What is an Applied Correctional Practice Graduate Certificate?

The University of Houston-Downtown (UHD), Department of Criminal Justice and Social Work, partnered with professionals from the criminal justice and social work fields to develop an integrated graduate-level certificate that not only provides knowledge regarding evidence-based practices, but also the necessary skills to interact with various justice-involved populations. The graduate certificate in Applied Correctional Practice provides a unique approach to acquiring knowledge in a hands-on framework that easily transfers to the professional work arena.

Who Should Apply?

Agencies and organizations are looking for individuals who have both knowledge and skills to work with clients, and earning this graduate-level certificate will open a variety of career opportunities. For those already working in the field, this certificate will provide the most up-to-date and innovative education related to evidence-based practices and effective client management and treatment services.

For more information, contact:

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About the Program

Houston-area agencies that serve justice-involved and at-risk populations seek to hire individuals with the skills and knowledge to reduce negative repeat behaviors and enhance public safety. The combination of criminal justice knowledge of evidence-based practices and social work skills for working with clients will be valuable to many agencies serving these populations. This graduate-level certificate may provide an advantage when applying for careers that involve:

- federal, state, and city parole and probation agencies (adult and juvenile)
- pretrial agencies
- state and federal correctional facilities
- city and county jails
- federal, state, and local court systems (including specialty courts such as drug courts and mental health courts)
- community-based nonprofit agencies serving offenders, ex-offenders, or reentrants
- primary health and behavioral health care providers serving low-income communities, including ex-offenders.

The topics offered in the coursework were designed using input from criminal justice and social work professionals, who identified critical areas that are important for today's work force.

How to apply?

2. Submit all official college transcripts (applicants seeking admission to this program must hold a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, social work, or related discipline from an accredited university) to Graduate Admissions at gradadmissions@uhd.edu.
3. Submit a personal statement outlining experience and interest in the program (limit statement to 1,000 words).
4. Applicants whose baccalaureate degree was conferred by a university whose native language is not English must demonstrate English proficiency with a minimum composite score of 550 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam as well as a minimal score of 50 on each of the subscales.

Continue Your Classes and Earn a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice

This certificate is a good start to earning a master's degree in criminal justice. The courses in this certificate can apply to coursework necessary to complete an MSCJ. Talk to the MSCJ Director for more details.

For more information, visit: uhd.edu/cj