

Hi, my name is Carlos Posadas, Director of the Master of Criminal Justice Program (MCJ) at New Mexico State University (NMSU). The Department of Criminal Justice sincerely appreciates your interest in the MCJ at NMSU. Students have two program options for earning the MCJ, the traditional campus-based program and the online program.

Upon making application to the MCJ with the Department of Criminal Justice, you must declare in writing to the Director of the MCJ whether you desire to be admitted into the campus-based program or the online program. You may declare your program intent within your written essay that is part of the application process, or send the Director of the MCJ a separate letter indicating your intent. Once a program is chosen you must remain in that program for one full academic year. Students may apply to move between the two programs only between academic years. Students admitted into the online program may only enroll in online courses. Students admitted as campus-based students may only enroll in campus-based courses. Students enrolled in the campus-based program may enroll in online courses during the summer sessions and when a general announcement is made that a specific online class is open to campus-based students.

Class cohorts are limited in size and there are frequently more applicants than openings in the program. For full admission consideration into the MCJ, the Director of the MCJ needs to be in receipt of all admission information by the following deadlines:

For admission into the Fall Semester:	April 1;
For admission into the Spring Semester	November 15;

Although admission into the program is possible after these deadlines, a decision to admit a student after these deadlines have passed is made only as space in the program is, or becomes, available.

Enrollment in the MCJ is the same for both the campus-based and online programs and is a two-step process. The steps need to be completed simultaneously.

1. You need to apply to the [Graduate School](#) at NMSU. Once the Graduate School receives your application, transcripts from prior universities and/or colleges, and your application fee, and determines your eligibility for admission, they will forward your information to the Department where a final admission decision is made. Once a final admission is made you will be notified directly by the Graduate School. *It is very important that you submit this application form to the Graduate School 30 days prior to the MCJ program admission deadlines listed above. Failure to comply with this stipulation may cause your application file in the Department of Criminal of Justice to be incomplete by the deadline and could result in an unfavorable admission decision.*

2. Send three letters of recommendation directly to the Director of the MCJ program from professors, employers, etc. who can comment on your strengths and potential for success in the MCJ. These letters may be mailed directly by the individual writing the letter, or collected by you in sealed and signed envelopes and included in one package along with your written essay. Your essay should introduce yourself, specify if you will be an ONLINE or CAMPUS student, and focus on the following: "I think the most important issue in the criminal justice system is ... ". Recommendation forms that can be used in conjunction with letters of recommendation are not required but are preferred. These [Recommendation forms](#) can be downloaded by clicking the above link.

If you are an international student, you must make application through the following web link, <http://international.nmsu.edu/admissions.html>

NMSU provides the Department of Criminal Justice with a small number of graduate assistantships each year. These graduate assistantships are awarded to students on a competitive basis. If you wish to be considered for a graduate assistantship award you must indicate in writing your desire in writing to the Director of the MCJ. For full consideration, the Director of the MCJ must be in receipt of all materials for admission, including your written request to be considered for a graduate assistantship, by April 1. The formal allocation of graduate assistantships occurs after the Graduate School informs the Department of Criminal Justice of the number of graduate assistantship allocations.

Once you have completed both steps 1 & 2, the Department of Criminal Justice makes an admission decision, notifying you and the Graduate School of that decision. The Graduate School sends you a letter containing the admission decision.

In the meantime, visit our web page at <http://crimjust.nmsu.edu/> for more information.

I'll be looking forward to receiving your application.

Carlos Posadas

Department of Criminal Justice, MSC 3487  
New Mexico State University  
P.O. Box 30001  
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001  
(575) 646-3951  
(575) 646-2827 (fax)