Combined Degree BA (CJ)/MPA Program
Bachelor of Arts (BA) with Criminal Justice (CJ) major combined with a Master of Public Administration (MPA)

The Criminal Justice major in the Sociology Department and the School of Public Policy and Public Administration (SPPPA) currently allows qualified students the option of combining their BA in Criminal Justice (CJ) degree with the SPPPA’s Master of Public Administration to get both degrees in five-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.

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). Students applying as seniors may still be considered for admission, but they may not be able to get all the benefits of the dual program and may need more time in the program than students who apply on time.

2. Assuming students apply on time in their junior year, they will know by the beginning of the senior year whether or not they are accepted (subject, of course, to other conditions such as degree fulfillment).

3. GREs are not required. However, students should have good GPA and candidates will be assessed and accepted on the basis of their overall background and potential. Supporting documents may include resumes, advisor assessments, letters of recommendation, etc.

4. Students apply to the Sociology Department but need not pay the application fee for the MPA. Then CCAS will be advised that this is an application from a current GW student aiming to pursue a combined degree in order for the lack of application fee not to hold up their admission.

5. Application deadlines may differ from year to year, but generally follow the same pattern. For the Fall semester, the deadlines are typically January 15 for fellowship consideration and for international students requiring a student visa and April 1 for all other MPA students. For the Spring semester, the deadlines are typically September 1 for fellowship consideration and for international students requiring a student visa and October 1 for all other MPA students.
Combined Degree Program requirements:

1. All requirements of the BA in CJ:
   - The CCAS GCRs.
   - Soc 1001, 1003, 2101, 2102, 2136, 2145, 2192, PAd6025; 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, Economics 2167, PSc 2213, 2215, Anth 3513, History 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 PAd classes be taken: 201, 202, 203, and 204. BA students taking PAd graduate courses MUST work with a PAd advisor in addition to their CJ advisor.

3. During the fifth or graduate year, the following courses must be taken: PAd 6005, 6006, 6009, three courses in one of the public administration concentrations, and two electives.

4. Criminal Justice BA students may count the following classes toward their BA: PAd6002 may count for Soc 2102, and ForS 6211 and ForS 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. Soc 2192 may count in part towards the MPA internship or part-time job requirement (which occurs for MPA students with less than three years of professional work experience).

6. 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.