

# MSCJ Admission Criteria

**The admission criteria for the MSCJ Program at KSU are as follows:** (Note: These criteria will be reviewed holistically and in their entirety, and admissions decisions are based on an overall evaluation of all of these criteria).

- University-wide graduate admission requirements.
- Possession of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited university or equivalent training at a foreign institution in a manner recognized by KSU.
- One official copy of all undergraduate and graduate transcripts.
- A letter stating the applicant's interest and goals for the MSCJ program, including reasons for why/how this program will meet the applicant's professional or academic needs (Note: If the applicant has a record of work experience in the criminal justice field, the applicant should explain in the letter the type and length of the experience, his or her work-related promotions and achievements, and skills/ knowledge acquired.)
- A current resume.
- Two current letters of recommendation that address the applicant's potential for graduate study. Two letters should be from academics (Note: One of the two letters could be from a work supervisor if the applicant has numerous years of relevant work experience in the criminal justice field).
- A status of "good standing" at the last institution attended.
- A grade point average of 2.75 (on a 4.0 scale) or better in undergraduate work.
- A record of external validation, including at least **ONE (1)** of the following:
  - A. Graduate Record Exam - GRE (verbal and quantitative --- minimum combined score of 286 on the GRE's current scale or 800 on the prior scale); **\*OR\***
  - B. Record of successful academic performance such as undergraduate GPA of 3.25 or better; **\*OR\***
  - C. Demonstrated record of successful work experience in the criminal justice field for a period of four (4) or more years. Examples may include:
    - A police officer who has been promoted to a higher rank (sergeant, etc.) or a police officer who has received a significant award or similar recognition for his or her work-related achievement
    - A correctional employee who has been promoted to a supervisory or management position (a warden, etc.) or a correctional employee who has received a significant award or similar recognition for his or her work-related achievement

- A court employee who has been promoted to a supervisory or management position (a clerk of court, case manager, etc.) or a court employee who has received a significant award or similar recognition for his or her work-related achievement.
- Applicants with undergraduate degrees not in criminal justice, criminology, or related studies will be required to complete two courses (six hours) of undergraduate coursework in Criminology and Research Methods in Criminal Justice. These undergraduate hours will not count towards the graduate degree requirements.

### **Applications from non-U.S. citizens or nonpermanent residents will be processed as international and must meet the following requirements:**

- International applicants must have their foreign credentials evaluated by an independent evaluation service that is a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services, Inc. Course-by-course evaluations, equivalence to an accredited U.S. degree or number of years toward completion, and grade point average equivalents are required.
- International students from countries where English is not the primary language must submit a TOEFL score of 550 (or 80 if using Internet-based total) or above to be considered for admission. Applicants from Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Dominica, Ghana, Guyana, Ireland, Jamaica, Liberia, New Zealand, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tobago, Trinidad, United Kingdom, or Zimbabwe may be exempt from this requirement.
- As an alternative to TOEFL, the IELTS will be accepted; the minimum required score is 6.0.
- Affidavit of support from the sponsor (F-1 Visa students only) AND letter of support from a bank
- A valid passport