benefits and leave. Title IX also protects students and employees from unlawful sexual harassment (including sexual violence) in university programs and activities. In compliance with Title IX, the university prohibits discrimination and harassment based on sex in employment, as well as in all programs and activities. The university's Title IX coordinator monitors compliance with Title IX and its accompanying regulations. Individuals with questions or concerns about Title IX or those who wish to file a complaint of non-compliance may contact the university's Title IX coordinator. The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is the division of the federal government charged with enforcing compliance with Title IX. Information regarding OCR can be found at: [www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html).

This publication contains information, policies, procedures, regulations, and requirements that were correct at the time of publication. In keeping with the educational mission of the university, the information, policies, procedures, regulations, and requirements contained herein are continually being reviewed, changed, and updated. Consequently, this document cannot be considered binding and must be used solely as an informational guide. Students are responsible for keeping informed of official policies and meeting all relevant requirements.

The university reserves the right and authority at any time to alter any or all of the statements contained herein, to modify the requirements for admission and graduation, to change or discontinue programs of study, to amend any regulation or policy affecting

the student body, to increase tuition and fees, to deny admission, to revoke an offer of admission, and to dismiss from the university any student at any time, if it is deemed by the university to be in the best interest of the university, the university community, or the student to do so. The provisions of this publication are subject to change without notice, and nothing in this publication may be considered as setting forth terms of a contract between a student or a prospective student and Widener University.

## ACCREDITATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

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**Widener University is a member of the Association for Continuing Higher Education and is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.**

Widener University's graduate programs are additionally accredited by the following: AACSB International—The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (School of Business Administration), Accreditation Commission of ABET (School of Engineering), American Bar Association (School of Law), American Psychological Association (Doctor of Psychology and Clinical Psychology Internship), Commission on Accreditation for Healthcare Management Education (Master of Business Administration in Healthcare Management), Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (Doctor of Physical Therapy), Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (School of Nursing), Commission on Continuing Legal Education of the Supreme Court of Delaware (School of Law), Council on Social Work Education (Center for Social Work Education), National Association for Education of Young Children (Child Development Center), National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Educators (Center for Education), Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing (School of Nursing), Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board of the Supreme Court (School of Law), Pennsylvania Department of Education (Center for Education), Pennsylvania Department of Welfare (Child Development Center), Pennsylvania Private School Board (Center for Education).

Widener University's graduate programs hold membership in the following: Academic Council of the American Physical Therapy Association (Institute for Physical Therapy Education), American Society for Engineering Education (School of Engineering), Association of Engineering Colleges of Pennsylvania (School of Engineering), Association of University Programs in Health Administration (School of Business Administration), Association of American Law Schools (School of Law), Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Program (Master of Arts in Liberal Studies), Greater Philadelphia Engineering Deans Economic Development Council (School of Engineering), Engineering Deans Institute (School of Engineering), Engineering Research Council of the American Association of Engineering Societies (School of Engineering), Engineering Workforce Commission (School of Engineering), National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (Master of Public Administration), National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (School of Law), National Council for Schools and Programs of Professional Psychology (Institute for Graduate Clinical Psychology), National League for Nursing and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (School of Nursing).

# College of Arts & Sciences Information

## MISSION AND PHILOSOPHY OF THE PROGRAMS

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The graduate programs in the College of Arts and Sciences are built on strong undergraduate programs. The college offers 25 undergraduate majors and 25 minors in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. The college has 88 full-time faculty members chosen for their demonstrated skills in teaching.

Faculty who are asked to teach in the college's graduate programs have a commitment to excellent teaching. The college's faculty are also extensively involved in research and scholarship, which are brought to bear in the classroom. Because our graduate classes are small in size and taught in a seminar format, students are able to get to know the faculty and their scholarly interests.

## STUDENT STATUS

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Students pursuing a course of studies in the College of Arts and Sciences are considered to be full-time graduate students when they are enrolled in 9 or more hours of graduate study. It is recommended that students take no more than 12 semester hours of graduate study. Students in these programs who enroll in at least 5 semester hours of graduate study are considered to be half-time students.

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR

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At the start of each semester, students should check online at CampusCruiser's "Calendars" section for their graduate program's academic calendar and deadline information.

## COURSE OFFERINGS

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Graduate studies brochures are published for the fall and spring semesters and summer sessions. These fully describe registration policies, course schedules, and tuition and fee obligations. To obtain a graduate studies brochure, contact the appropriate graduate program office listed in the directory.

**DROP/ADD POLICY**—Students taking a course in the College of Arts and Sciences may withdraw from the course at any time prior to the final examination and receive the grade of W. If a course does not include a final examination, the deadline for withdrawing from the course with a grade of W is the final class meeting for the course. Graduate students begin the withdrawal process by notifying their program director's office of their intent to withdraw, either orally or in writing. The program director's office submits a drop/add form, which includes the student's last date of attendance at an academically related activity, to the Registrar's Office.

Students may add a course without special permission no later than one week after the semester has begun. If a student wishes to add a course after one week, written permission must be obtained from both the instructor and the appropriate department head.

**AUDITING**—Students will be permitted to audit courses with the approval of both the director and the instructor. No grade or credit is given for auditing a course and examinations need not be taken; however, the registration procedure and fee structure are the same as those for other students.

## GRADING

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The following grades (and their associated grade points) are used:

A	(4.0)	I	(Incomplete)
A-	(3.7)	W	(Withdrawn)
B+	(3.3)	P/NP	(Passed/Not Passed)*
B	(3.0)	AU	(Audit: No credit)
B-	(2.7)		
C+	(2.3)		
C	(2.0)		
F	(0.0)		

\*Only for courses offered on a Pass/Fail basis.

Note: Individual instructors may elect, at their discretion, not to use plus/minus grades.

The grade of I is given when a student has not completed course requirements because of excusable reasons. A student who receives a grade of incomplete must arrange to make up all deficiencies with the instructor issuing the grade. If the work is not made up within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which the incomplete is received, the grade will be automatically converted to F, unless the course in question is a thesis research course or a dissertation research course. Upon completion of the requirements, the instructor will institute a change of grade. (Note: a student does not register again for a course in which the grade of incomplete has been received.) A student cannot be awarded a degree when there is an outstanding incomplete grade on the transcript, even if the incomplete is in a course not required in the degree program.

If a course is repeated, both grades will be recorded on the transcript, but only the most recent grade will be used in calculating the grade point average (GPA). When a student is found to have violated Widener's academic fraud policies, that student is prohibited from exercising the repeat-of-course option to remove the F grade (given as a result of fraud) from the GPA calculation.

If a student fails to meet the degree requirements in a timely manner or if repeated failure has occurred, the college may terminate the graduate program for the student.

Conduct inconsistent with the ethical and professional standards of the discipline, whether it occurs before or after matriculation, is also grounds for dismissal from the program. Such conduct includes academic fraud. A student dismissed for academic fraud may no longer enroll in the graduate programs of the university and may not apply for admission into another division of the university. Please see the section entitled "Standards for Academic Integrity."

## DISMISSAL AND READMISSION

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A student will be dismissed from the program when his or her cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 and/or he or she receives a grade of C+ or below in a second course. Any student who receives a failing grade for any course is also dismissed from the program. After a semester out of the program, the student may petition the program director for readmission. The student will be readmitted only when the director is satisfied that the poor academic performance will not recur.

Conduct inconsistent with the ethical and professional standards of the discipline, whether it occurs before or after matriculation, is also grounds for dismissal from the program.

## **STANDARDS FOR ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT**

Widener University strongly supports the concepts of academic freedom and academic integrity and expects students and all other members of the Widener University community to be honest in all academic endeavors. Cheating, plagiarism, and all other forms of academic fraud are serious and unacceptable violations of university policy. Widener University expects all students to be familiar with university policies on academic honesty and will not accept a claim of ignorance—either of the policy itself or of what constitutes academic fraud—as a valid defense against such a charge.

This statement was adopted by the Faculty Council on February 24, 1998, upon recommendation of the Academic Affairs Committee.

### **DEFINITION OF VIOLATIONS OF THE STANDARDS OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Violations of the Standards of Academic Integrity constitute academic fraud. Academic fraud consists of any actions that serve to undermine the integrity of the academic process, including:

- unauthorized inspection or duplication of test materials, cheating, attempting to cheat, or assisting others to cheat in a classroom test, take-home examination, final examination, or comprehensive/qualifying/candidacy examination.
- post-test alteration of examination responses.
- plagiarism.
- electronic or computer fraud.

Additionally, each university program may have specific acts particular to a discipline that constitute academic fraud.

### **DEFINITION OF PLAGIARISM**

One of the most common violations of the Standards for Academic Integrity is plagiarism. Plagiarism can be intentional or unintentional. However, since each student is responsible for knowing what constitutes plagiarism, unintentional plagiarism is as unacceptable as intentional plagiarism and commission of it will bring the same penalties. In many classes, faculty members will provide their definitions of plagiarism. In classes where a definition is not provided, students are invited to follow the standards articulated in the following statement.

#### **STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM**

PLAGIARISM—passing off the work of others as your own – is a serious offense. In the academic world, plagiarism is theft. Information from sources – whether quoted, paraphrased, or summarized - must be given credit through specific in-text citations. All sources used in the preparation of an academic paper must also be listed with full bibliographic details at the end of the paper. It is especially important that paraphrase be both cited and put into your own words. Merely rearranging a sentence or changing a few words is not sufficient.

### **PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS ACCUSED OF VIOLATING THE STANDARDS FOR ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

#### **Informal Process**

- A faculty member who obtains evidence of academic fraud should inform the student of this evidence, either orally or in writing. The faculty member may also provide the student with the opportunity to respond to the charges. If the

matter is resolved informally between the faculty member and the student, the faculty member must communicate in writing to the dean of his/her school or college the nature of the charges made against the student and how the matter was resolved.

- If the faculty member cannot resolve the matter satisfactorily with the student, he or she may file a formal complaint against the student through the office of the dean of the faculty member's school or college.

#### **Formal process**

- Upon receiving formal charges of academic fraud, the office of the dean of the school or college shall thereupon notify the student in writing of the complaint, the evidence upon which the complaint is based, the penalty to be imposed, and all rights of appeal.
- If a student wishes to contest the allegations of the complaint, he or she may do so according to the process stipulated in the by-laws of the school or college in which the alleged offense occurred. In such a case, the student will also be informed of the time and location of a hearing on the complaint and of all rights of appeal.
- Upon determination by the school/college committee that hears the initial appeal that sufficient evidence exists to support the allegations contained in the complaint, or in cases in which the student chooses not to contest the complaint, the prescribed penalty shall be imposed.
- The dean will notify the associate provost in writing of the name of the student who has been found to have engaged in academic fraud.
- Appeals beyond an individual school/college body may be made by the student to the university's Academic Review Board. Please see the following section for board duties. Appeal to the Academic Review Board must be initiated by the student through the Office of the Associate Provost.
- In the event a complaint is filed against a student alleging academic fraud and the student is not enrolled in the course in which academic fraud is alleged, action will be taken by the dean's office of the school/college where the student is matriculated.
- An "F" for academic fraud will supersede any other mark including a "W" for withdrawal. When a student is found to have engaged in academic fraud under Widener's academic fraud policies, that student is prohibited from exercising the repeat-of-course option to remove the "F" grade (given as a result of fraud) from the GPA calculation.
- A confidential, centralized listing of students disciplined for academic fraud will be maintained by the Office of the Provost. In the event of the filing of a complaint alleging a second offense, the student will be informed, in writing, by the Office of the Provost of such complaint. Names will be dropped from the list of first offenders upon graduation or at the end of seven years after the last attendance.
- The above articulated steps constitute due process when students are accused of academic fraud.

#### **PENALTIES**

- The minimum penalty for individuals found through the formal complaint process described above to have engaged in academic fraud will be failure in the course. For a second offense, the penalty will be failure in the course and expulsion from the university.

- For attempting to steal or stealing an examination for a course, students will be failed in the course and expelled from the university. For attempting to steal or stealing a comprehensive/qualifying/candidacy examination in a program, students will be expelled from the university.
- Programs that require comprehensive/qualifying/candidacy examinations may elect to impose the penalties of failure on the examination and expulsion from the university for individuals who cheat or attempt to cheat on the comprehensive/qualifying/candidacy examination.
- Individuals found through the formal complaint process described above to have engaged in academic fraud in the completion of a dissertation or thesis may be expelled from the university.

*These policies and procedures were approved by Faculty Council on April 28, 2008.*

## **ACADEMIC REVIEW BOARD**

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The Academic Review Board consists of the provost, the associate provosts, the deans of each school/college, the vice-chairperson of the Faculty Council, and the chair of the Faculty Council Academic Affairs Committee. Duties of the board include: (1) hearing petitions for the waiver of academic regulations that transcend a single school/college (e.g., withdrawal from a course); (2) serving as the appeal body in cases where there is an alleged violation of procedure in school/college Academic Council hearings.

## **ACADEMIC GRIEVANCE APPEAL PROCEDURE**

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If a student has a grievance concerning a class in which he or she is enrolled, he/she will first try to resolve the problem with the instructor of the class. If a student has a grievance concerning an academic requirement of the program (e.g., comprehensive examination, final clinical oral examination, clinical placements), he/she will first try to resolve the problem with the director of the program. If it is impossible to resolve the matter at this initial level, the grievance must be placed in writing. Then the student may appeal to the next higher level. The student should inquire in the office of the dean responsible for the course or program in question for the proper appeal procedure if the student's grievance is not resolved to the student's satisfaction after initial appeal to the instructor or the program director.

## **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND AWARDING OF DEGREES**

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Students are responsible for knowing and meeting curriculum requirements as shown in this catalog.

Those who expect to receive either the master's or doctoral degree should make clear their intentions to their advisors. A student who completes requirements for the degree at the conclusion of either summer session will be awarded the degree in August of that year; **the student must submit a graduation petition online at [www.widener.edu/registrar](http://www.widener.edu/registrar) by March 1.** A student who completes requirements for the degree at the conclusion of the fall semester will be awarded the degree in December of that year; **the student must submit a graduation petition online at [www.widener.edu/registrar](http://www.widener.edu/registrar) by July 1.** A

student who completes requirements for the degree at the conclusion of the spring semester will be awarded the degree in May of that year; **the student must submit a graduation petition online at [www.widener.edu/registrar](http://www.widener.edu/registrar) by November 1 of the previous year.** The university holds only one formal commencement in the spring to which August, December, and May graduates are invited.

## **TRANSCRIPTS**

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Students in good financial standing can have copies of their transcripts forwarded to employers, agents, or institutions of higher education by contacting the Office of the Registrar. The first transcript offered on behalf of any student is provided without cost.

## **FINANCIAL AID**

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Widener University offers a wide range of financial aid programs. Financial information is available on the university's web site at [www.widener.edu/about/administration/enrollmentservices/studentfinancialservices](http://www.widener.edu/about/administration/enrollmentservices/studentfinancialservices). The *Financial Aid Handbook* is located under "Forms and Publications" on this site.

## **CAMPUS SAFETY**

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Widener is committed to the safety and security of all members of the Widener University community. The university's annual Campus Safety and Fire Safety Reports are on the Widener website and contain information on campus security and personal safety, including crime prevention, university law enforcement authority, crime reporting policies, disciplinary procedures, and other campus security matters. The Campus Safety Reports contain statistics for the three previous calendar years on reported crimes that occurred on campus, in certain off-campus buildings and property owned and controlled by the university, and on public property within or immediately adjacent to and accessible from campus.

The Fire Safety Report contains information on fire safety systems in on-campus student housing facilities, the number of fire drills held during the previous year, the university's policies on portable electrical appliances, smoking, and open flames in student housing facilities, the university's procedures for student housing evacuation in the case of a fire, policies regarding fire safety education and training programs provided to students and employees, a listing of persons or organizations to which fires should be reported, and plans for future improvements in fire safety. It also contains statistics (commencing with calendar year 2009) for the three most recent calendar years concerning the number of fires and cause of each fire in each on-campus student housing facility, the number of persons who received fire-related injuries that resulted in treatment at a medical facility, the number of deaths related to a fire, and the value of property damage caused by a fire.

The annual Campus Safety and Fire Safety Reports for the Main and Exton Campuses are available online at [www.widener.edu](http://www.widener.edu) by selecting "Quick Clicks" then "Campus Safety." The annual security reports for the Delaware and Harrisburg Campuses are available online at [www.law.widener.edu](http://www.law.widener.edu) by selecting "More Links," then "Campus Safety." If you would like a printed copy of these reports, contact the Campus Safety Office at 610-499-4203 to have a copy mailed to you. The information in these reports is required by law and is provided by the Campus Safety Office.

# Master of Arts in Criminal Justice

## GENERAL INFORMATION

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### GOALS

The Master of Arts in Criminal Justice program is designed to prepare individuals for successful careers in research, management, and leadership in the criminal justice professions. The master's degree curriculum provides intensive study in the areas of criminological theory, research methodology and data analysis, organizational functioning, and planning/program development.

The program is designed to encourage the development of effective analytical and problem-solving skills that will equip professionals with the intellectual capital needed to propose meaningful solutions to the criminal justice issues of contemporary society. The program includes a core curriculum that emphasizes criminological theory, the relation of law to the criminal justice system, research and data analysis, criminal justice organizations, and planning and program development. Students tailor the remainder of the degree to their needs and interests by choosing electives from among Widener's extensive offerings. For the "capstone requirement," students choose either the master's thesis option or comprehensive examination option.

Classes are small and taught in a seminar format. Widener's criminal justice instructors include full-time faculty and practitioners in the criminal justice system.

### ADMISSIONS

An applicant for admission to the Master of Arts in Criminal Justice (MACJ) program must have earned a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university. Candidates are considered for admission after having submitted:

- A completed application form.
- The nonrefundable application fee (\$25).
- Two letters of recommendation.
- Transcripts from all previously attended institutions.
- A statement describing reasons and expectations for study in the program.

The decision to admit applicants to the MACJ program is based primarily on the applicant's undergraduate/graduate grade point average (minimum 3.00 GPA required), letters of recommendation, and the applicant's personal statement. A limited number of other factors may be considered, including quality of undergraduate program, undergraduate major, relevant work experience, research reports, publications, project reports, presentations, and other work demonstrating the ability to successfully pursue graduate studies. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required, but scores may be submitted in support of the application.

Applicants with undergraduate degrees in disciplines other than criminal justice will have their curricula evaluated by the graduate criminal justice advisor to ensure the proper academic preparation to successfully pursue a graduate degree in the field. Deficits in undergraduate criminal justice preparedness may require the taking of additional courses. Such decisions are made on a case by case basis in consultation with the applicant.

Guaranteed admission is extended to those Widener students who complete their undergraduate education with an overall GPA of 3.5 or better.

All inquiries should be addressed to:

Graduate Program Director  
Criminal Justice  
Widener University  
One University Place  
Chester, PA 19013

Submissions should be addressed to:

Office of Graduate Enrollment Management  
Widener University  
One University Place  
Chester, PA 19013  
e-mail: [gradprograms@widener.edu](mailto:gradprograms@widener.edu)

### TRANSFER CREDITS

Students who apply for admission to the MACJ program may transfer a maximum of 6 semester hours of previous graduate course work. To be accepted for transfer credit, graduate course work must be recent (within 5 calendar years), indicate a high degree of scholarship (a grade of A or B), and conform to the curricular philosophy of the program. Transfer credits will not be accepted for core courses, only for graduate electives. Transfer credit requests must be made at the initial application stage. Students wishing to receive such credit must petition the MACJ graduate program director in writing, and must submit official transcripts and course descriptions from the graduate institutions in which the course work was completed.

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students should consult the International Student Services web page at [www.widener.edu](http://www.widener.edu) for international graduate student guidelines or contact the Office of International Student Services at Widener University, One University Place, Chester, PA 19013; phone: 610-499-4499.

### STUDENT STATUS

**Matriculating**—A student who meets all entrance requirements and is working in a program toward a graduate degree is said to be matriculated.

**Auditing**—Students are permitted to audit courses with the approval of both the director and the instructor. No grade or credit is given. Full tuition and fees for the course must be paid.

**Visiting**—Students who do not wish to pursue the formal degree but who do want to complete courses offered in the program are considered nonmatriculated. All course requirements must be completed and a grade received. A change in status to degree candidate will be considered after having submitted a written request and required admission documentation to the director of the program.

### NORMAL PROGRESS

Students are expected to make continuing progress toward the completion of their graduate education. Under ordinary circumstances "normal progress" is defined as follows. Students are expected to complete the master's degree no later than their third year in the program. The department also considers headway on the thesis, number of credits accumulated, and failure to complete course work in a timely fashion in defining progress. Students who fail to make normal progress may be dismissed from the program.

Students who have not completed all necessary MACJ degree requirements, including successfully passing the comprehensive examinations or successful completion of the master's thesis, may not "walk" or otherwise participate in graduation ceremonies. Students are strongly encouraged to take core courses when they are offered.

### **STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS**

The statute of limitations adopted by the MACJ faculty for the master's degree is five years. Students must complete the MACJ degree requirements within five years of being accepted into the program. Exceeding this limit will result in dismissal from the program. Requests for extensions must be made in writing by the student and approved by the MACJ director.

### **DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

To qualify for the degree of Master of Arts in Criminal Justice, the candidate must:

1. Comply with all general requirements of Widener University relating to the governance of graduate programs.
2. Satisfactorily complete a total of 36 hours of approved course work in the criminal justice program as follows:
  - a. Six core courses (18 semester hours)
    - CJ 501, Nature of Crime & Delinquency
    - CJ 504, Seminar in Law & Criminal Justice
    - CJ 505, Organizational Behavior in Criminal Justice
    - CJ 506, Seminar in Planning & Program Development
    - CJ 509, Research Methods in Criminal Justice
    - CJ 511, Quantitative Applications in Criminal Justice
  - b. Completion of one of the following options
    - Master's Thesis Option
      - Four graduate electives (12 semester hours), two of which must be graduate criminal justice (CJ prefix) electives.
      - CJ 699, Master's Thesis (6 semester hours).
    - Comprehensive Examination Option
      - Six graduate electives (18 semester hours), three of which must be graduate criminal justice (CJ prefix) electives.
      - Written comprehensive examination.

The graduate criminal justice advisor oversees the selection and distribution of courses for all students in the program. Regardless of the option selected, students must obtain the approval of the advisor before taking courses in other programs.

### **THE MASTER'S THESIS**

The master's thesis is an empirical research project supervised by a faculty member in the program. The comprehensive examination encompasses all areas of the core courses.

The thesis is in the form of a scholarly journal article. With advice of the thesis advisor, each student selects a journal most appropriate to his/her area of interest, conducts the required research, and prepares a manuscript at the level required for publication in the selected journal.

Each thesis adheres to the particular journal's page limits, bibliographic format, manner of data presentation, and so on. Where appropriate, students are encouraged to develop their thesis from research conducted from their course work or from pre-existing databases. The student must complete the thesis within one year of approval of the proposal.

It is the responsibility of the student to select a thesis advisor from the MACJ full-time faculty.

Successful candidates must provide two copies of the completed thesis to the MACJ director.

### **THESIS PROPOSAL PROCEDURE**

Upon obtaining the written consent of the faculty advisor, the student notifies the MACJ director by memo of the selection of the faculty member and the start date of the thesis process. The student must complete the proposal within one year of completion of course work.

Upon approval of the MACJ thesis proposal by the faculty advisor, the student provides one copy for the department's file (approved and signed by the advisor). The faculty advisor shall notify the members of the faculty by memo of the existence of the signed proposal as well as the proposed thesis title.

### **FORMAT AND SCOPE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS**

Candidates for the master's degree must complete all their course work requirements prior to taking the master's comprehensive exams. Petitions to sit for master's examinations must be submitted to the MACJ director at least 60 days prior to the scheduled examination period. The petition must provide confirmation that all course requirements have been satisfied.

The format of all comprehensive examinations is as follows: The exams are written and administered on-campus with a maximum 3-hour per area time allotment. No more than one exam can be scheduled per day; no exams are scheduled on consecutive days.

Successful completion requires passing each of the three master's examinations.

The examinations are in theory, research methods, and one additional area of specialization chosen by the student and based on courses offered in the program. The examination in theory covers the course content of CJ 501 and a reading list provided by the faculty. The examination in research methods covers the course content of CJ 509 and a reading list provided by the faculty. MACJ faculty are responsible for providing reading lists and for constructing and evaluating examination questions in the specialization/additional areas. Reading lists are to be provided at least one semester prior to the scheduled examinations.

### **GRADING**

Possible outcomes are pass, fail, or conditional pass. It is the responsibility of the respective faculty member(s) evaluating the examinations to notify the MACJ program director, in writing and within two weeks, of the results of the evaluation. If the student is deemed to have failed the exam, the faculty member includes the reasons for the failure in the notification to the graduate program director. Within two weeks of notification of the grade on the master's examination, students receive a detailed evaluation in writing from the MACJ program director.

Students who fail a written exam, or any part thereof, may request a re-reading from the faculty member(s) evaluating the examination. This request is to be submitted to the director of the graduate program in criminal justice within 20 days of the student receiving the detailed written evaluation.

Under the conditional pass, the student re-writes the part(s) in question, within a time specified by the faculty, and submits them to the faculty.

### **Repeats of Examinations: Written Comprehensive**

Only one repeat for each area is permitted. Failure on a repeat examination is a permanent failure for that area.

### Administration of Comprehensive Examination

The administration of examinations is the responsibility of the director of the graduate program in criminal justice.

### SPECIALIZATION IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Students whose professional and career goals would be enhanced by a concentration in public administration may tailor their degree to include a series of courses from Widener's MPA program. Students wishing to pursue this option should consult with the graduate criminal justice advisor.

An MPA concentration requires students to take the following courses as part of the graduate criminal justice elective portion of the curriculum:

- PA 501, Introduction to Public Administration
- PA 507, American Intergovernmental Processes
- Two additional PA electives

### DUAL PsyD/MA IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM—Offered in Conjunction with The Institute for Graduate Clinical Psychology

For those students who wish to acquire extensive education and training in clinical psychology and criminal justice studies, Widener offers a unique dual degree option leading to the PsyD/MA in Criminal Justice. Designed to fit within the five-year time frame of the PsyD curriculum, this option trains clinical professionals for a myriad of positions in the expanding fields of law enforcement, correctional diagnosis, treatment and supervision, and other psycho-legal subfields of criminal justice.

Students wishing to pursue the dual PsyD/MA in Criminal Justice program must apply to and be accepted into each program separately. Applications for the PsyD program can be obtained from Widener's Institute of Graduate Clinical Psychology.

### CURRICULUM

In addition to fulfilling all requirements for the PsyD, dual degree students are required to take the following criminal justice courses to earn the MA degree:

1. Core Requirements (12 credits):
  - CJ 501, Nature of Crime & Delinquency
  - CJ 504, Seminar in Law & Criminal Justice
  - CJ 505, Organizational Behavior in Criminal Justice
  - CJ 506, Seminar in Planning & Program Development
2. Graduate CJ Electives (12 credits):
  - Four additional graduate criminal justice electives must be taken to complete the degree.
3. Doctoral Dissertation:
  - Dual degree students are required to select a dissertation topic with relevance to the field of criminal justice and have a member of the criminal justice faculty serve on the dissertation committee.

### GRADUATE SPECIALIZATION IN WHITE COLLAR CRIME—Offered in Conjunction with Widener University's School of Business Administration, Department of Accounting, Taxation, and Business Law

For students who wish to develop expertise in the areas of fraud analysis and "forensic" accounting, there is the Master of Arts in Criminal Justice with a specialization in white collar crime. Designed to fit within the credit requirements of the "Comprehensive Examination" option (36 credits), this program prepares professionals for careers in local and federal law enforcement, as well as in investigative units of private corporations and industry.

### CURRICULUM

Once accepted into the graduate criminal justice program, students wishing to pursue the white collar crime specialization option would take the following courses:

1. Core Requirements (24 credits):
  - CJ 501, Nature of Crime & Delinquency
  - CJ 504, Seminar in Law & Criminal Justice
  - CJ 505, Organizational Behavior in Criminal Justice
  - CJ 506, Seminar in Planning & Program Development
  - CJ 509, Research Methods in Criminal Justice
  - CJ 511, Quantitative Application in Criminal Justice
  - CJ Elective
  - CJ Elective
2. Specialization Requirements (12 credits):
  - CJ 603, White Collar Crime

*Maximum of 9 credits from the following SBA courses:*
- BUS 520 or 528, Accounting & Legal Aspects of Business (BUS 528 is the self-study version of BUS 520)
- ACCT 607,\* Internal Auditing & Assurance Services (prerequisite is BUS 520 or 528)
- ACCT 630,\* Accounting Information Systems (prerequisite is BUS 520 or 528)
- ACCT 635,\* Information Technology Auditing (prerequisite is ACCT 630)
- ACCT 655,\* Fraud Detection: Investigation & Prevention (prerequisite is BUS 520 or 528)
- BLAW 630,\* Legal Issues Concerning Information Technology (prerequisite is BLAW 150, BLAW 260, or permission of the department head of accounting, taxation and business law\*\*)
- MIS 660, Computer Security/Controls (prerequisite is MIS 290 or equivalent or ACCT 630)

*\*Students may substitute a different graduate ACCT, TAX, or BLAW course with approval of the department head of accounting, taxation, and business law.*

*\*\*It is expected that most, if not all, of the CJ students will have previously completed some legal-related course work.*

The master's degree will be conferred once all course work is completed and the comprehensive examination has been passed. For more information on specialization requirements, consult the *School of Business Administration Graduate Catalog*.

### ADVISEMENT

The graduate program director serves as the academic advisor to MACJ students. Upon admission to the program, students should meet with the director for academic advisement. The director and student should plan and periodically review a plan of study that fulfills departmental requirements and provides comprehensive professional (academic) training. This plan of study should take account of students' backgrounds and available departmental resources.

Final responsibility for course selection and the meeting of department requirements resides with the student.

### QUALITY OF GRADUATE WORK

Consistent with university regulations, a minimum of a "B" average is required for certification of readiness to take graduate examinations or to begin the thesis process, and for conferral of a graduate degree. Students should consult the College of Arts & Sciences policies on student status and dismissal and readmission for more information regarding graduate standing.

## COURSES

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### CORE

#### **CJ 501 NATURE OF CRIME AND DELINQUENCY**

Provides an overview of the nature and scope of delinquency and crime through a comprehensive survey of criminological theory using original sources. Major emphasis is given to the evaluation of existing theory and its relationship to criminal justice policy and practice. *3 semester hours*

#### **CJ 504 SEMINAR IN LAW AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Provides an overview of the criminal law and its relation to the criminal justice system. Employs theoretical, Common Law, statutory, and case law materials to the study of the legal elements of a crime, excuse and justification, and sentencing and punishment. *3 semester hours*

#### **CJ 505 ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Analyzes the structures, functions, and operations of the various criminal justice agencies, including the police, the court, and corrections (jail, probation, prison, and parole) within the overall context of the criminal justice system. *3 semester hours*

#### **CJ 506 SEMINAR IN PLANNING AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT**

Focuses on the planning, development, and evaluation of programs in criminal justice. Fundamentals in these three areas are reviewed and then fit to issues and problems in the field. A comprehensive policy planning proposal is developed to deal with a carefully defined criminal justice problem or need. *3 semester hours*

#### **CJ 509 RESEARCH METHODS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

This graduate seminar teaches the application of the scientific method to the study of issues related to crime and criminal justice. Topics include the relationship between theory, hypotheses and empirical research, various methodological designs, including survey research, quasi-experimental and qualitative methods, as well as ethical issues that govern the study of crime and justice. *3 semester hours*

#### **CJ 511 QUANTITATIVE APPLICATIONS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

As a follow-up to CJ 509, this course employs both methodological and analytical skills in the analysis of issues related to criminal justice. Students learn techniques of management of quantitative data and explore more advanced methods of analysis aimed at the testing of hypotheses and the answering of research questions. Prerequisite: CJ 509. *3 semester hours*

### ELECTIVES

#### **CJ 601 SENTENCING PRACTICES AND PHILOSOPHY**

This seminar focuses on the philosophical and practical issues involved in the sentencing of convicted offenders. Students are expected to learn and critically analyze those objectives that guide the process, as well as those factors and reforms that shape this practice among judges. *3 semester hours*

#### **CJ 602 WOMEN AND THE LAW**

This course focuses on the phenomenon of women and crime and the response of the system to this social problem. Through an application of feminist analysis, students study the theoretical and system related issues that have shaped our understanding of women and the law. The impact of gender stereotypes and patriarchal values is also studied as explanations of the system's limited

effectiveness in dealing with gendered justice and women in the legal system. *3 semester hours*

#### **CJ 603 WHITE COLLAR CRIME**

This seminar studies those forms of criminal deviance that are committed by individuals in their official capacities in the work place. Various forms of such deviance are discussed, as are the theoretical perspectives proposed to explain them, beginning with the seminal work of Edwin Sutherland and moving to the more current focus on social opportunity and the "pressure" for success. *3 semester hours*

#### **CJ 604 SEMINAR IN POLICE PRACTICES AND PROBLEMS**

This "issues" oriented seminar focuses on those issues of controversy affecting the police function in society. Students are expected to develop an "academic" understanding of these issues and propose meaningful solutions to improve the quality of law enforcement. *3 semester hours*

#### **CJ 605 SEMINAR IN CORRECTIONAL ISSUES AND CONTROVERSIES**

This course provides the student with the opportunity for an in-depth focus on the various issues that impact upon our correctional system and its effectiveness. Students are encouraged to consider all relevant factors relating to such issues, including community demands for crime control and the political pressures such demands generate. *3 semester hours*

#### **CJ 606 STRATIFICATION AND "JUSTICE"**

This seminar focuses on the issues of race, class, and gender and the extent to which these factors serve to differentiate the "quality" of criminal justice an individual receives. Students are expected to critically evaluate system functioning along these lines. *3 semester hours*

#### **CJ 607 CRITICAL ISSUES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

This thematic seminar addresses various subjects of critical importance to the nature and function of the criminal justice system. Offered periodically, the content of the course may change each time it is scheduled. *3 semester hours*

#### **CJ 608 ORGANIZED CRIME**

This graduate seminar addresses that branch of criminality commonly known as "organized crime." Discussions focus on a more precise understanding of the term itself, as well as on the various theoretical perspectives that have evolved to explain it. Case studies of notorious criminals will be used to illustrate the topics and issues involved. *3 semester hours*

#### **CJ 609 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM**

This graduate seminar addresses the nature of domestic violence and the criminal justice system's response to it. Discussions focus on the legal response, theoretical perspectives and explanations, and the experiences of victims. *3 semester hours*

#### **CJ 688 SPECIAL TOPICS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

This seminar focuses on selected issues and problems confronting criminal justice. *3 semester hours*

#### **CJ 695 INDEPENDENT STUDY**

An opportunity for an individual student to negotiate a program of self-initiated study with a faculty member of his/her choosing. No more than two independent study courses with two different instructors may be counted for degree credit. *3-6 semester hours*

#### **CJ 699 MASTER'S THESIS**

Faculty-directed thesis research. *6 semester hours*

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE FACULTY**

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## **NOTES**

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### **Nancy B. Blank**

*Associate Professor, Criminal Justice*

BA, Univ. of Pennsylvania; MA, Columbia Univ.; PhD, Rutgers Univ.

*(gender & crime, community-based intervention, women's studies)*

### **William E. Harver**

*Associate Professor & Director, Graduate Program in Criminal Justice*

BS, MS, Virginia Commonwealth Univ.; PhD, Univ. of Delaware

*(law enforcement, criminal justice administration, corrections)*

### **Shana L. Maier**

*Associate Professor, Criminal Justice*

BS, MS, St. Joseph's Univ.; PhD, Univ. of Delaware

*(women & criminal justice, victimology, criminology)*

### **Lauren O. Shermer**

*Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice*

BS, College of New Jersey.; MA, Univ. of Maryland; PhD, Univ. of Maryland

## **ADJUNCT FACULTY**

### **James F. Mattera, Esq.**

*Adjunct Professor*

BS, Fordham Univ.; JD, Widener Univ.

### **Phillip Pisani**

*Adjunct Professor*

BA, Widener University; MS, West Chester Univ. of Pennsylvania