



SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

For Applicants for Fall 2009

Dear Prospective Student:

Thank you for your inquiry about our graduate program in Justice Studies. We offer a program leading to the Master of Science degree in Justice Studies. The curriculum includes courses in Theory and Research, Management and Policy, Courts, Juvenile Justice, Corrections, and Police, among others. The purpose of the program is to provide students with a sound foundation for managerial and research positions throughout the legal/criminal justice system, in affiliated fields such as public policy or social welfare, as well as preparation for more advanced graduate study in the field.

A description of our program is available on the University web site at www.sjsu.edu/gradstudies. Additional information is available at the department website, http://www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies/programs/justice_studies_graduate/index.htm. The Justice Studies Department is located in the College of Applied Sciences and Arts. We admit students into our program in the Fall Semesters.

Admission Requirements:

- You are eligible to be considered for admission to our program if you have a GPA of 3.2 or greater in the last 60 semester units (90 quarter units) of undergraduate coursework.
- If your GPA falls between 2.5 and 3.2 for the last 60 semester units (90 quarter units) of undergraduate coursework, you are required to submit GRE scores to be considered for admission. In general we require a combined score of at least 1000 on the GRE.
- By the application deadline, all applicants must submit two letters of recommendation and a statement of purpose to complete their application.
- By the beginning of your first semester in graduate school, all applicants should have received their bachelor's degree.

Beginning Fall 2009, a quota for new admissions has been imposed by the University so that not all eligible students will be assured admission, rather those with higher scores will have priority until the quota is filled.

You do not need to have prior experience or a prior degree in this field in order to enter our graduate program. However, if you do not have a prior degree in Justice Studies or a closely related field, you may be admitted on a *conditional* status with certain pre-requisites – namely, a statistics course, a research methods course (JS 105), a theory of crime course (JS 118), and JS 159 (a senior seminar course in justice studies). These courses may be taken upon initial entry to the program at this university or you can



SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

take them before applying to our program. Only the statistics course is available at the community college level. The other courses or their equivalents must be taken at a four-year university. If you decide to take them at another institution you should check with the Justice Studies graduate coordinator to ensure that they are acceptable equivalents of our prerequisites.

If you are admitted on a conditional status with prerequisites and you believe you have already taken equivalent undergraduate courses, provide a copy of the course description and syllabus at your undergraduate university to the JS graduate coordinator to find out if the prerequisite may have been satisfied previously.

A total of 30 units is required for the masters degree, in addition to any pre-requisites. Currently, all of our graduate courses are taught in the evening from 5:30 - 8:15pm, Mondays through Thursdays, during Fall and Spring semesters only. Graduate courses are not taught during the summer.

When to Submit:

Applications for Fall 2009 are currently being accepted. For domestic students, applications are due no later than April 30, 2009, with *all* supporting documents. Decisions about admission are made as soon as possible after this date. *Applications cannot be processed unless all supporting documents have been received. Deadlines are firm and cannot be extended.*

Where to Submit:

All applications for admission to our program with transcripts (and GRE scores, if required) must be submitted directly to Graduate Admissions at San Jose State University. Two letters of recommendation and a one-page statement of purpose should be sent directly to the Graduate Coordinator in the Justice Studies Department.

The Office of Graduate Admissions now requires you to apply on-line. You can apply on-line at <http://www.csumentor.edu>

If you are an international student requiring an F-1 or J-1 Visa, the application is due April 1, 2009, with documents due April 15, 2009. You are required to fill out a different application on line, available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gradstudies/InternationalGradAppl.pdf> . You will be required to submit TOEFL scores if your undergraduate education was not conducted in English.



**SAN JOSÉ STATE
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Inquiries about financial aid should be made directly to the SJSU financial aid office, (408) 924-6100. Some scholarships are available within the Department for students who have already been admitted and have demonstrated their performance.

For information on how to take the GRE, call 1-800-473-2255 (1-800-GRE-CALL).

The best way to communicate with the Graduate Coordinator is by email. However, if you wish to speak with her directly, you may call or visit during her office hours during the Fall or Spring semesters (office hours are listed on the Justice Studies website).

Yours truly,

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