Earn an advanced Criminal Justice degree

Discover what it takes to work in management and executive positions in police, corrections, court operations and security organizations. Our Master of Science in Administration of Justice and Security program delivers a blend of administrative training, policy development and problem-solving skills to prepare students for administrative roles in law enforcement, corporate security and infrastructure security.

In this Master of Science in Administration of Justice and Security program, you’ll study:

- Policing, the court systems, corrections, private security — and how they relate to each other
- Cybercrime and information systems security
- Risk and critical incident management
- Forensic science and psychological profiling
- Finance and budgeting in justice and security

You can complete your degree in 18 months, and you’ll take one 6-week course at a time so you can balance work and life on the path to your degree.

What sets us apart?

When you choose our Master of Science in Administration of Justice and Security program, you can:

Learn from CJ leaders
Develop real-world insights from instructors who work in criminal justice, including police chiefs, judges, district attorneys, wardens and security directors.

Gain broad experience
Understand the real-world crossover between the disciplines of criminal justice and security, and discover the administrative responsibilities common to each.

Finish your degree faster
Transfer eligible college credits or apply to have military, law enforcement or other relevant industry experience evaluated for potential credit.
Job opportunities

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the job growth for first-line supervisors of police and detectives is projected to be 7% between 2016 and 2026. A Master of Science in Administration of Justice and Security can help prepare you to be a:

- Director, security management
- Director, corporate security
- Security director
- District loss prevention manager
- Chief of police
- Lieutenant

Networking opportunities

Access powerful networking tools through our PhoenixLink™ career services platform. Take advantage of personal career coaching. Search and apply for jobs, or make your resume visible to employers. And connect with employers and alumni through career fairs and mixers. It's all about connections. And we help you make them.

Learning outcomes

Along with the knowledge and skills related to the University Learning Goals, graduates should gain program-specific knowledge, skills and abilities. Each college or school creates a set of Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs) to describe the knowledge, skills or attitudes students will possess upon completion of the program of study. By the time you complete your Master of Science in Administration of Justice and Security degree, you should be able to perform these learning outcomes.

Program purpose statement

The University’s Criminal Justice programs are educational degree programs. For those interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement, corrections or as a peace officer with any particular local, state, federal, tribal or international agency, there are numerous additional qualifications (and often disqualifications), depending on the position. Before enrolling in a Criminal Justice program, potential students are highly encouraged to check with the relevant agency for a complete list of position requirements. The University makes no representations regarding whether any particular University program will qualify a graduate for any such position.

The goal of accreditation is to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality. Accreditation is your assurance the University meets quality standards.

Institutional accreditation

Regional accreditation is an institution-level accreditation status granted by one of six U.S. regional accrediting bodies. Accreditation by more than one regional accrediting body is not permitted by the U.S. Department of Education.

University of Phoenix is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), hlcommission.org. Since 1978, University of Phoenix has been continually accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and its predecessor.
Master of Science/Administration of Justice and Security

Course length: 6 weeks*
One course is 3 weeks long

Total credits required: 37
Max. number of transfer credits: 9

Requirements and prerequisites
You’ll need 37 credits to complete this program. Required courses may vary based on previous experience, training or transferable credits.

Transfer credits
Earn your degree faster. Transfer eligible college credits or, if you have military or law enforcement training such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy or Senior Management Institute for Police, you can apply to have relevant experience evaluated for potential college credit. Contact an enrollment representative at 844.YES.UOPX for more information.

Core courses
- AJS514: Criminological Theory
- AJS583: Legal Issues In Justice And Security
- AJS564: Management Of Institutional Risk And Critical Incident Mgmt
- AJS504: Survey Of Justice And Security
- AJS534: Organizational Administration In Justice And Security
- AJS524: Cybercrime And Information Systems Security
- AJS574: Finance And Budgeting In Justice And Security
- AJS586: Public Policy Issues
- AJS554: Concepts Of Physical And Personal Security
- AJS594: Program Development And Evaluation
- AJS544: Ethics In Justice And Security
- AJS584: Forensic Science And Psychological Profiling
- AJS503: Intro To Graduate Study In Criminal Justice And Security

While widely available, not all programs are available in all locations or in both online and on-campus formats. Please check with a University Enrollment Representative.