

Criminal Justice and Public Policy: MA

The CJPP program is jointly run by the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and the Department of Political Science. The program distinguishes itself from other Master of Arts (MA) programs in Criminology by having a strong emphasis on criminal justice and governance, while still providing students with the necessary background for continued studies in Criminology, Sociology or Political Science.

cjpp.uoguelph.ca

Program Options

- Course work
- Thesis

Students can complete the program by course work or by writing a thesis.

- Course work option will require 4.0 credits (8 courses).
- Thesis option will require 2.0 credits (4 courses plus the thesis).

The core courses cover: Research Methods in Criminal Justice, Criminological Theory, Governing Criminal Justice, and a Professional Seminar course that emphasizes career readiness and professional development. Students in the course work option complete additional courses on Current Issues in Criminal Justice and an applied capstone course.

Admission Requirements

A four-year undergraduate degree (or equivalent) with a minimum “B+” average. Generally, those admitted will have a higher academic average. The expectation is that the undergraduate degree will be in Sociology, Criminology or Political Science. However, students with at least five courses in Criminology and/or Public Policy may be admitted, if part of a major in another social science or humanities program. Students in the thesis option are expected to have identified and communicated with a potential thesis advisor before applying.

Application Deadline:

January 15, 2026 (applicants are advised to start by January 1)

Entry: Fall



“The Criminal Justice and Public Policy program at Guelph is one of only a few of its kind in Ontario. I was drawn to the interdisciplinary focus of the program, as the courses span across the fields of criminology, sociology, and political science, while also incorporating content on research methods and knowledge mobilization.”

– Jamie Armstrong, CJPP MA 2023

Training

The CJPP MA program blends academic theory and methods with applied experiential learning opportunities, distinguishing it from other criminology programs, to equip students with the skills required to pursue further graduate studies in Criminology, Sociology, or Political Science or to gain employment and pursue opportunities for advancement in the criminal justice sector. For example, the program provides students with the background necessary to enter into employment or advance their careers in a policy or administrative capacity for government or non-governmental organizations, or as front-line service providers (police officers, probation officers and corrections officers). Students might also find employment as instructors at colleges that offer criminal justice programs. The program also equips students with general tools in critical thinking, communication and methodology, which would be useful for employment or educational opportunities beyond the criminal justice field.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN:

- Violence
- Youth
- Cyber-Crime
- Deviance
- Policing
- Gender and Crime
- Criminal Justice Administration
- Corrections and Penology
- The Sociology and Politics of Law

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

- Working with vulnerable groups or populations
- Policy Advisors
- Positions in NGOs
- College Lecturer
- Police, Probation, Corrections Officer
- Data Analyst

CONTACT INFORMATION

Graduate Program Coordinator:

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