

Helen Bader School of Social Welfare



CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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

Updated Spring 2021



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 & criminology and social work. From undergraduate to doctoral students, we educate and prepare individuals for a variety of positions in the criminal justice field.

We are unique in that we offer a specialization in crime analytics, and joint master's degrees with social work and public administration. Beginning in Fall 2021, students will be able to earn an interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Cyber Crime Forensics with UWM's School of Information Studies (SOIS).

This is an ideal place to study criminal justice & criminology. We offer students a range of exciting academic options (page 4), and opportunities to make connections through internships at local, state and federal agencies. Students benefit from accessible faculty and are vital contributors to faculty research. In addition, our master's program provides excellent preparation for doctoral-level studies.

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

Best wishes,

Tina L. Freiburger, PhD

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

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PROGRAMS

Bachelor of Science

Criminal Justice Accelerated Master's 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

Criminal Justice Joint Master's and Social Welfare PhD

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

Graduate Certificate

Cyber Crime Forensics

STUDENTS



Education:

Ph.D., 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.**

Matt Richie, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh;
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 Ph.D. 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.



Daniela Imig

Director of New Initiatives at JusticePoint and Adjunct Lecturer at UW-Milwaukee

Area of study:

Master's Degree in Criminal Justice

Why did you study criminal justice?

Growing up, my dad was a sergeant at the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office, so I became preoccupied with the criminal justice field at a young age. I knew early on that being in law

enforcement was not the path for me so I decided to pursue the degree and see where it would take me. It wasn't until I became immersed in the criminal justice graduate program that I really became obsessed with finding my niche, which turned out to be the pretrial field.

What's unique about studying criminal justice at UW-Milwaukee?

I'd say the most unique thing about studying at UWM is the depth of experience among the professors and lecturers. I always felt like there was someone for almost every aspect of the field from whom I could seek assistance.

What's your best advice for criminal justice students?

Find your niche – there is so much more to criminal justice than law enforcement or probation. This field desperately needs passionate, critical thinkers who are willing to go against the status quo and fix the system from the inside.

Keisha Harper

Crime Analyst, Milwaukee Police Department

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.



Photos on this page courtesy of UW-Milwaukee Photo Services.

Ali Sheeran, Ph.D.

Senior Lecturer, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Area of study:

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

Recent projects:

Evaluating the Milwaukee County Adult Drug Treatment Court (MCADTC)

My role: Observe court sessions, collect qualitative data and conduct qualitative interviews with clients.

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.

Bio:

Ali Sheeran 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.

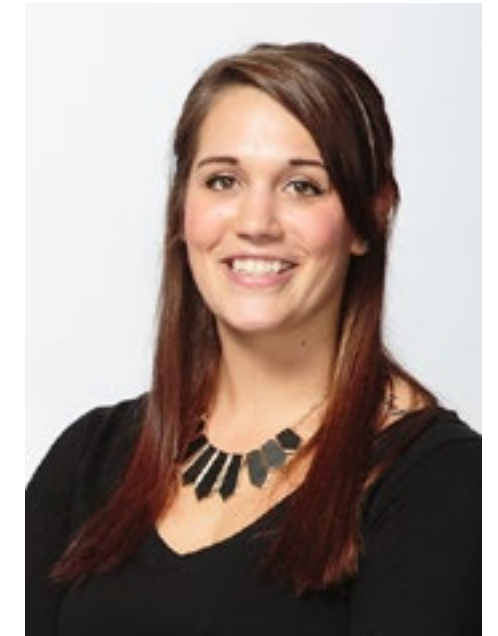
Ali received both the Graduate Student Excellence Fellowship Award and the HBSSW Adjunct Faculty Teaching Award in 2019. She was awarded the Distinguished Graduate Student Fellowship Award in 2017 and the Graduate Student Award in Criminal Justice in 2016. Ali has presented at multiple regional and national 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 has also published multiple articles.

Alexis Hafemeister

Crime Analyst, Milwaukee Police Department
Recent graduate of the master's program

Area of study:

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

Undergraduate degree:

Psychology and Human Social Services, Wisconsin Lutheran College

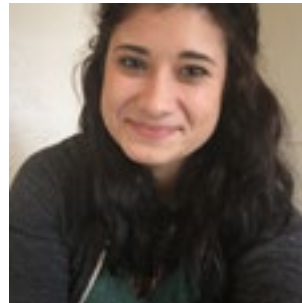


Photo courtesy of Alexis Hafemeister

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.

Projects:

Alexis worked with Dr. Konkel to examine the effects gang members and environmental factors have on the locations of sexual assaults, violent crime, and drug rates.

Alexis received the 2018 Graduate Student Award in Criminal Justice.

Dominick Ratkowski

Crime Analyst, Wauwatosa Police Department
Recent graduate of the master's program

Area of study:

Master's Degree in Criminal Justice with a concentration 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.

Recent project:

I worked with Professor Konkel 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.

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.

Niel L. Thoreson

Regional Chief – Region 3 (Milwaukee County) Wisconsin
Department of Corrections, Division of Community Corrections

Area of study:

Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice

Why did you study criminal justice?

I chose to study criminal justice because it led to an opportunity to pursue a career where I could give back to the community and make substantial differences in the lives of often marginalized members of our society.

What's unique about studying criminal justice at UW-Milwaukee?

That UW-Milwaukee is located within the largest urban setting in Wisconsin provides for openings to network with instructors and community justice system decision makers that are actively applying the latest research in the field to real life circumstances.

If you did a field placement, how did this experience help you?

I did complete a field placement with a smaller, suburban police department. The experience assisted me in understanding how actors in the community justice system interact with each other and collaborate, even though at times their agencies have divergent roles in the overall delivery of justice. Obtaining this knowledge proved valuable as I entered a career in community corrections where often times we take on the paradoxical role of helping clients change their behaviors while also holding them accountable for decisions that they may make that erode public safety.

How did HBSSW help you?

HBSSW assisted in exposing me to varied opportunities that exist within the field of criminal justice outside of law enforcement and by creating spaces to engage in meaningful dialogues with practitioners and agency leaders in these areas. It also taught me the importance of critical thinking and how to approach subjects with an awareness of bias.

What's your best advice for criminal justice students?

I would encourage them to get involved with student associations or other civic bodies, which are abundant at UW-Milwaukee. By doing so, they will assuredly foster diverse relationships, gain experiences that complement and enhance what they are learning in the classroom and be better prepared for their post-graduation endeavors.



Photo courtesy of Niel Thoreson

I chose to study criminal justice because it led to an opportunity to pursue a career where I could give back to the community and make substantial differences in the lives of often marginalized members of our society.

VIDEOS

Crime Analysis at the Milwaukee Police Department:

bit.ly/2kuAerR

Crime Analysis at the Wauwatosa Police Department:

bit.ly/2krNjCg

Master's in Criminal Justice at UW-Milwaukee:

bit.ly/2kicFTk



Michaela Lawrence
Cryptologic Linguist for U.S. Army

Area of study:
Master's Degree in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Crime Analytics

Why did you study criminal justice?
I studied criminal justice to pursue my dream job of working at the FBI as a criminal profiler. Along with this, I knew having a criminal justice degree would open quite a bit of job opportunities for me due to the diversity the degree offers as far as employment goes.

How did HBSSW help you?
HBSSW helped me by providing me with a scholarship as a graduate assistant to further my education beyond my bachelor's degree. This opportunity gave me the ability to work more closely with my professors and provided me with first-hand experience looking at research.

What's your best advice for criminal justice students?
My best advice for criminal justice students is to take advantage of all the opportunities the HBSSW offers here at UWM. It is one task to pursue a criminal justice degree and another to diversify yourself from those receiving the same degree. Not only look at what HBSSW offers, but what UWM offers. I would suggest studying abroad, field placement opportunities, volunteering in the community, or joining clubs. Essentially, find an experience that demonstrates the qualities of your future career aspiration.

Karyn Behling
Door County Assistant Corporation Counsel

Area of study:
B.S. in Criminal Justice and B.S. in Chemistry; Certificates in Forensic Science, Death Investigation, and Forensic Toxicology

What's unique about studying criminal justice at UW-Milwaukee?
The vast opportunity of field placements and the option to obtain certificates, I personally took advantage of obtaining certificates in Forensic Science, Death Investigation, and Forensic Toxicology.

If you did a field placement, how did this experience help you?
Working in a field placement really helped me make the connections that set me up for my future career and it also allowed me to see firsthand the day-to-day operations of a variety of roles within the criminal justice field.



Photo courtesy of Karyn Behling

How did HBSSW help you?
HBSSW helped me achieve success, the school facilitated a life-long professional network for me, they offered a wide variety of courses, and set me up for my career path with field placement options.

What's your best advice for criminal justice students?
My best advice is to take advantage of all the opportunities HBSSW has to offer. The more you take advantage of those opportunities now and make those connections, the easier it will be to advance your career in the future.



Photo courtesy of Kendra Christensen

Kendra Christensen
Associate Researcher, UW-Milwaukee
Recent graduate of the master's program

Area of study:
Master's Degree in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Crime Analytics

Undergraduate degree:
Psychology

Why you chose this area of study:
I like understanding people's behavior — particularly their criminal behavior.

Recent project:
I worked 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.

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 L. Freiburger, Ph.D.
Dean

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 Konkol, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

Dr. Konkol 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

Theodore S. Lentz, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

Dr. Lentz researches the geography of crime and justice, decision-making, and crime networks. He uses quantitative methods, including geographic information systems and spatial simulation, to examine the social processes that underlie crime patterns.

Professional Interests:

- Geographic criminology
- Decision-making
- Crime networks
- Urban sociology
- Gun violence

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

Alyssa Sheeran, Ph.D.

Senior Lecturer

Alyssa Sheeran’s research interests focus on individual- and neighborhood-level influences on recidivism, sentencing disparities in the criminal justice system, adult drug treatment courts and veterans’ courts, and perceptions of the police. She is currently working on a project to evaluate the Milwaukee County Adult Drug Treatment Court and Veteran’s Treatment Initiative. Alyssa has taught undergraduate courses in Methods in Social Welfare Research, Crime and Criminal Justice Policy, and Criminal Court Processes.

Professional Interests:

- Individual and neighborhood characteristics associated with offending
- Sentencing disparities in the criminal justice system
- Adult drug treatment courts and veterans’ courts
- Perceptions of the police

Stan Stojkovic, Ph.D.

Professor

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 Dagenhardt 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.

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. Melinda S. Kavanaugh at 414-229-4414 or kavanaugh@uwm.edu

Helen Bader School *of* Social Welfare

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