The School of Public Affairs (SPA) at the University of Colorado is one of the premier schools of public administration in the Rocky Mountain West.

The graduate program has a dual mission: to enhance the professional skills of practicing public administrators and to prepare future professional managers and policy makers for service in the public and nonprofit sectors.

The Master of Criminal Justice (MCJ) program is designed for students interested in comprehensive professional graduate education in the fields of criminology and criminal justice. The MCJ provides students with a fundamental understanding of the basic fields within criminology and criminal justice. Students also gain knowledge of supporting disciplines and a variety of operational specializations. As an academic and professional field of study, this program is dedicated to preparing men and women not only to administer the system as it presently exists but also to evaluate, to analyze and to change — to become pioneers in accelerating the shaping of a rational and responsive criminal justice system.

The program's balanced theoretical and practical mix fully prepares individuals for the complex challenges facing today's public leaders in the state, region and nation.

Because so many SPA students are working professionals, most courses are offered in the late afternoon and evening or on the weekend to accommodate those with busy schedules. Online courses are also available.

“My experience with the MCJ program at UCCS has been quite positive. The small classes allow for more individual contact with the professors and more productive class discussions of the required material. The experience truly goes beyond the classroom as instructors encourage students to participate in community activities both on and off campus which makes for a more well-rounded student.”
— Laurie Buchanan, BACJ 2011, MCJ 2013

Master of Criminal Justice (MCJ)

The MCJ program provides an interdisciplinary perspective on the study of crime and the criminal justice system. It focuses on criminal offending and victimization, law enforcement, the judiciary, correctional systems, juvenile justice, and the formulation of laws and codes. Individual courses explore the dynamic of criminality and victimization, systems analysis, policy analysis, organizational theory and behavior, and program development within the criminal justice system. Students pursuing professional careers will gain an understanding of theory and its applications in practices. Students aspiring to research careers or doctoral work will acquire a strong foundation in criminology and criminal justice research.
THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS REAFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN A WORK AND STUDY ENVIRONMENT FOR FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS THAT DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, AGE, POLITICAL AFFILIATION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, DISABILITY, OR VETERAN STATUS.

Lead.

Solve.

Change.

Admission Requirements

To qualify for admission, a student should:

1. Have a good undergraduate GPA, preferably 3.0 or higher;
2. Submit three letters of recommendation;
3. Submit acceptable scores on the GRE, GMAT or LSAT exams;
4. Submit official transcripts from all colleges attended;
5. Complete the online application for graduate school; and
6. Submit the $60 application fee.

Applications should be received by June 1 for Fall admission; by November 1 for Spring admission; and by April 1 for Summer admission.

Plan ahead to be sure to meet admission deadlines. It takes time to acquire transcripts and letters of recommendation. Entrance exam scores may take up to four weeks for delivery after the exam is taken.

Applicants may enter the SPA graduate programs as non-degree students while awaiting the arrival of admission materials and SPA acceptance. They may take up to 12 hours (four courses) as non-degree students before being admitted to the School of Public Affairs.

Financial Assistance

Financial aid may be available to admitted SPA students through the Office of Financial Aid. Please contact that office directly at 719.255.3460, or visit the website at www.uccs.edu/finaid