Program Requirements
The Department offers both thesis and culminating research options for completion of the master's degree.

All master's degree programs require a minimum of 50 percent of the non-thesis credit hours applied to the degree to be 400-level courses or above.

Accelerated Master's Degree in Criminal Justice Sciences: High achieving students who graduated with a degree in ISU's Accelerated CJS undergraduate program are allowed to apply up to 12 hours of approved graduate courses to both the undergraduate and graduate degrees

Option I—Thesis: This 33-hour option requires:
- 15 hours: 401, 440, 497, 499 (6 hours)
- 18 hours of electives selected with the cooperation of the student's mentor and the approval of the graduate advisor. The electives will be selected from appropriate graduate course offerings in Criminal Justice Sciences, Sociology, Politics and Government, and other departments. Courses at the 300 level may be taken only with the approval of the graduate advisor.

Option II—Culminating Research Project: This 36-hour option requires:
- 12 hours: CJS 400, 401, 440, 497
- 24 hours of electives from appropriate graduate course offerings in Criminal Justice Sciences, Sociology, Politics and Government, and other departments. Courses at the 300 level may be taken only with the approval of the graduate advisor.

Internship in Criminal Justice Sciences
Each student working toward a Master's degree in Criminal Justice Sciences may enroll in the internship course (CJS 498). The student will be required to work in a criminal justice agency throughout the semester. The internship provides the student with the opportunity to integrate classroom theory with practical experience. The program is designed to acquaint the graduate student with managerial principles and problems, so that he or she will be better qualified to assume management positions in criminal justice. Students will normally not be approved for enrollment in an internship prior to completion of sixteen graduate hours. The department has a full-time internship coordinator who arranges placement, provides supervision, and evaluates student performance.