

# Integrated Baccalaureate and Master's Degree in Public Safety Administration



The Public Safety Administration graduate program at Western Illinois University is internationally-known for academic excellence. The program provides students with a rich blend of theoretical, administrative, and practical knowledge as well as research skills. The Master of Arts degree is designed to provide a balanced, interdisciplinary course of study for those currently employed in criminal justice and related fields, as well as for those wishing to pursue careers in criminal justice and academia. Courses provide students with the most current information in the areas of administrative and organizational behavior; law; research and quantitative skills; social justice; specialized areas such as policing, corrections, courts, security, and multiculturalism and diversity in criminal justice. Graduates of the program are educationally well-rounded students who possess the skills needed to manage and lead in the increasingly complex field of criminal justice. Additionally, students are academically prepared to pursue advanced degrees in respected doctoral and juris doctoral degree programs.

## Admission Requirements

Admission into the integrated WIU Law Enforcement and Justice Administration program requires:

- Application to the WIU School of Graduate Studies
- A minimum 3.25 cumulative grade point average (GPA)
- A minimum 3.25 major GPA
- Official transcripts from all institutions previously attended
- Completion of 90 semester hours (SH) (30 SH at WIU)
- Current résumé
- Three letters of recommendation, two of which must come from LEJA faculty
- Personal essay of 1,000 to 1,500 words, which includes academic goals, career plans upon completion of the program, perceived motivations, attributes, and abilities that will lead to success in the program.

## Integrated Degree Program Description

Students in the integrated program are allowed to use 9 SH of B-level (“bridge”) courses to satisfy both the Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degrees in LEJA. The following courses may be used: LEJA 500B, 501B, 502B, 503B, 504B, 505B, 506B, 507B, 508B, 509B, 510B, 511B, 512B, 513B, 514B, and 517B; and EM 561B and 565B. If taken after the undergraduate degree has been completed, the courses should not be taken with the “B” designator. Students must meet with the academic advisor prior to registration.

In addition, up to, but no more than, 9 SH of 400G-level courses will be counted toward fulfillment of the degree requirements. Available courses include LEJA 414G, LEJA 416G, LEJA 431G, and EM 460G.

## Degree Requirements

### I. Core Courses (15 SH)

- LEJA 500/500B Advanced Quantitative Techniques in Criminal Justice (3 SH)
  - LEJA 501/501B Theory in Criminal Justice\* (3 SH)
  - LEJA 502/502B Management Issues in Law Enforcement Administration (3 SH)
  - LEJA 503/503B Research Methodology in Criminal Justice (3 SH)
  - LEJA 504/504B Civil and Criminal Liability (3 SH)
- \*LEJA 501 is a prerequisite for the following courses: LEJA 502B, 506B, 507B, 508B, 509B, and 510B.

### I. Select one of the following plans:

#### Thesis Option (18 SH)

- LEJA 600 Thesis Research (3 SH)
- LEJA 601 Thesis (3 SH)
- Electives in one of the following departments (12 SH): Educational Administration, LEJA, Management, Political Science, Psychology, or Sociology; or in any other department with approval of the LEJA Graduate Committee and Chair. Courses should be geared toward career objectives. A final oral presentation is required, as is the defense of the thesis. Thesis proposal must be approved before research is undertaken.

#### Total Program (33 SH)

#### Non-Thesis Option (39 SH)

- \*Electives in one of the following departments (12 SH): Educational Leadership, LEJA, Management, Political Science, Psychology, or Sociology; or in any other department with approval of the LEJA Graduate Committee and Chair. Courses should be geared toward career objectives. Students complete a capstone course: LEJA 518 Comprehensive Seminar in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration (3 SH).
- \* No more than 12 SH of electives may come from departments outside of LEJA.

#### Total Program (39 SH)

## Contact Information

### Questions about the program:

School of Law Enforcement and  
Justice Administration  
Stipes 403, Macomb Campus  
(309) 298-1038  
LEJA@wiu.edu  
wiu.edu/leja

### General admission questions:

School of Graduate Studies  
(309) 298-1806 or (877) WIU GRAD  
Grad-Office@wiu.edu  
wiu.edu/grad



Western Illinois  
University

## Career Opportunities

Obtaining an LEJA master's degree prepares students to manage and lead in the field. In addition, the program provides preparation for students wishing to pursue advanced degrees in respected doctoral and law degree programs. Examples of career opportunities for individuals entering the criminal justice field and to teach at a higher education institution with a master's degree include:

- Police officer/deputy
- State trooper
- Federal law enforcement
- Correctional officer
- Probation officer
- Private investigator
- Loss prevention
- Risk manager

## Distinctive Features

The graduate program in LEJA is a well-respected criminal justice program in Illinois and in the Midwest region. The program offers online and select face-to-face classes to meet the needs of both traditional students and working practitioners. Online classes are spread over a 16-week semester. Face-to-face classes meet one day a week or over the course of three weekends.

## Faculty Expertise

All Public Safety Graduate Faculty have extensive practitioner experience in some aspect of public safety, ranging from chief; deputy chief; emergency manager; investigator; probation/parole officer; attorney; prison manager; administrative specialist; and federal agencies such as the Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and U.S. Marshals Service. In addition, faculty members are nationally and internationally recognized for their research and publications. The faculty have actively published research on evidence-based policing and corrections; fire protection; probation and parole; racial profiling; terrorism; crime prevention; juvenile justice; ethics; risk management strategies in criminal justice; substance abuse issues; criminal behavior analysis and assessment; forensics; victimology; legal and criminal matter; and civil liability.

## Featured Alumni

*Western Illinois University's LEJA graduate program helped me develop new skills and knowledge in the law enforcement field to improve my job performance and position me for advancement in my career. I had the opportunity to research many criminological theories related to unlawful behavior, and the courses helped me to understand why my clients commit crime. I also learned ways to reduce criminal behavior and strategies for rehabilitating my clients. The program was a great place to network with professionals from a range of criminal justice agencies and organizations. Earning my Master of Arts in LEJA was one of the best decisions I have made, and I recommend students continue their education through the Western Illinois University LEJA Graduate Program.*



—Manfred B. Quete, Jr., Class of 2014  
Cook County Adult Probation, Field Service Division  
Home Confinement Unit, Probation Officer



## Alumni Testimony



*The Western Illinois LEJA integrated baccalaureate and master's program is a great opportunity to build on what you learned as an undergraduate student and a chance to enhance your career in law enforcement. The program is flexible and allows you to take classes that interest you and fit your schedule. The professors did a great job of integrating the educational material with real-life police work. I would highly recommend this program to anyone working in the law enforcement field or seeking a career in law enforcement in the future.*

—Abigail Lauer, Class of 2014  
Police Officer, Hanover Park Police Department

## Graduate Assistantship

All LEJA graduate students are eligible to apply for a graduate assistantship. Graduate assistantships are awarded through a competitive process. All full-time graduate assistants receive a stipend in exchange for 20 hours of work per week and a tuition waiver. Probationary students are not eligible for graduate assistantships.

*Western Illinois University complies fully with all applicable federal and state nondiscrimination laws, orders, and regulations. The University is committed to providing equal opportunity and an educational and work environment for its students, faculty, and staff that is free from discrimination based on sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, or veteran status. Further, the University is committed to a comprehensive Affirmative Action program that ensures access and equity in educational programs, activities, and employment.*



*"Western Illinois University's LEJA master's program is a great mix of theory, criminal and civil law, and practical courses applicable to the criminal justice field."*

—Bradley Nolan, Class of 2014  
Special Agent, Iowa Department of Public Safety, Division of Intelligence