

University of Colorado Colorado Springs
College of Public Service
Dual MPA/MCJ Degree Plan
As of Fall 2018
54 total credit hours required

Name: _____ Student ID: _____ Beginning Term: _____

Advisor Name: _____ Advisor Email: _____

MCJ Core Courses:

Course	Title	Hours	Semester	Grade
CRJU 5001	Criminal Justice Systems, Policy and Practice	3		
CRJU 5002	Criminological Theory	3		
CRJU 5410	Victim Studies	3		

MPA Core Courses:

Course	Title	Hours	Semester	Grade
PADM 5001*	Intro to Public Administration and Public Service	3		
PADM 5002	Organizational Management and Behavior	3		
PADM 5004	Economics and Public Finance	3		
PADM 5005	The Policy Process and Democracy	3		
PADM 5006**	Ethics and Leadership	3		

*PADM 5001 should be taken within the first 2 semesters. ** PADM 5006 is cross-listed with CRJU 5552.

Research Methods:

Course	Title	Hours	Semester	Grade
CRJU 5003	Research and Analytic Methods	3		

* CRJU 5003 should not be taken in the first semester of study.

Electives (18-24 hours depending on need of internship and whether student takes Capstone or Thesis option. At least 6 elective hours must be CJ):

Course	Title	Hours	Semester	Grade
CRJU		3		
CRJU		3		
CRJU/PADM		3		

Choose at least 6 hours of CRJU electives and then 12-18 add'l hours from several electives offered by the College of Public Service. See *Academic Catalog* or <https://cps.uccs.edu/> for elective offerings.

Internship (unless waived):

Course	Title	Hours	Semester	Grade
CRJU/PADM 6910 *	Internship	3		

**Required of those students lacking significant experience in public administration and/or criminal justice.*

Capstone or Thesis:

Course	Title	Hours	Semester	Grade
CRJU/PADM 5361 or CRJU/PADM 6950 *	Capstone Seminar or Master's Thesis	3-6		

**This will be your final course and should be taken alone, if possible. All core courses must be complete before enrolling in Capstone or Thesis. Contact your faculty advisor for more information.*

IMPORTANT INFORMATIONACCEPTABLE GRADES

Grades of B- or better are required in all courses applied to the program for those students beginning in Fall 2016 catalog or later. Grades of B- or better are required in core courses and Capstone/Thesis; and C or better in electives for those students beginning in an earlier catalog. In order to remain in good academic standing and to receive his/her degree, a student is required to maintain at least a B (3.0) GPA, which includes all work required for the Dual MPA/MCJ degree while taken at UCCS (classified and unclassified) and may differ from the University GPA.

REPEATING COURSES

A student who receives a grade below B in a course may repeat that course once, with the approval of the MPA or MCJ program director, provided the course has not been previously applied toward a degree. The grade received in a repeated course may substitute for the original grade and only the latter grade will be used in calculating the student's MPA/MCJ GPA for graduation; however, all grades received during the student graduate school experience will appear on the student's transcript and will be used in calculating the student's UCCS GPA.

CERTIFICATES

Students may choose to focus electives so as to earn one or more graduate certificates concurrently with the Dual MPA/MCJ degree. Graduate certificates available to Dual MPA/MCJ students through UCCS include: Nonprofit Management; Homeland Security and Emergency Management Leadership; National Security Intelligence; and Grant Writing, Management, and Program Evaluation. You must submit a Certificate Declaration form to the Graduate Student Services Specialist in the College of Public Service in order to pursue a certificate(s).

INTERNSHIPS

Pre-service students—those without at least one year of professional experience in a criminal justice-related or public administration-related field (e.g., government, nonprofit, national security, homeland security, or emergency management)—are also required to complete a 3-credit-hour internship/field study course (CRJU 6910 or PADM 6910). Student employment is not eligible to count as relevant work experience.

The student's need for an internship/field study is determined by the MPA and MCJ program directors at the time of admission; each student is notified of this decision in their admission letter. Students for whom an internship/field study is required should work with their advisor to find a placement that satisfies all requirements. Students who believe vital experiences have been overlooked may ask the MPA and/or MCJ program director to reconsider the decision by submitting a written request.

Students must have completed at least 9 credit hours of coursework to enroll in internship/field study. A minimum of 240 hours of supervised work is required to earn 3 hours of credit.

Should a student gain at least one year of professional experience during their tenure in the program, they may submit a [Graduate Internship Waiver Request Form](#) that will be reviewed by the MPA and MCJ program directors.

In-service students who are interested in professional development opportunities can request to take an Independent Study (CRJU 9500 or PADM 9500); the internship/field study course is not available for in-service students. Using this option, a plan can be tailored to best meet their needs.

CAPSTONE VS THESIS

Please discuss your options with your faculty advisor early in your program. A Capstone/Thesis orientation is held in both the fall and spring and is open to all College of Public Service graduate students. All core courses must be completed before enrolling in Capstone or Thesis.

GRADUATION

Students should meet with their faculty advisor or the Graduate Recruitment and Retention Specialist periodically to ensure they are meeting the requirements for graduation. Please apply for graduation at the beginning of the semester in which you intend to graduate. Deadlines and forms are found on the [Graduate School website](#).

Last Updated: 02/27/2026