Master of Justice Management
Graduate Program Handbook
2018
Preface

The purpose of the Justice Management graduate program handbook is to provide guidance to students and faculty for facilitating students’ progression to degree completion. The handbook provides necessary information for students to understand the requirements, expectations, and opportunities associated with both the Justice Management graduate program and the Graduate School. Additional information may also be found on our UNR website at UNR Justice Management.

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Program Description

The Master of Justice Management is a special degree program offering a broad selection of courses including foundation courses in justice theory and process, essentials of justice management, and courses specific to areas of concentration such as Juvenile Justice Management, Adult Justice Management, and Executive Court and Agency Administration. As part of the School of Social Research and Justice Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno, the Justice Management program provides an academic foundation for those seeking education or advancement in the varied fields associated with the administration of justice. It is the only degree program of its kind and is organized jointly by the University of Nevada, Reno; the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges; and the National Judicial College. The justice system, including court annexed programs and private entities, represents the manifestation of society's concepts of justice. Educational opportunities greatly affect the continued improvement of the system. The Justice Management program is designed to provide an academic degree program that is national in scope and impact.

The program offers three areas of concentration (Juvenile Justice Management, Adult Justice Management, and Executive Court and Agency Administration) and provides a large selection of courses allowing students to create a program of study unique to their interests and professional needs. Special topic courses include a wide variety of study areas to address current trends in justice administration.

The Justice Management program is the only one of its kind to have all of its courses offered completely online. This allows the administrators to select faculty and students from all over the country, and the students may earn their degree entirely online from the University of Nevada, Reno, a Tier 1 University.

Program Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to demonstrate proficiency in the diagnosis and analysis of problems through techniques developed by the social, behavioral and natural sciences.
   a. Performance Indicators: Learn basics of theory and research relevant to the justice system.
   b. Assessment Method: Faculty assessment of course work performance and grades submitted for respective courses.

2. Students will be able to conduct research and demonstrate problem solving skills.
   a. Performance Indicators: Working knowledge of research design, methodology, and communication skills necessary to independently conduct a research project related to policy development, program evaluation, or other justice-related issue. Develop skills to present research in a concise and professional written form.
   b. Assessment Method: Successful completion of course work in research, theory, management and law, as applied to the justice system; and successful completion
Tracks Offered (Non-Thesis and Thesis)

The Justice Management Program offers two graduate tracks: non-thesis and thesis. The non-thesis option allows students to produce a professional paper that, while based in theory, encompasses an application approach and may be directly related to the improvement of some aspect of the justice system.

The thesis option allows students to produce an academic empirical research study in conjunction with earning their degree.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the JM program requires admission to the University's Graduate School, which requires:

- A completed baccalaureate degree from an appropriately accredited institution;
- An overall undergraduate grade-point average of 2.75 (or 3.0 for last half of undergraduate study). If the applicant does not meet this criteria, admission to graduate standing can be considered after a student has taken a limited number of courses as a Graduate Special;
- Additionally, the student must be approved by the Justice Management Admission Committee.
- Application includes two letters of recommendation and a personal statement written by the applicant.
- Scores of standardized tests such as the GRE are not required for application to the Master of Justice Management program.
- All materials should be submitted through the Graduation School application processes.

Application Deadlines

Applications are accepted for all regular semesters (Fall and Spring). For entry into the program for Fall semester, applications are due by July 1 each year. For entry into the program for the Spring semester, applications are due by December 1 each year.
Degree Requirements

Total number of credits

- Non-thesis option: minimum of 32 credits in the prescribed curriculum, 15 of which (including the required 3 credits of JM 796 Professional Project) must be at the 700 level.
- Thesis option: minimum of 24 credits in the prescribed curriculum, 12 of which (not including JM 797 Thesis credits) must be at the 700 level; plus 6 additional required credits of JM 797 Thesis, for a minimum total of 30 credits.

Course work (for course descriptions, please see UNR course catalog)

Required Courses:

**Core Courses (6 credits):**
- JM 601 - Introduction to Justice Management
- JM 602 - Methods of Program Research, Design, and Evaluation

**Additional Foundation Courses (minimum of 6 credits):**
- JM 703 Judicial Process I (Civil law & procedure)
- JM 704 Judicial Process II (Criminal law & procedure)
- JM 705 Juvenile and Family Law and Procedure
- JM 706 Applied Ethics in Justice Management
- JM 707 Legal Research
- JM 708 Legal and Administrative Report Writing
- JM 790 Special Topics in Justice Management

(Upon approval by the JM program, graduate level courses offered by other UNR departments may be taken as Electives, and on a case-by-case basis, may substitute for JM Additional Foundation courses.)

**Essentials of Justice Management Courses (minimum of 6 credits):**
- JM 690A - Spec Top Essen Jus Mgmt: Court Mgmt
- JM 690B - Spec Top Essen Jus Mgmt: Leadership
- JM 690C - Spec Top Essen Jus Mgmt: Caseflow Mgmt
- JM 690D - Spec Top Essen Jus Mgmt: Info Technology
- JM 690E - Spec Top Essen Jus Mgmt: Hr Mgmt
- JM 690F - Spec Top Essen Jus Mgmt: Budget & Financ
- JM 693 - Selected Issues in Court Management

(Upon approval by the JM program, graduate level courses offered by other UNR...
departments may be taken as Electives, and on a case-by-case basis, may substitute for JM Essentials of Justice Management courses.)

See below for required credits of JM 796 or JM 797.

**Elective Courses (minimum of 12 credits for non-thesis option, not including professional project credits; minimum of 6 credits for thesis option, not including thesis credits).**  Students may choose Electives in any combination, and students may take additional courses from the Additional Foundation and Essentials of Justice Management categories as Electives, subject to requirements concerning minimum amounts of 700-level credits:

JM 721 - Victims' Issues, Restitution, and Restorative Justice
JM 723 - Early Intervention and Crime Prevention
JM 725 - Race and Gender in Juvenile Justice
JM 730 - Privatization in Justice Management
JM 732 - History and Development of Parole and Probation
JM 734 - Mental Health Issues in Justice Management
JM 735 - Special Topics in Homeland Security: the Dynamics the Threat Groups
JM 736 - Special Topics in Homeland Security: the Impact on National and International Jurisprudence
JM 737 - Special Topics in Homeland Security: Technology
JM 791 - Special Topics in Juvenile Justice Management
JM 792 - Special Topics in Adult Justice Management
JM 793 - Special Topics in Executive Court and Agency Administration

**Optional Internship and Independent Study credits (counts toward Elective credits):**

JM 780 - Independent Study
JM 781 - Internship in Justice Management

Comprehensive Exam

No comprehensive exams are required for the Justice Management program.

Credits for Non-Thesis and Thesis Track

Required Non-thesis track credits:

JM 796 Professional Project (3 credits)

Required Thesis track credits:

JM 797 Thesis (6 credits)
Graduate School Academic Requirements:

All graduate students must maintain a cumulative graduate GPA of 3.0. If their GPA drops below 3.0, they are either placed on probation or dismissed. Undergraduate courses will not count towards graduate GPA.

Probation: students whose cumulative graduate GPA falls between 2.31 and 2.99 are automatically placed on academic probation for one semester. If they fail to raise their cumulative GPA to 3.0 by the end of one semester, they are dismissed from their graduate program. Thesis, dissertation, S/U graded credits, and transfer credits have no impact on a student's GPA.

Dismissal: students whose cumulative graduate GPA is 2.30 or lower are dismissed. Dismissed students are no longer enrolled in their graduate program but may take graduate-level courses as a Graduate Special. Dismissed students wishing to complete their degree must obtain approval to take graduate-level courses, raise their graduate GPA to at least 3.0, and then re-apply to their graduate program. Any courses taken in an effort to raise their GPA will be included in the graduate special/transfer credit limitation (9 credits for master's degrees).

Please refer to Nevada System of Higher Education CODE on Student Program Dismissal Procedures (SPDP) and review conference policies: (NSHE CODE, Chapter 11, Sections 1-3). If program dismissal is based upon failure to maintain required grades or a required GPA as described above, SPDP does not apply and the student may be summarily dismissed from the graduate program.

Transfer credits

These are credits transferred from another institution. Credits completed at UNR in another program or as a graduate special do not need to be transferred. Transfer credit can be requested on the Graduate Credit Transfer Evaluation Request form available on Graduate School website, and must be signed by the student, major advisor, and graduate director. Transfer credits applied to a master's program must comply with the time limitation on master's work (6 years). Thus, if a student took a course five years prior to admission, the student would have to complete the degree within one year for the course to apply to the degree.

Department approval to transfer credits does not guarantee that all courses requested will be approved by the Graduate School to be transferred, or applicable toward satisfying program course degree requirements.

Official transcripts showing courses requested to be transferred must be on file with the Graduate School.
Research, Directed Study, Independent Study, Seminars, Colloquiums, Thesis Credits, Dissertation Credits, Practicum/Internships, Special Topics, Undergraduate Courses, Pass/Fail Courses, or Courses from unaccredited institutions ARE NOT TRANSFERABLE, and are not applicable toward an advanced degree at the University of Nevada, Reno.

All transferred courses must be post-baccalaureate. Only courses with grades of ‘C’ or better may be transferred to a Master’s program.

All course work and transfer credits must comply with acceptable degree program time limitations; 6 years for a Master’s Degree, 8 years for a Doctoral Degree. (Credits from a completed master's degree will be exempt from the 8-year time limitation for those earning a doctoral degree.)

**SPECIAL NOTES:** A maximum of 9 credits completed prior to admission (including transfer credits and credits earned with Graduate Special status) may be applied toward a Master’s degree.

Pursuant to Applying Graduate Special Credits to a Degree on the UNR website: One does not need to transfer courses taken as a graduate special or courses taken as part of a previous degree at University of Nevada, Reno. Students who took courses intended for their degree as a Graduate Special student may apply 9 Graduate Special credits towards their degree program. Any application of credits in excess of 9 credits requires an exception to policy to be requested by your Graduate Program Director.

Contact the Graduate School at (775) 784-6869 if you have any questions regarding what can or cannot be applied towards your degree.

Graduate School Enrollment Requirements

Continuous Enrollment: To maintain "good standing" all graduate students are required to enroll in a minimum of three (3) graduate credits each Fall and Spring semester until they graduate, unless a Leave of Absence is approved by the Graduate School (see Section 10 regarding Leave). Summer enrollment is optional.

Forms Required by the Graduate School

- Program of Study form (submitted when student’s chairperson and committee formed)
- Graduation Application
  - May graduation applications due by March 1 each year;
  - August graduation application due by June 1 each year;
  - December graduation applications due October 1 each year.
- Notice of Completion (submitted after all requirements have been met; consult Graduate
School website for deadline
• Thesis Forms (for thesis track only)

A list of required forms and deadlines can be found on the Graduate School Website.
Timeline for Degree Completion

All course work must be completed within six years preceding the awarding of the degree. A student may take up to six years to complete the JM master’s program, but the program is designed to be completed in two to four years. Most students complete the degree entirely online. All courses with a "JM" prefix are delivered online. Students may (but are not required to) take on-campus courses from other departments as approved by the JM program, and may take special JM courses presented at various regional seminar facilities. Completion time is also dependent upon course schedules and graduate-level transfer credits.

Recommended Course Sequence

The sample sequence of suggested courses are recommended to progress through the program. You can enroll and complete more credits to complete the program requirements earlier.

2-year plan (non-thesis):
   1st year: JM 601, two Additional Foundation courses (JM 708 recommended), two Essentials of Justice Management courses;
   2nd year: four Elective courses, JM 602, JM 796

3-year plan (non-thesis):
   1st year: JM 601, two Additional Foundation courses (JM 708 recommended), one Essentials of Justice Management course;
   2nd year: one Essentials of Justice Management course, three Elective courses:
   3rd year: one Elective course, JM 602, JM 796

2-year plan (thesis):
   1st year: JM 601, two Additional Foundation courses (JM 708 recommended), two Essentials of Justice Management courses;
   2nd year: two Elective courses, JM 602, six credits of JM 797

3-year plan (thesis):
   1st year: JM 601, two Additional Foundation courses (JM 708 recommended), one Essentials of Justice Management course;
   2nd year: one Essentials of Justice Management course, two Elective courses:
   3rd year: JM 602, six credits of JM 797
Committee Selection Guideline

The Graduate School requires JM graduate students to have three committee members, at least two of whom must be on-campus graduate faculty. The Graduate School maintains a list of graduate faculty on its website. One of the two on-campus faculty members must agree to serve as committee chairperson. The other on-campus faculty member should be eligible to serve as the "Graduate School Representative." The third member may be another on-campus graduate faculty or may be a part-time off-campus instructor (most JM online instructors fall into this category). On a case-by-case basis, with Graduate School approval, an instructor from another university, or another professional with appropriate credentials may serve as the third member. If a part-time off-campus instructor or other outside person is to serve on the committee, the JM department must obtain approval from the Graduate School. Such requests are made routinely on behalf of JM students, but must be approved by the Graduate School prior to submitting the student's Program of Study form.

All committee members should have an active interest in and knowledge of the student's topic area, and be ready to advise and assist the student at each stage of the professional project or thesis process. The advisory committee is responsible for reviewing and approving the program of study; reviewing and recommending revisions, improvements, and reference suggestions on drafts of the professional project paper or thesis; and approving the final draft of the professional project paper or thesis. The chairperson carries final authority on passing the student’s professional project paper or thesis, and resolves disputes if necessary.

Students should form their committees in conjunction with completing JM 602 and working with the professional project consultant or JM program administrators.

Formal approval of all student advisory committees is made by the Graduate School Dean.
Non-Thesis and Thesis Requirements

Non-Thesis/Professional Project Paper

Students completing the non-thesis option will complete a Professional Project paper. Generally students begin the preliminary preparation steps for their paper in conjunction with taking JM 602 Methods of Program Research, and participating in a “JM 796 Preparation Lab.” Preliminary steps include choosing and developing a topic, producing a project intent document, and soliciting committee members, with the assistance of the JM Professional Project consultant. Typically, JM 602 is taken in a student’s next-to-last semester, and JM 796 Professional Project is taken in the student’s last semester. Students who do not complete their paper in one semester must continue to meet minimum enrollment requirements (3 credits each Fall and Spring semester) until the paper is satisfactorily completed and approved by their committee. Three (3) credits of JM 899 Graduate Advisement may be taken to meet minimum enrollment requirements.

NOTE: If a student is enrolled in 3 or more credits in a Spring semester intended to be the final semester, but does not complete his or her professional project paper, the student may extend graduation to Summer without having to enroll in any Summer credits. If a student is not enrolled in Spring semester credits (i.e., on Leave), or is enrolled in less than 3 credits, then to graduate in Summer, the student must enroll in 1 credit (i.e., of JM 899) for Summer.

Graduate School forms required: Program of Study, Application for Graduation, Notice of Completion.

Some example topics for professional projects include:

- Juvenile and Family Area
  - Developing Job Readiness, Training and Employment Opportunities for Juvenile Offenders;
  - Ethical Dilemmas for Juvenile Probation officers: Social Work versus Law Enforcement Roles;
  - Developing Training Programs for Juvenile Probation Officers;
  - Designing Pro-social Skills Programs for Juvenile Offender Programs
  - Truancy Prevention Programs for Juvenile Offenders

- Adult Corrections Area
  - Study the recidivism rate for a new alternative to incarceration program.
  - Conduct an evaluation of a plan for a new re-entry program.
  - Design and conduct a cost efficiency study of the privatization of a criminal justice service (such as medical services or a facility).
  - Conduct a staffing analysis of an existing detention facility including appropriate fiscal and physical data.
• Develop a training manual.
  • Design a program evaluation of a criminal justice program such as a drug court, a boot camp, a diversion program, etc.

• Management Area
  • Develop a Tactical Plan for a New Program
  • Develop a Strategic Plan for a New Agency
  • Design a Management Training Program for Mid-level Managers
  • Design a Volunteer Program
  • Develop Evidence-based Management Programs
  • Caseload Management

Formatting the Professional Project Paper

Font/format: Times New Roman, 12 pt., double spaced, 1” margins.

Title page (APA Rule 8.03, 6th edition), with the addition of the 5 items below the institution name.

• Running Head - at top, left
• Page number 1 - at top, right

• Title of your paper (centered)
• Your name (centered)
• University of Nevada, Reno (centered)
• JM 796 Professional Project (centered)
• (Name, Degree), Committee Chair (centered)
• (Name, Degree), Committee Member (centered)
• (Name, Degree), Committee Member (centered)
• Current date (centered)

Include a "Running head" (APA Rule 8.03, 6th edition - starting on the title page)
NOTE: The phrase "Running head:" occurs on page 1, but NOT on following pages.

Example for page 1: Running head: MY SHORTENED TITLE
Example for page 2+: MY SHORTENED TITLE

The Professional Project paper should include the following components:
  A. Title Page
  B. Table of Contents
  C. Abstract
  D. Body of your paper
  E. Reference page (heading "References") with full citations properly formatted.
  F. Appendices (if applicable)
The title page should be numbered 1; the Table of Contents, page 2; the Abstract, page 3; and the body of the paper begins on page 4. Do not include the word page in the numbering.

Thesis

Students completing the thesis option will work with JM program administrators and/or the Professional Project consultant when taking JM 602, to develop their topic and seek a committee chairperson. Students then work directly with their chairperson to develop a thesis prospectus and research parameters. Students will take 6 credits of JM 797 Thesis, generally 3 credits in each of two consecutive semesters. Students who do not complete their thesis in two semesters, will continue to take a minimum of 3 credits of JM 797 in Fall and Spring semesters until their thesis is satisfactorily completed and approved by their committee.

NOTE: If a student is enrolled in 3 or more credits in a Spring semester intended to be the final semester, but does not complete his or her thesis, the student may extend graduation to Summer without having to enroll in any Summer credits. If a student is not enrolled in Spring semester credits (i.e., on Leave), or is enrolled in less than 3 credits, then to graduate in Summer, the student must enroll in 1 credit (i.e., of JM 899) for Summer.


The thesis must include the following components:

A. Title Page  
B. Copyright Page  
C. Committee Approval Page  
D. Abstract  
E. Chapter 1: Introduction  
F. Chapter 2: Literature Review  
G. Chapter 3: Methodology  
H. Chapter 4: Results and Interpretations  
I. Chapter 5: Conclusions, Recommendations, and Discussion  
J. References  
K. Appendices (Optional)

Formatting the Thesis

The JM Program requires students use the APA style guide.

Margins and spacing:
- Left margin: 1.5” from left edge of page
• Right margin: 1.0” from right edge of page
• Top margin: 1.0” from top edge of page
• Bottom margin: 1.25” from bottom edge of page

All text should be double-spaced with the exception of captions, foot-notes, long quotations, bibliographic entries of more than one line, and materials in tables and appendices. No double sided printing will be accepted. Print text on one side of page ONLY.

Fonts
Fonts should be easy to read. Times New Roman, Arial or a similarly clear font is preferred; type size must be 10, 11, or 12 point. Script and italic typefaces are not acceptable except where absolutely necessary i.e. in Latin designations of species, etc.

More detailed information about the thesis filing guidelines as well as sample committee pages can be found at the Graduate School website on the Dissertation Thesis Submission Requirements guidelines form.
Graduate Assistantships

The JM program currently does not offer graduate teaching or research assistantships.

Health Insurance

All domestic degree seeking graduate students, who are enrolled in six or more credits (regardless of the course level) in a semester, will be automatically enrolled and billed for the University sponsored health insurance for each term they are eligible (fall & spring/summer). If a student has other comparable coverage and would like to waive out of the student health insurance, it is the student's responsibility to complete the University online waiver form prior to the deadline. If approved, a health insurance waiver is good for the current academic year only. A new waiver must be submitted each academic year. JM program students participating in online courses only should contact the Graduate School to confirm an exemption from this requirement.

Leave of Absence

Students in good standing may request a leave of absence by completing a Leave of Absence form. During an approved leave time they are not required to maintain continuous enrollment. Usually, a leave of absence is approved for one or two semesters. The leave of absence request may be extended by the student filing an additional leave of absence form. Students applying for a leave of absence should not have any "incomplete" grades which could be changed to "F" and have a detrimental impact on their cumulative GPA. Requests for leave of absences must be received by the Graduate School no later than the last day of enrollment for the semester the leave is to begin. A student on an approved leave does not need to request Reinstatement if the student returns at the end of the leave period.

Reinstatement

When a student has been absent for one semester or more without an approved leave of absence, he or she may request reinstatement via the Notice of Reinstatement form found on the Graduate School website. This form allows the program the option to recommend the student be re-admitted to the graduate program based on the student’s previous admission OR require the student to re-apply for admission which would require the student to submit a new application for admission and pay the application fee. The Notice of Reinstatement to Graduate Standing
must be received by the Graduate School no later than the last day of enrollment for the semester the reinstatement is to begin.

Graduate Student Association

The Graduate Student Association represents all graduate students and promotes the welfare and interests of the graduate students at the University of Nevada, Reno. The GSA works closely with appropriate university administrative offices, including the Graduate School and Student Services and reports to the President of the University. The GSA government functions through the Council of Representatives, Executive Council and established committees. Information for the Graduate Student Association can be found on their website.

Graduate School Forms

Please refer to the Graduate School website for updated and current forms as well as due dates.

List of URLs

More information about the Justice Management program can be found on the University of Nevada, Reno website.

Information about the University, its mission, transfer credits, course offerings, and descriptions can be found on the Course Catalog webpages.
Appendix A

List of Previously Published Theses by Justice Management Master Students.


Appendix B

Brief Partial List of Non-published Professional Projects by Justice Management Master Students.


Berriochoa, J. (2013). *Physical fitness and mentoring as an intervention to reduce juvenile recidivism.*


Cardillo, N. (2013). *Truancy educational program for parents of Latino students in Washoe County school district and the impact on Latino juveniles.*


Cooper, B. (2011). *Eighth Amendment and Medical Rights of inmates: Civil liability.*

Dunham, C. (2012). *The benefits of having a school-based probation program at Hug High School in Washoe County.*


Madden, K. (2012). *Coconino County Revocation Court: Building an evidence-based platform to measure reduced recidivism.*

Maniaci, A. (2009). *Screening for trauma to promote trauma-informed care in St. Louis County.*

Martin, T. (2014). *The role of minor’s counsel, cultural competency and reunification outcomes of diverse families in the California Juvenile Dependency System.*

Masloski, A. (2012). *Specialized treatment court for justice involved veterans: Determining if there is a need in Wyandotte County.*


Vare, L. (2010). *Strategic plan: An analysis of the issues related to jail overcrowding at the Napa County Department of Corrections.*