

COMBINED DEGREE PROGRAM BA CRIMINAL JUSTICE / MPA PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Program Overview

The Criminal Justice major in the Sociology Department and the Trachtenberg school of Public Policy and Public Administration (TSPPPA) currently allows qualified students the option of combining their BA in Criminal Justice (CJ) degree with the TSPPPA's Master of Public Administration to get both degrees within five to five and a half-years. Twelve appropriate credits received while completing the BA may be counted toward the MPA. Advantages of the combined degree include completing two degrees, including a graduate degree, in a lesser time, and benefiting from a challenging opportunity available to top GW students.

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences requires students to complete their BA requirements before their MPA. In other words, for planning purposes, students intending to pursue the MPA must select courses for their BA so as to complete their BA and begin earning credit for the MPA. They need to graduate with their BA before completing the MPA. (CCAS refers to this consecutive degree acquisition as a Combined Degree Program rather than a joint degree program.) In order to retain undergraduate financial aid, students must maintain a minimum of 51% undergraduate classes.

For more information about the MPA program, admissions requirements, and application process visit: <https://tspppa.gwu.edu/master-public-administration-mpa>.

For more information about Combined Degree programs in Criminal Justice, contact Professor Fran Buntman, Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) in the Department of Sociology (fbuntman@gwu.edu; Phillips Hall 409G).

Admission Timing and Requirements:

1. CJ bachelor's students should apply for the MPA during their junior year (i.e., once 75 hours of credit hours are completed, at least 45 of which must have been completed at GW). Student should apply by February of their junior year and will know if they are admitted to the program by April of their junior year.
2. GREs are not required. Students should have good GPA and candidates will be assessed and accepted on the basis of their overall background and potential. Supporting documents include resumes, advisor assessments, letters of recommendation, etc.
3. Students do not apply online. All application materials should be turned in, in person, to the Sociology Department. If approved, all materials should then be turned into TSPPPA by February 1st.
4. The application deadline is February 1st.

Combined Degree Program Requirements (continued on next page).

Program Curriculum/Degree Requirements (cont'd)

1. All requirements of the BA in CJ:
 - The CCAS GCRs.
 - SOC 1001, 1003, 2101, 2102, 2136, 2145, 2192, PAD 6025; note: SOC 2101 and 2102 should be taken by the junior year.
 - Five (5) courses from the following list of electives: SOC 2135, 2167, 2178, 2184, 2189, PSYC 2011, 3154, FORS 2103, 2104, ECON 2167, PSC 2213, 2215, ANTH 3513, HIST 3370. (Note that some of these courses have prerequisites which must be met.) Among the electives, students must take a minimum of one of the Sociology courses and a minimum of one of the non-Sociology courses.
2. During the fourth year of the BA, it is highly recommended that the following PPPA classes be taken: 6001, 6002, 6003, and either 6005 or 6006. BA students taking PPPA graduate courses MUST work with a TSPPPA advisor in addition to their CJ advisor.
3. During the fifth or graduate year, the following courses must be taken: PPPA 6004 (fall), 6009 (spring), either 6005 or 6006 (whichever was not taken previously), three courses in one of the public administration concentrations, and three electives.
4. Criminal Justice BA students may count the following classes toward their BA: PPPA 6002 may count for SOC 2102, and FORS 6211 and 6212 count for FORS 2103 and 2104. (Note, however, that if one takes PAD 6001-6004 as part of the BA, then FORS 6211-6212 is unlikely to be allowed to double count, because of the 12-credit double counting rule.) Please note further that CJ advisors will still need to put this permission in individual student's files.
5. The Sociology department strongly recommends that BA-CJ/MPA students take at least one graduate-level Criminology course in the Sociology department as one of their MPA electives.