

PROPOSED PROGRAM SUMMARY

Institution: Kentucky State University
Program Name: Criminal Justice
Degree Destination: Master of Arts

CIP Code: 43.0104

Credit Hours: 30

Implementation Date: 8/1/2025

Program Description

This proposed Master of Arts in Criminal Justice program at Kentucky State University will prepare students for mid-level positions in the field of criminal justice and will be particularly attractive to individuals already employed in the criminal justice field seeking management and other leadership positions. There will be two concentrations: Cybersecurity and Professional. The Cybersecurity concentration will prepare students to serve in positions such as security analysts. The Professional concentration will be attractive to those seeking positions in criminal justice generally, particularly leadership roles.

As a result of this program, graduates will be able to:

- analyze the structure, functions, and interrelationships of law enforcement agencies, courts, corrections, and related organizations within the criminal justice system;
- develop leadership and management competencies to lead and supervise personnel within criminal justice organizations;
- conduct applied research and program evaluations to assess the effectiveness of criminal justice administration practices;
- collaborate with interdisciplinary teams and stakeholders to develop and implement strategies for addressing challenges within criminal justice administration; and
- exhibit professionalism, integrity, and ethical conduct.

Connection to Other Programs

Kentucky State University received approval last academic year for a baccalaureate program in the same field, providing a supply of students for the master's program. Similar programs exist at Eastern Kentucky University, the University of Louisville, University of Kentucky, and Western Kentucky University. However, there are differences in curricular foci, as well as intended student populations, which warrants addition of this program.

Student Demand

Initial estimates of enrollment are:

Year 1 – 25

Year 2 – 50

Year 3 – 75

Year 4 – 120

Year 5 – 125

Employment Demand

Bureau of Labor Statistics data for Kentucky shows positive job growth trends. Three-year historic occupational growth rates are in the 78th percentile and masters-prepared graduates can expect an entry-level salary of \$51,586. Median salaries are estimated to be \$81,803, showing clear potential for increases as time progresses.

Budget

The program will be supported by CPE funding for three years, as well as through tuition and fees. One additional faculty member will need to be hired, likely within two years of implementation.

Projected Revenue over Next Five Years (\$):	\$ 5,690,000
Projected Expenses over Next Five Years (\$):	\$ 2,092,200