

# Master of Arts in Criminal Justice

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



## Program Overview

The Master of Arts in Criminal Justice (MACJ) program at Sacred Heart University (SHU) will provide you with comprehensive knowledge of the criminal justice system. Whether you are a mid-career professional or an entry-level graduate student, the MACJ program at Sacred Heart University has something to offer. The MACJ degree is designed to be rigorous and challenge you academically, while also being flexible, allowing you to tailor your course of study to your particular interests. The program is open to candidates with undergraduate degrees in any field of study.

Thirty-three (33) credits are required to graduate from the program. Courses are offered during the evenings and online. The program may be completed on a full-time or part-time basis. Students must complete 15 required credits of the core curriculum plus an additional 18 credits of elective courses. The program awards life-experience credits to eligible students. Up to six credits can be earned by students who demonstrate substantial criminal justice experience that is relevant to the educational program.

As part of the 18 credits of electives, students may choose a 12-credit concentration in:

- \* Criminal Justice Management
- \* National Security
- \* Victimology

Upon completion of the required 33 credits, students must successfully pass a comprehensive examination, which bears no credit towards the 33-credit requirement for graduation, or pursue a six-credit thesis option. The thesis is used to satisfy six of the 18 elective credits.



## OUR GRADUATES

The MACJ degree provides individuals with the knowledge required to obtain advanced professional positions in the field and it enables individuals already employed in the field of criminal justice to further advance their careers.

Alumni currently hold positions as federal law enforcement agents, corrections officers, higher education emergency management consultants, probation officers, private investigators and police officers.

This program is appropriate for individuals interested in pursuing an academic career in higher education or those interested in pursuing a Ph.D. in criminal justice.

## STUDENT TESTIMONIAL:

*"I am currently a captain with the Bridgeport Police Department, having served with the agency for 24 years. Throughout my career I have been a proponent of continuing education for our officers, believing that higher education would make the field of criminal justice more professional. The program prepared me for my current assignment, making me more proficient, and giving me credibility as an administrator. Additionally, some of the contacts I have made through SHU have aided in progressive police practices for my agency. The biggest benefit of continuing my education has been for personal growth, fulfillment and the possibility of entering into a second career as an educator.*

*I believe that my education and experience will allow me to share my experiences with individuals who wish to enter the field of criminal justice, ultimately impacting their ability to succeed in the criminal justice profession."*

— JIM VIADERO '09



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Sacred Heart University  
Office of Graduate Admissions  
5151 Park Avenue | Fairfield, CT 06825  
[www.sacredheart.edu/graduate](http://www.sacredheart.edu/graduate)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
Visit [www.sacredheart.edu/gradcounselor](http://www.sacredheart.edu/gradcounselor), or call  
203-365-7619 to find the dedicated admissions  
representative in charge of your program.

## Required Courses (15 credits):

- \* CJ 500 - Foundation of Criminal Law and Procedure\*\*
- \* CJ 501 - Theories and Analysis of Crime Causation and Deviance\*\*
- \* CJ 502 - Critical Issues in the Administration and Management of the Criminal Justice System\*\*
- \* CJ 581 - Methods of Research Design and Statistical Analysis\*\*
- \* CM 502 - Strategic Communications in the Digital Age\*\*

**\*\*Required course unless waived due to graduate work.**

## Electives (18 credits):

- \* CJ 506 - Victimology
- \* CJ 508 - Capital Punishment
- \* CJ 509 - Criminal Behavior and the Family
- \* CJ 510 - Criminal Profiling
- \* CJ 511 - Emergency Management
- \* CJ 512 - Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System
- \* CJ 513 - Issues in National Security
- \* CJ 514 - Domestic and International Terrorism
- \* CJ 516 - Community Corrections
- \* CJ 517 - Criminal Justice Program Evaluation
- \* CJ 518 - Policing in a Democratic Society
- \* CJ 599 - Criminal Justice Leadership
- \* CJ 601 - Internship/Practicum Experience in Criminal Justice
- \* CS 626 - Introduction to Cybersecurity
- \* CJ 650 - Criminal Justice Thesis
- \* CJ698 - Comprehensive Examination

## Concentrations:

With the approval of the program director, you may choose to design an area of concentration. Students may also concentrate their program of study in national security, criminal justice management or victimology:

### National Security (12 credits)\*

- \* CJ 513 - Issues in National Security
- \* CJ 514 - Domestic and International Terrorism

### Criminal Justice Management (12 credits)\*

- \* CJ 512 - Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System
- \* CJ 517 - Criminal Justice Program Evaluation

### Victimology (12 credits)\*

- \* CJ 506 - Victimology
- \* CJ 512 - Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System

*\*Six more credits may be chosen from the electives above with approval of the Program Director.*

"The MACJ class sizes are small and are focused on the subject matter. I've used the things I've learned in classes in my current job. I would not trade my years at Sacred Heart University for anything."

— EMILY SHAHAM '09



## SHU FAST FACTS

*The Princeton Review* includes SHU in its **The Best 382 Colleges: 2018** and **Best 267 Business Schools: 2018** and *U.S. News & World Report* recognized SHU as one of the most innovative universities as well as one of the best universities in the North in its newly released guidebook, **Best Colleges 2018**.

**Connecticut Campuses:** Fairfield, Griswold and Stamford Graduate Center

**International Campuses:** Dingle, County Kerry, Ireland and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

**Student Body:** 8,543 total students: 4,982 full-time undergraduate students, 621 part-time undergraduate students and 2,940 graduate students. Students hail from all 50 states including District of Columbia and over 30 countries.

**Class Size:** The student-to-faculty ratio is 15:1, with an average class size of approximately 22 students.

## ADMISSION INFORMATION:

Applications are reviewed by the admissions committee on a rolling basis. The following documents must be submitted and will be considered when applying:

- \* Online application: <http://apply.sacredheart.edu>
- \* Nonrefundable application fee
- \* Official transcripts from all undergraduate institutions attended
- \* One-page personal statement describing career goals, interests and qualifications for the program
- \* Professional résumé
- \* Two letters of recommendation

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

A limited number of research and staff assistantships are available to full-time graduate students on a competitive basis. Student loans, deferred payment plans and a variety of other programs are available through the Office of Student Financial Assistance at 203-371-7980.



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