CRJ MA Frequently Asked Questions

What courses do I need to graduate?
You must take five core-courses, three electives in one specialization, and then either a) four more courses and the comp exam, or b) two more courses and a thesis. Consult the CRJ MA Graduation Checklist for additional details.

Should I take the Comprehensive Exam or the Thesis option?
That depends on your intentions. Passing the Comprehensive Exam is the final program requirement for most students. CRJ 793 is an optional three-credit review class for the comprehensive exam. For some students, especially those who intend to pursue further research or a doctoral degree, the thesis is the preferred option. Only students who completed CRJ 715, 716, and 717 with an A- average are eligible to do a thesis. Consult the Thesis Guidelines for more details.

Can I transfer credits from another college/university?
Up to four courses (12 hours) of graduate credits may be transferred as elective-credits from an accredited graduate program, with the approval of the Program Director, as long as there is a corresponding course offered in the John Jay CRJ MA Program. Students must fill out a Graduate Transfer Form which requires university-bulletin course descriptions for the courses the student wishes to transfer. Students may not substitute transfer courses for required core courses.

Can I take electives from other John Jay Programs?
Yes. You may take any masters-level course offered at the College, assuming you have the prerequisites and count those courses as electives. With the approval of the Program Director, such electives may count as part of a specialization.

Are graduate scholarships available?
Yes. To see a list of in-house scholarships, visit the office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, call 212-237-8149, or email Mr. Scaduto at mscaduto@jjay.cuny.edu or Mr. Cortes at icortes@jjay.cuny.edu.

Is career counseling available?
Yes. Career counseling is formally provided by the Career Service Center on the L2 floor of the New Building. Walk in and make an appointment.

Can I obtain an internship through John Jay?
Yes. Graduate students should contact the Graduate Career Advisor to facilitate the experience whether secured through the college or independently. Sometimes internship experiences can be done for academic credit by enrolling in CRJ 780/781 or by creating an independent study with a faculty mentor. The Graduate Career Advisor is the place to start. Contact the Career Service Center, located in the New Building on level L2, and make an appointment to see a career advisor.

Is there a criminal justice honor society?
Yes. There is a chapter of Alpha Phi Sigma, the nationally recognized honor society, for those seeking graduate degrees in Criminal Justice. Members must have a minimum GPA of 3.4 and have completed at least one-third of their total credits required for graduation at John Jay College (not including transfer credits). Applications are accepted during a membership drive in the spring semester. For more information please contact Ms. Kristen Rasczyk in the Honors Program Office at: krasczyk@jjay.cuny.edu.