




IUPUI

**SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Indianapolis

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RE: Change to Degree Requirements, MS Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Date: November 3, 2016

SPEA IUPUI requests a change to the degree requirements for the MS Criminal Justice and Public Safety (MS CJPS). The MS CJPS is currently active.

Proposed Change

We propose the addition of a thesis option to the MS CJPS. Currently, all students are required to complete a 3-credit hour internship and a 3-credit hour capstone course as culminating learning experiences. Student pursuing the thesis option would complete 6 thesis credit hours in lieu of the internship and the capstone. Interested students would still have the option of completing an internship as an elective.

Thesis Option

- Core Course (21 credits)
- Electives (9 credits)
- MS Thesis (6 credits)

Non-Thesis Option

- Core Courses (21 credits)
- Electives (9 credits)
- Internship (3 credits)

– Capstone (3credits)

SPEA IUPUI has requested the creation of a new course, SPEA J-599, Thesis Research (1-6 credits). The proposed change will not affect any existing graduate programs.

A revised degree checklist is attached.

Rationale for the Change

Since the MS CJPS was created five years ago, enrollment has increased and the program is now attracting students with an interest in pursuing a doctorate. The thesis is required or strongly encouraged for many doctoral programs in criminology and criminal justice. In addition, a thesis option is offered by 85% of masters programs in criminal justice.¹ SPEA is proposing the addition of a thesis option to the MS CJPS to meet the needs of our students and bring the program more fully in line with standard practices in graduate education in criminal justice and criminology.

Faculty Resources

There are 11 tenure-related graduate faculty in the criminal justice and public safety program prepared to chair and serve on theses committees. The addition of the thesis option to the MS CJPS should have a small effect on faculty resources. We do not expect more than 2-3 students opting for the thesis per year.

¹ Lytle, D. J., & Travis III, L. F. (2008). Graduate education in criminology or criminal justice: Assessing course requirements. *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*, 19(3), 339-350.

Master of Science in Criminal Justice & Public Safety

Thesis option

36 credit hours

The MSCJPS is a course of study that requires the completion of (1) the core, (2) the electives, (3) the experiential requirement or mid-career option credit to total **36 credit hours**. All students must maintain a **3.0 cumulative GPA to be in good standing and graduate**.

EXPERIENTIAL COMPONENT: In order to be awarded the MSCJPS degree, students must obtain professionally relevant experience through an internship in SPEA-V 585. This requirement is automatically satisfied if a student is granted Mid-Career Option credit.

CORE: (27 Credit Hours)

| Dept | Course | Title | Credit |
|----------------------------------|------------|---|--------|
| Required of all students: | | | |
| SPEA-J | 501 | Evolution of Criminological Thought and Policy (for criminal justice track) | 3.0 |
| OR | | | |
| SPEA-J | 528 | Risk Analysis for Public Safety (for public safety track) | 3.0 |
| SPEA-J | 502 | Research Methods in Criminal Justice & Public Safety | 3.0 |
| SPEA-J | 582 | Criminal Justice Systems | 3.0 |
| SPEA-J | 682 | Planning and Management for Criminal Justice & Public Safety | 3.0 |
| SPEA-V | 506 | Statistical Analysis for Effective Decision Making | 3.0 |
| SPEA-J | 581 | Public Safety Law | 3.0 |
| SPEA-J | 586 | Public Safety in the United States | 3.0 |
| SPEA-J | 599 | Thesis Research ** | 6.0 |

** Students pursuing the thesis option must receive approval from the Associate Dean for Graduate and Executive Education prior to beginning the thesis.

Electives: (9 CREDIT HOURS)

3 courses (9 credits) from one of the following groups:

| Dept | Course | Title | Credit |
|-------------------------|------------|--|--------|
| Criminal Justice | | | |
| SPEA-J | 520 | Mapping and Analysis for Public Safety | 3.0 |
| SPEA-J | 524 | Emergency Management | 3.0 |
| SPEA-J | 528 | Risk Analysis for Public Safety | 3.0 |
| SPEA-J | 531 | National and Homeland Security in America | 3.0 |
| SPEA-J | 550 | Topics in Criminal Justice and Public Safety | 3.0 |
| SPEA-J | 587 | Criminal Violation: Problems and Characteristics | 3.0 |
| SPEA-J | 588 | Law and Control in Society | 3.0 |
| SPEA-J | 666 | Criminal Justice and Public Safety Policy Evaluation | 3.0 |
| SPEA-V | 539 | Management Science | 3.0 |
| SPEA-V | 560 | Public Finance and Budgeting | 3.0 |
| SPEA-V | 561 | Public Human Resources Management | 3.0 |
| SPEA-V | 639 | Managing Government Operations | 3.0 |
| Public Safety | | | |
| SPEA-E | 520 | Environmental Toxicology | 3.0 |
| SPEA-E | 542 | Hazardous Materials | 3.0 |
| SPEA-E | 560 | Environmental Risk Analysis | 3.0 |
| SPEA-J | 501 | Evolution of Criminological Thought and Policy | 3.0 |
| SPEA-J | 520 | Mapping and Analysis for Public Safety | 3.0 |
| SPEA-J | 524 | Emergency Management | 3.0 |
| SPEA-J | 531 | National and Homeland Security in America | 3.0 |
| SPEA-J | 550 | Topics in Criminal Justice and Public Safety | 3.0 |
| SPEA-V | 539 | Management Science for Public Affairs | 3.0 |
| SPEA-V | 560 | Public Finance and Budget | 3.0 |
| SPEA-V | 561 | Public Human Resources Management | 3.0 |
| SPEA-V | 639 | Managing Government Operations | 3.0 |

Other courses may be approved by the Program Director