

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE:

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION & APPLICATION PROCESS

Department of Criminal Justice  
College of Human Ecology



# DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE: OVERVIEW

- ▣ Degrees offered
  - Master of Science in Criminal Justice
    - ▣ In-Residence and Distance Education Options
    - ▣ Graduate Certificate in Security Studies
  - Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice
  - Minors
    - ▣ Criminal Justice
    - ▣ Forensic Science
- ▣ Faculty
  - 10 full-time faculty
  - 6 part-time faculty
  - Extensive teaching and research specializations
- ▣ Comprehensive student learning opportunities
  - Study abroad, field experience, faculty mentoring

# Department Faculty

Faculty Position	Education	Specialization
<b>William Bloss, PhD</b> Professor & Chair	BS, University of Houston MA; PhD, Sam Houston State University	Transnational crime, terrorism, comparative CJ, police practices, and privacy rights
<b>James Anderson, PhD</b> Professor	BS;MS, Alabama State University PhD, Sam Houston State University	Legal rights of prisoners, criminology theory, crime and public health, and crime epidemiology
<b>Matthew Johnson, PhD</b> Assistant Professor	BA Baylor University MA; PhD, Sam Houston State University	Criminological theory, life course criminology, quantitative methods, delinquency, victimology
<b>G. Mark Jones, PhD</b> Professor	BS, University of Georgia MS, Georgia State University PhD, Sam Houston State University	Community corrections, criminal justice ethics and history, organized crime
<b>Naoki Kanaboshi, SJD</b> Assistant Professor	LLB, Aoyama Gakuin University LL.M, Waseda University MLI, LL.M, SJD, Univ. of Wisconsin - Madison	Constitutional limitations of criminal law, prisoners' rights, and forensic mental health
<b>John Kerbs, PhD</b> Associate Professor	BS, Emory University MSW, Univ. of California at Berkeley MS; PhD, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor	Juvenile justice, corrections, substance abuse, victimology, school/prison safety

# Department Faculty

Faculty Position	Education	Specialization
<p><b>Hamid Kusha, PhD</b> Assistant Professor</p>	<p>BA, Abadan Institute of Technology MA; PhD University of Kentucky</p>	<p>Police and community, international terrorism and homeland security, comparative criminal justice, and Islamic legal traditions.</p>
<p><b>Daniel Lytle, MS</b> Instructor</p>	<p>BA, Marquette University MS; ABD, University of Cincinnati</p>	<p>Policing, criminal justice theory, criminal justice education, criminal justice policy and program evaluation</p>
<p><b>Nancie Mangels, PhD</b> Assistant Professor</p>	<p>BS; MS Eastern Kentucky University PhD, University of Missouri-Kansas City</p>	<p>Inmate characteristics, legal rights of prisoners, crime and public health, criminal justice ethics, and race and crime</p>
<p><b>Patrice Morris, PhD</b> Assistant Professor</p>	<p>B.Sc. The University of the West Indies MA; PhD, Rutgers University</p>	<p>Neighborhoods and crime; institutional and community corrections; homicide; crime and justice in the Caribbean</p>
<p><b>Dennis Honeycutt, MPA</b> Teaching Instructor</p>	<p>BS; MPA, East Carolina University</p>	<p>Forensic science</p>

# Master of Science in Criminal Justice Overview

- ❖ 2-Year Full Time Program (3-Year P/T)
- ❖ Core curriculum includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - ❖ 1. Criminal Justice Principles
  - ❖ 2. Seminar in Law Enforcement
  - ❖ 3. Seminar in Criminal Justice Courts
  - ❖ 4. Seminar in Corrections
  - ❖ 5. Principles of Criminal Justice Administration and Management
  - ❖ 6. Seminar in Criminology
  - ❖ 7. Seminar in Research Methods and Statistical Interpretation
- ❖ Electives provide coverage of many issues to include, but not be limited to, the following:
  - ❖ 1. Contemporary Issues in Juvenile Justice
  - ❖ 2. Victimology
  - ❖ 3. Criminal Justice and Terrorism
  - ❖ 4. Civil Liability in Criminal Justice

# Master of Science in Criminal Justice Overview

- ❖ Distance Education MSCJ Program
- ❖ Graduate Certificate in Security Studies
- ❖ Provides academic and applied focused study
- ❖ Prepares students for continued advanced study or professions
- ❖ Exceptional graduate teacher/scholar faculty and great professor-to-student ratio (4:1)
- ❖ Funded research and teaching assistantships (contingent upon funding availability)
- ❖ In-residence or distance education study with mentoring faculty
- ❖ Interface with peers, dynamic faculty, and vibrant academic community

# Financial Assistance Information

- ❖ Scholarships and financial aid available
  - ❖ <http://www.ecu.edu/financial/>
- ❖ Scholarships
  - ❖ <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/financial/fascholarships.cfm>
- ❖ Grants
  - ❖ <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/financial/fagrants.cfm>
- ❖ Employment and Service Related Funds
  - ❖ <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/financial/employmentservicebasedgrants.cfm>
- ❖ Loans
  - ❖ <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/financial/loanprograms.cfm>
- ❖ Tuition Installment and Payment Plans

# PROGRAM SPECIAL FEATURES

- ❖ *Alpha Phi Sigma* National Criminal Justice Honor Society
- ❖ [http://www.ecu.edu/che/just/student\\_orgs.html](http://www.ecu.edu/che/just/student_orgs.html)
- ❖ Global study abroad
- ❖ Field experience and internship
- ❖ Faculty-student teaching and research opportunities
- ❖ Alumni-career network at the local, state, and national levels for law enforcement, court-based, and correctional systems
- ❖ Individualized academic and career planning

# APPLICATION PROCESS: IN-RESIDENCE ADMISSIONS

- ❖ **See “Check List for ECU Graduate School” Handout**
  - ❖ This PDF file is available on the MSCJ website
  - ❖ This handout will complement this power point presentation and act as a check list for your application
- ❖ **Step 1: Go online for all application materials**
  - ❖ (<http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/gradschool/applicationinfo.cfm>)
- ❖ **Step 2: Obtain one official (sealed) copy of your undergraduate transcript from ECU**
  - ❖ Do not use downloaded copies - - only official copies
- ❖ **Step 3: Obtain official copies of undergraduate transcripts from all prior colleges and universities**

# APPLICATION PROCESS: IN-RESIDENCE ADMISSIONS

## ❖ **Step 4: Set aside & pay the application fee**

❖ Note: ECU will not update status of online applications on a regular basis without this fee. This can make it hard to tell what materials are on file at ECU.

## ❖ **Step 5: Identify three (3) people who will write your letters of recommendation**

❖ Note: Get at least 2 academic references and no more than 1 professional reference (avoid references from family, friends, and acquaintances)

❖ Suggestion: Provide all letter writers with required forms, copies of your resume and transcripts, and your statement of purpose (these items will help people to write stronger letters)

# APPLICATION PROCESS: IN-RESIDENCE ADMISSIONS

- ❖ **Step 6: Write your *Statement of Purpose* (SOP)**
  - ❖ Your statement of purpose should describe:
    - ❖ Your relevant work experience
    - ❖ Your short- and long-term goals, and
    - ❖ Your specific interests in the master's of criminal justice program
    - ❖ Your statement of purpose should be 500-750 words long, single spaced, and typewritten
- ❖ **Step 7: Show your SOP to professors for feedback on:**
  - ❖ 1) content,
  - ❖ 2) grammar, and
  - ❖ 3) structure (flow)

# APPLICATION PROCESS: IN-RESIDENCE ADMISSIONS

- ❖ **Step 8: Prepare for the GREs - - A SERIOUS ISSUE**
- ❖ 1) Take practice tests
  - ❖ Buy the ETS Publication: GRE Practice Test (10<sup>th</sup> Ed.)
- ❖ 2) Study as needed for verbal and math subsections
- ❖ 3) Shoot for a combined scores of 1000 or higher on the older version of the general GRE test
  - ❖ This version of the GRE is available through July 31<sup>st</sup> of 2011
- ❖ 4) A newly revised general test for the GREs will be implemented on and after August 1<sup>st</sup> of 2011
  - ❖ The new scoring system will range between 100 and 170
  - ❖ ETS will be normalizing scores and providing percentile ranks for scores between August and November of 2011.
  - ❖ More information about the new GRE format can be found online at the following website: <http://www.ets.org/gre/>

# APPLICATION PROCESS: IN-RESIDENCE ADMISSIONS

## ❖ Step 9: Identify target test date

- ❖ 1) Take the test 6 weeks in advance of application due date– the essay section slows release of scores
- ❖ 2) Have scores sent to ECU (reporting code: 5180)
- ❖ 3) Remember: GREs cost money (150 dollars/test) for the general test
  - ❖ The fees may change after 8/1/2011 for the newly revised general test
  - ❖ Save up so that you have the money
- ❖ 4) Schedule test date in advance at an electronic testing center
  - ❖ See handout for Prometric Testing Centers in Greenville
  - ❖ All major cities have online testing centers
  - ❖ If you need your scores to arrive before November, you should take the general GRE test before August of that year

# **APPLICATION PROCESS: DISTANCE EDUCATION (DE) ADMISSIONS**

- ❖ **Step 10: For Distance Education Applicants Only**
- ❖ **Distance Education (DE) Admissions –**
  - ❖ **All requirements for resident admissions apply to DE admissions.**
  - ❖ **DE applicants must also be employed as a criminal justice practitioner or practitioner in a closely related field and have a minimum of five years of full-time (paid) employment experience in such positions.**
  - ❖ **Written employment verification is required on official agency letterhead and it must be signed by an agency administrator. Written employment verification must be submitted at time of application.**

# APPLICATION PROCESS

- ❖ **Step 11: Additional help is available after you review these Power Point slides, the PDF handout, the website for ECU's MSCJ Program, and the Graduate School's online application instructions.**

- ❖ Department of Criminal Justice
- ❖ Graduate Program Office
- ❖ East Carolina University
- ❖ 245 Rivers Building
- ❖ Greenville, NC 27858-4353
- ❖ Phone: 252-328-4192
- ❖ Fax: 252-737-1769
- ❖ Email: [MSCJ@ecu.edu](mailto:MSCJ@ecu.edu)
- ❖ Web Address for MSCJ Program:
  - ❖ <http://ecu.edu/che/just/graduate.html>
- ❖ Web Address for Graduate School's Application:
  - ❖ <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/gradschool/applicationinfo.cfm>

- ❖ **SEE NEXT TWO SLIDES FOR FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

# Frequently Asked Questions

- ❖ **Is ECU's MSCJ Program competitive for admissions?**
  - ❖ Yes, but we look at each applicant's entire admission package to include, but not be limited to, the following: 1) undergraduate GPA, 2) all academic transcripts, 3) GRE scores, 4) work history, 5) statement of purpose, 6) letters of recommendation, and 7) resume. Although you may be weak in one or two areas, the other components of your application may be strong and compensate for certain weaknesses. In such situations, I suggest that you apply and put your best foot forward. The MSCJ Admissions Committee will do the rest by providing a fair and unbiased review.
- ❖ **What can an MSCJ Degree from ECU do for you?**
  - ❖ This degree will help to qualify you for work at a local, state, and/or national level in various parts of the criminal justice system (law enforcement, courts, and/or correctional systems). It will also help you to remove the glass ceiling in the job market and to advance more quickly in your career. A master-level credential is about career prestige and an MSCJ degree can help to advance your professional credibility.

# Frequently Asked Questions

- ❖ **How expensive is tuition at ECU? How costly is an MSCJ degree?**
- ❖ Only the Financial Aid Office can answer this question because it depends upon a number of factors to include, but not be limited to, the following issues: 1) one's residential status as an in-state or an out-of-state student, 2) whether or not one qualifies for educational benefits from work or military service, 3) whether one is eligible for scholarships and/or grants, and 4) other factors. That said, as compared to the tuition and fees at other universities with MSCJ Programs, ECU tends to be more economical in terms of cost per credit hour. Again, please check with the Financial Aid Office for more details (<http://www.ecu.edu/financial/>).