SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY

Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

Master of Science Administration of Juvenile Justice



Prospective Student Guide

A graduate degree program partnership between
Shippensburg University and the
Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

Revised 10/6/2026

Dear Prospective Student,
Welcome to the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC)-sponsored Graduate Education Program at Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania!

If you are interested in pursuing a master's degree focused on juvenile justice, this guide has been prepared specifically for you. Below is a snapshot of what the program offers:

- **JCJC-Sponsored:** Supported by the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission and its Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research.
- **Program Length:** A two-year program consisting of 33 graduate credits.
- **Specialized Curriculum:** Coursework designed specifically for juvenile justice professionals.
- **Cohort Model:** Opportunities for professional collaboration, networking, and shared learning.
- **Financial Scholarship:** Tuition and lodging provided at no cost to eligible participants through JCJC sponsorship.

While this guide addresses many of the most frequently asked questions about the program, we encourage you to contact our graduate education coordinators, Mrs. Sonya Stokes at systokes@ship.edu or Dr. Arelys Madero at anmadero@ship.edu, if you have additional questions. We look forward to helping you explore this opportunity to advance your education and strengthen your contributions to the juvenile justice field.

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

HISTORY

Since 1982, the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judge's Commission (JCJC) and its Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research (CJJTR) have partnered with Shippensburg University to provide graduate education for juvenile justice professionals across the Commonwealth. The program combines graduate-level academic foundations, coupled with practical applications relevant to juvenile justice administration.

In 2017, the curriculum was redesigned and the program renamed as the Master of Science in Administration of Juvenile Justice (MAJJ). The new curriculum focuses on evidence-based practices, leadership, research, data analysis, and comtemporary issues relevant to the juvenile justice system.

MISSION

The MAJJ program prepares juvenile justice professionals to become informed practitioners and successful leaders in their professions and their communities. Coursework emphasizes both academic knowledge and its practical application within Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- How to understand the organization, administration, and operation of juvenile and criminal justice systems.
- How to critically evaluate juvenile justice policy and research.
- How to apply research methods and quantitative analysis to solve juvenile justice problems.
- How to develop leadership, planning, budgeting, and administrative skills.
- How to examine ethical, cultural, technological, and social justice issues affecting juvenile justice.
- How to communicate effectively through graduate-level writing, analysis, and oral presentation.



KEY PROGRAM FEATURES

- Nationally recognized program
- Taught by highly qualified and experienced faculty
- Free tuition and lodging provided by the JCJC to eligible participants
- Face-to-face weekend sessions blended with online learning during fall and spring semesters
- Fully online coursework during summer terms
- Cohort model designed to enhance professional networking across the Commonwealth
- Practical juvenile justice curriculum

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS (33 CREDITS)

REQUIRED CORE COURSES (21 Credits)

ADJJ 501: Seminar in Juvenile Justice & Delinquency

ADJJ 502: Advanced Criminological Theory

ADJJ 503: Leadership in Juvenile Justice

ADJJ 504: Advanced Research Methods

ADJJ 505: Quantitative Analysis

ADJJ 506: Strategic Planning, Budgeting & Finance

ADJJ 507: Seminar in Policy Analysis

CAPSTONE COURSES (6 Credits)

ADJJ 551: Practicum I

ADJJ 552: Practicum II

ELECTIVE COURSES (6 Credits)

ADJJ 520: Advanced Studies in Policing

ADJJ 521: Seminar in Victimology

ADJJ 522: Seminar in Social Justice

ADJJ 523: Mental Health & the Administration of Justice

ADJJ 524: Anatomy of Violence

ADJJ 525: Intimate Partner & Family Violence

ADJJ 540: Selected Topics

ADJJ 541: Selected Topics

ADJJ 550: Independent Study



DEGREE TIMELINE

The MAJJ program is completed as a cohort over two academic years. During the fall and spring semesters, the courses are delivered through a combination of online instruction and face-to-face weekend sessions. Summer coursework is completed fully online. The chart below shows the semester-by-semester progression.

Fall Year 1	Spring Year 1	Summer Year 1 Term A	Summer Year 1 Term B	Fall Year 2	Spring Year 2
ADJJ 501	ADJJ 503	ADJJ 551	ADJJ—Elective 1*	ADJJ 505	ADJJ 507
ADJJ 502	ADJJ 504		ADJJ—Elective 2*	ADJJ 506	ADJJ 552

*indicates 100% online class

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY & JCJC SCHOLARSHIP

Who Is Eligible for Admission?

- Full-time juvenile probation officers in Pennsylvania
- Eligible professionals employed with juvenile justice providers and agencies in Pennsylvania

Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with at least 18 credits in the behavioral or social sciences with a minimum grade point average of 2.75/4.00. Applicants whose GPA is below 2.75 may be required to submit GRE scores at or above the 50th percentile.

The county chief juvenile probation officer or head administrator of a juvenile justice provider may, at their discretion, identify additional requirements regarding applicants (e.g., minimum service time).

Who Is Eligible for JCJC Scholarship?

Full-time juvenile probation officers may receive support from the JCJC to cover the cost of tuition, lodging, and most University fees. These students are responsible for other costs, including books, remaining University fees, and mileage.



Students from juvenile justice providers are responsible for all program costs.

Conditions of Scholarship

Students sponsored by the JCJC are expected to:

- Attend the program continuously for two academic years
- Maintain their current employment status for the duration of the program
- Remain in eligible employment for at least two years after graduation

Students who fail to meet these conditions will be required to reimburse some or all costs paid on their behalf by the JCJC.

Admission Process

Stage 1: Shippensburg University Admission
Applicants must submit a full **graduate application** and required academic materials to University Admissions.

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Stage 2: JCJC Endorsement
Qualified applicants must complete an **interview** with staff representatives of the JCJC and Shippensburg University faculty and must be endorsed by the JCJC.

The interview is an important component of the selection process. Candidates are given the opportunity to explain why they would be a strong student in the program and how their education can benefit their county and the Commonwealth's juvenile justice system.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested applicants must complete an online application at https://www.ship.edu/MAJJ.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

- Graduate Education Program Application
- Letter of Interest addressing:
    - Why you are a strong candidate for the program
        - If applicable, explain why you should be considered despite having an undergraduate GPA below 2.75/4.00
    - Your juvenile justice work experience
    - How graduate study will benefit your agency or county
- Recommendation Form: https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/jcjc/documents/publications/graduate-education/recommendation.pdf
    - For juvenile probation officers, this form is to be completed by the chief juvenile probation officer in your county and signed by the chief and a juvenile court administrative judge in your county
    - For juvenile justice providers, this form is to be completed by the head administrator in your organization and signed by the head administrator and a juvenile court administrative judge
- A copy of your resume
- A copy of your undergraduate and graduate (if applicable) transcripts—official transcripts are required
- A copy of your official GRE scores (applicable if undergraduate GPA is below 2.75/4.00)

TIMELINE

For the cohort enrolling in **Fall 2027**, the admission and enrollment timeline is as follows:

April 1, 2027	Application deadline
March/April 2027	Candidate interview
May 2027	JCJC endorsement decision and course registration
August/September 2027	Orientation and classes begin

What Happens After Admission?

Candidates who successfully fulfill the admission requirements, successfully complete the interview, and receive endorsement by the JCJC will receive letters from the JCJC. Prospective students also receive instructions for registering for classes and information about the orientation. The one-day orientation provides members of each new cohort with important information to be successful as a graduate student at Shippensburg University. Orientation attendance is expected.

DR. ANTHONY F. CEDDIA AWARD

For each cohort, the members of the Department of Criminal Justice faculty who teach in the program select an exceptional student from that year's graduating class to receive the Dr. Anthony F. Ceddia Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Juvenile Justice. The criteria for the award are academic excellence, leadership, and commitment to the juvenile justice profession as demonstrated throughout the program. All three criteria are given serious consideration by the faculty when selecting the award recipient.

MAJJ BY THE NUMBERS

Established:
1982

Graduates:
600+ juvenile justice professionals

Reach:
Alumni serve in juvenile justice agencies throughout the Commonwealth

Format:
Two-year, hybrid cohort

Graduate Credits:
33

Ready to Learn More?

For JCJC scholarship questions:

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Juvenile Court Judges' Commission
Center for Juvenile Justice Training & Research
Shippensburg University
216 Horton Hall
1871 Old Main Drive
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For academic/admissions/curriculum questions:

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Program Website:

https://www.ship.edu/programs/administration-of-juvenile-justice-ms/

Applications for the Fall 2027 cohort are due April 1, 2027.

Real life. Real learning. They happen here!