

Helen Bader School of Social Welfare



CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Bachelor of Science | Master of Science | Doctor of Philosophy in Social Welfare



WELCOME

The Helen Bader School of Social Welfare at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee is one of the few schools in the nation comprised of criminal justice and social work. From undergraduate to doctoral students, we prepare individuals for a variety of positions in the criminal justice field.



Known as one of the best criminal justice programs in the Midwest, our program is well rounded, practical and cutting edge. We offer several crime analysis tracks and the only criminal justice Ph.D. program in the state of Wisconsin.

Our master of science curriculum offers a broad foundation for understanding criminal justice policy and practice. Students can specialize in crime analytics or earn a joint degree in public administration or social work. Our master's program also provides excellent preparation for doctoral-level studies.

This is an ideal place to study criminal justice at the graduate level. UW-Milwaukee is the state's premier urban research university and one of the top in the country when it comes to research. Our program is small and close-knit. Students benefit from accessible faculty and are vital contributors to faculty research.

Thank you for your interest in our school. No matter your scholarly interests, I am confident you will find an enriching and supportive environment at the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stan Stojkovic".

Stan Stojkovic
Dean, Helen Bader School of Social Welfare
Professor, Criminal Justice

On the cover (left to right): Professor Steve Brandl; Carol Carlson, Milwaukee County Drug Treatment Court coordinator and Associate Professor Tom LeBel; PhD alumnus Matt Richie and MSCJ alumna Mikel McGee. **Page 3** (Clockwise from upper left): MSCJ alumna Nadine Mueller, Professor and Chair Tina Freiburger, Professor and Dean Stan Stojkovic, PhD alumnus Matt Richie, MSCJ alumna Mikel McGee and Assistant Professor Rebecca Headley.

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PROGRAMS

Bachelor of Science

Integrated Bachelor and Master of Science Program
Earn both degrees in 5 years

Master of Science

Areas of Study:

Crime Analytics

Joint Degree in Public Administration

Joint Degree in Social Work

Doctor of Philosophy in Social Welfare

Area of Concentration:

Criminal Justice

Crime Analysis Programs

Undergraduate Criminal Justice students:

Crime Analysis Specialization

Undergraduates in other fields:

Minor in Crime Analysis

Master's Students

Crime Analytics Concentration

College graduates who earned their degree in any field

Crime Analysis Certificate

Certificate Programs

Death Investigation

Forensic Science

Forensic Toxicology

STUDENTS



Education:

PhD, Criminal Justice
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

M.S., Criminal Justice
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

B.S., Criminal Justice
University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh

Research Interests:

The process of desistance

Risk assessment validation

Use of force and the use
of stop and frisk

Jail reentry in non-metropolitan areas

**Matt's dissertation
focused on jail reentry in
non-metropolitan areas.**

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Matt Richie

Class year:

Recent graduate of the doctoral program

Area of study:

Ph.D. in Social Welfare with a
specialization in Criminal Justice

Recent projects:

Conducted focus groups with the drug treatment court in Milwaukee; Observed courtroom sessions and worked with court data regarding people's success in court; Conducted statistical analyses of official drug court data.

Bio:

Matt Richie received his PhD in Criminal Justice in 2018 from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He was awarded graduate student of the year for the 2013-2014 academic year and received the Distinguished Graduate Student Fellowship in 2015. He taught for two semesters at Oshkosh State Correctional Institution through their Convicts to College program.

Matt has presented at multiple regional and national conferences and recently published an article on the role of the wounded healer in reentry programs.

Why you chose this area of study:

I chose criminal justice because of my interest in public safety. Ultimately, I gravitated toward jail and prison populations and wanted to better understand why some individuals are sent back to prison while others never go back.

The most interesting aspect of your work:

The conversations I've had with individuals who were incarcerated and are now trying to stay out of prison. Also, the conversations I've had with criminal justice practitioners and the men and women who supervise incarcerated individuals.

Matt is assistant professor of criminal justice at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.



Mollie received the Harry and Esther Kovenock Scholarship in May 2017. The award is given to social work seniors based on academic merit.

Mollie Lund

Class year:

MSW student

Area of study:

Social Work

Why you chose this area of study:

I'm from a rural part of the state that doesn't have many options for individuals with behavioral/mental health challenges and I believe that it may only take one social worker giving an individual resources to change their entire well being.

Current projects:

I'm working with Dr. Freiburger on a project evaluating the Eviction Defense Project initiated by Legal Action of Wisconsin that provides pro bono legal representation to individuals facing eviction in Milwaukee Court.

The most interesting aspect of this project:

Individuals who face evictions are incredibly strong. Most of the individuals that I interview stay calm and collected even though they're facing one of the most traumatic situations in their lives — homelessness.

I'm very lucky to have conversations with these individuals after they either receive an eviction, agree on a stipulation or have their eviction dismissed. As a future social worker, this project gives me a different perspective on homelessness and helps me to better understand this issue.

Mollie graduated with her bachelor's degree in social work in 2018. Mollie received the 2018 Greater Milwaukee Association of Realtors Youth Foundation Scholarship. She's studying behavioral and mental health in the MSW program at UW-Milwaukee.

Milwaukee Police Department's INTELLIGENCE FUSION CENTER



Keisha Harper Crime Analyst

Keisha Harper works as a crime analyst at the Milwaukee Police Department's Intelligence Fusion Center.

Keisha earned her master's degree in Criminal Justice from UW-Milwaukee. While she was a graduate student, she worked on an evaluation of Students Talking it Over with Police (S.T.O.P.) in Racine, Wisconsin.



Meghan Wleklinski Crime Analyst

Meghan earned her master's degree in Criminal Justice from UW-Milwaukee. As a graduate student, she worked with faculty on a project examining how abandoned houses affect crime rates in Milwaukee. This led to connections at the Intelligence Fusion Center. Meghan now works as a crime analyst with the Milwaukee Police Department.

Ali Pfeiffer

Class year:

Fourth-year doctoral student;
currently working on preliminary exams

Area of study:

Ph.D. in Social Welfare with a
specialization in Criminal Justice

Current projects:

Evaluating the Milwaukee County Adult Drug Treatment Court (MCADTC) and the Veteran's Treatment Initiative (VTI)

My role: Observe court sessions and conduct qualitative interviews with clients in both courts.

Recidivism Measurement Project with the Office of African American Affairs (OAAA)

My role: Analyze recidivism data to determine whether there is a racial disparity in recidivism rates in Milwaukee County.

Experimental evaluation of Safe Streets Treatment Options Program (SSTOP) in Outagamie County, WI

My role: Looking at reducing recidivism for second and third OWI offenders.

Bio:

Ali Pfeiffer has worked on a variety of research projects as a graduate student in criminal justice. She worked as an intern with the Milwaukee Police Department's Office of Community Outreach and Education and has continued to work with the department on several projects since her internship.

Ali received the 2017-2018 Distinguished Graduate Student Fellowship Award and the Graduate Student Award in Criminal Justice in 2016. She has presented at multiple regional and national conferences.

The most interesting aspect of your work:

The variety of projects I get to work on, and the organizations and people that I meet through these projects. With the opportunities I've been given, I've met professionals in all aspects of the criminal justice field (e.g., judges, law enforcement officials, etc.) and learned how they're helping to impact the communities they work with.

What you want to do after graduation:

Teach and conduct research as a university professor.



Education:

M.S., Criminal Justice
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

B.S., Criminal Justice
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Research Interests:

Perceptions of the police

Juvenile justice

Sentencing disparities in the
criminal justice system

Individual and neighborhood-level
influences on recidivism

Ali recently published the book *Teaching Research Methods* with professor Freiburger. She also has multiple publications with faculty under review.



Alexis Hafemeister

Class year:

Recent graduate of the MSCJ program

Area of study:

Master's Degree in Criminal Justice with a specialization in Crime Analytics

Undergraduate degree:

Psychology and Human Social Services, Wisconsin Lutheran College

Why you chose this area of study:

I've always gravitated toward criminal justice and social welfare research topics throughout my academic career. I wanted to add the crime analytics concentration because I enjoy statistics and research.

Current project:

A project with Dr. Headley that examines the effects gang members and environmental factors have on the locations of sexual assaults, violent crime, and drug rates.

Why your work matters:

Whether it's my internship at Sheboygan MEG (Metropolitan Drug Enforcement unit) or working on my research, the safety and well-being of people in the community is what matters.

What you want to do after graduation:

Work at an intelligence center or police department. My dream goal is to work for the DEA or FBI.

Alexis received the 2018 Graduate Student Award in Criminal Justice.



Dominick Ratkowski

Class year:

Second-year graduate student

Area of study:

Master's Degree in Criminal Justice with a specialization in Crime Analytics

Why you chose this area of study:

I come from a law enforcement family. However, non-traditional policing methods interested me early on in my college career — using non-traditional methods to assist law enforcement officers with crime solving.

Current project:

I'm working with Professor Headley on an observational study examining the relationship between the physical condition of Milwaukee neighborhoods and crime.

Most interesting aspect of this project:

Even though Milwaukee is one city, there's a wide range of physical conditions throughout the city. The neighborhoods are truly diverse.

Current position:

Crime Analyst at the West Allis Police Department.

Most interesting part about being a crime analyst:

The new technology being developed to assist analysts identifying crime trends. Technology has come a long way and has become an essential part of law enforcement.



Sunny Singh completed an undergraduate research project in the summer of 2015 that focused on how sentencing has an effect on recidivism in Milwaukee County.

Participating in research projects has been the driving force in my development as a scholar – my program provides the most promising pathway for me to explore the full potential of my ambitions.

— Sunny Singh



Sunny Singh

Class year:

Recent graduate of the MSCJ program

Area of study:

Master's Degree in Criminal Justice with a specialization in Crime Analytics

Why you chose this area of study:

As I progressed through my academic career, I learned that truth seeking in the social sciences is usually the process of applying the scientific method to social inquiry, which piqued my interest in criminological research.

Seeing the lack of basic human rights around the world has had a profound impression on me. It sensitized me to many problems and injustices that so many suffer; and inspired me to investigate globalization and its effects on human rights, procedural justice, and police legitimacy.

Recent projects:

Worked with Dr. Romain on globalization sustainability and its links to the educational system in terms of basic human rights; Evaluated a training program with Dr. Freiburger that will help behavioral health professionals improve conflict management skills; Worked on a project with UWM faculty and the Milwaukee Police Department that used an experimental design to compare hotspots with and without problem-oriented policing — looked at real crime data and conducted observations in the hotspots with another student to record physical disorder.

Sunny works for the Wisconsin Department of Corrections.



Kendra Christensen

Class year:

Second-year graduate student

Area of study:

Master's Degree in Criminal Justice with a specialization in Crime Analytics

Undergraduate degree:

Psychology

Why you chose this area of study:

I like understanding people's behavior — particularly their criminal behavior.

Current project:

I work with Dr. Freiburger on the Eviction Defense Program and the Behavioral Health Division.

What you like most about your work:

The attorneys and lawyers working with the Eviction Defense Program are interested and passionate about helping clients with their cases, and in return clients are grateful for the legal help they received from this program.

What you want to do after graduation:

Work as a crime analyst with police departments to track trends and patterns in crime; Apply the knowledge I have learned at UW-Milwaukee to real-world problems.

Kendra received the 2018 Graduate Student Award in Criminal Justice.

Kevin Schlicter

Class year:

Second-year graduate student

Area of study:

Master's Degree in Criminal Justice with a specialization in Crime Analytics

Undergraduate degree:

Psychology and Sociology,
St. Norbert College

Why you chose this area of study:

I really enjoy the investigative and narrative aspect of criminal justice as well as qualitative research.

Current projects:

I work as a graduate teaching assistant and also assist faculty with their research. I'm working with Dr. Romain on a project centered on domestic violence and recidivism. We're presenting the results at the Academy of Criminal Justice Scientists conference in New Orleans in spring 2018. I'll also be working with Dr. Freiburger on a study with Milwaukee's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) unit.

What you like most about your work:

Not only can I conduct research on something I find fascinating, but I know that my research can be used to help solve practical problems. I also really like how open the faculty are to collaborating with students on research.

What you want to do after graduation:

Work in crime/intelligence analysis, but I have also considered pursuing a PhD. The opportunity to conduct criminal justice research, applied or otherwise, is essentially what I'm after.

I really like how open the faculty are to collaborating with students on research.

— Kevin Schlicter

FACULTY

Steven Brandl, Ph.D.

Professor

Dr. Brandl works closely with the City of Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission and the Milwaukee Police Department; he has conducted numerous research projects with the Milwaukee Police Department and other major metropolitan police departments. He is the author of *Criminal Investigation* and the co-editor of *The Police in America: Classic and Contemporary Readings and Voices From the Field*.

Professional Interests:

- Police use of force
- Health and safety issues in policing

Ruben Burgos

Senior Lecturer

Mr. Burgos worked for the Milwaukee Police Department for 33 years — 22 years as detective, five years as lieutenant of the Intelligence Division and five years in police management. His expertise includes crime intelligence, bomb-squads, polygraphy and criminal investigations of narcotics, gangs and homicide.

Tina Freiburger, Ph.D.

Chair and Professor

Dr. Freiburger has partnered with local criminal justice agencies for studies and program evaluations that address juvenile offending, police and juvenile relations, work programs for probationers and parolees, hotspot policing, and racial and gender disparities in prosecutorial and judicial decision making. She is a member of the editorial board for *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, the *Journal of Crime and Justice*, and recently co-authored *Race and Ethnicity in the Juvenile Justice System*.

Professional Interests:

- Gender and racial disparities in criminal justice decision-making
- Juvenile delinquency and court processing
- Program evaluation

Kimberly Hassell, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

Dr. Hassell has participated in several studies of police organizational culture, police behavior, police-community relations, complaints of police misconduct, workplace climate, promotional issues and protest policing. She serves on the editorial advisory board for *Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies and Management* and *Police Quarterly*.

Professional Interests:

- Data-driven policing strategies
- Police-community relations
- Women and policing
- Race/ethnicity and policing

Rebecca Headley, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

Dr. Headley teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses, including Introduction to Criminal Justice, Introduction to Crime Analysis, Analysis Oriented Technology: Spatial Data Analysis & Crime Mapping, and Advanced Analytic Techniques for Crime Analysts. She completed her doctoral degree at Georgia State University. Her dissertation was titled, *The Effects of Local Institutions on Parolee Outcomes*.

Professional Interests:

- The effect of neighborhood context and local institutions on offending
- Corrections and parolee outcomes

Thomas LeBel, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

Dr. LeBel is the author or co-author of numerous articles and book chapters on prisoner reentry, desistance from crime, stigma, and drug treatment. In particular, his research incorporates a “strengths-based” perspective in regard to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people.

Professional Interests:

- Prisoner reintegration
- Desistance from crime
- Substance use treatment and services for individuals in the criminal justice system
- Women involved with the criminal justice system

Danielle Romain, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

Dr. Romain’s primary research focuses on decision-making in criminal courts, as well as the experiences of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. She has previous experience as a victims’ advocate working with domestic violence victims to meet their safety, housing, and referral needs. She has assisted on evaluations of programs aimed at increasing juveniles’ perceptions of police, as well as examining disparities in prosecutorial and judicial case processing in Midwestern and Southwestern jurisdictions. Her dissertation examined sanctioning decisions in domestic violence probation review hearings along the intersections of gender, race/ethnicity, and family status.

Professional Interests:

- Courts and sentencing
- Prosecutorial discretion
- Domestic violence
- Sexual assault
- Gender and racial disparities

Stan Stojkovic, Ph.D.

Dean, Helen Bader School of Social Welfare
Professor, Criminal Justice

Dr. Stojkovic’s expertise helps students and the public understand complex and relevant criminal justice issues. He is frequently interviewed by the media about current social welfare topics. He has written extensively on corrections and works locally, nationally and internationally with law enforcement, and corrections entities.

Professional Interests:

- Philosophy of criminal justice
- Criminal Justice administration

APPLYING FOR ADMISSION

Master's Program in Criminal Justice

We welcome applicants who have undergraduate degrees in criminal justice, a related social science or other relevant educational experience. Applicants may apply to begin coursework in the fall, spring or summer semesters.

For questions about admission or the application process, visit uwm.edu/graduateschool.

For more information:

Contact Dr. Danielle Romain at 414-229-6953 or dmromain@uwm.edu

Ph.D. Program in Social Welfare

Criminal Justice Applicants must hold a master's degree or equivalent in criminal justice, criminology or related discipline and meet admission requirements of the UWM Graduate School [uwm.edu/graduate school](http://uwm.edu/graduate-school).

The deadline each year for application submissions is January 2.

Students are accepted in the spring of each year for admission in the following fall semester.

Between three and five students are typically accepted each year.

For more information:

Contact Dr. Steven McMurtry at 414-229-2249 or mcmurtry@uwm.edu

Helen Bader School *of* Social Welfare

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