Dual BA/MCJ Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Dual BA/MCJ Program?
The dual BA/MCJ program is a unique opportunity for highly qualified undergraduate criminal justice students to get a jump start on their Master of Criminal Justice (MCJ) degree while simultaneously completing their Bachelor of Criminal Justice (BACJ) degree.

How does it work?
Students must apply and be approved to begin taking Master of Criminal Justice (MCJ) courses. Approved students can take up to 12 credit hours of MCJ coursework that will then be applied to both the BACJ and MCJ degrees.

How do I get started?
Complete the first application! The purpose of your first application is seeking approval to begin taking MCJ level courses. This application should be completed between the accrual of 75-90 credit hours. This application should be returned to your Academic Advisor. This application requires a personal statement, one letter of recommendation from a CU Denver faculty member (ideally CJ) and the completed application form. Students do not need to take the GRE for this application.

How is my first application assessed?
The MCJ Program Director reviews your application and either denies or approves students to begin taking MCJ course. Your cumulative GPA and major GPA are most heavily considered. We are looking for students who have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA and 3.5 GPA in CJ coursework. Students need to have the entire Core curriculum completed and CRJU 1000, CRJU 2041, CRJU 3100 and CRJU 3150 at the time of application.

What happens once I am approved?
Once you are approved to begin taking MCJ level courses you continue to work with your Academic Advisor on course selection. Plan on taking no more than 2 MCJ courses/semester. You will continue taking undergraduate CJ courses and work towards BACJ degree completion. Approval to take MCJ courses as an undergraduate student is not admittance into the MCJ program.

How do I become a student in the MCJ Program?
During your senior year you should complete the second application. The purpose of the second application is seeking full admittance into the MCJ program. This application is completed online and requires; completed graduate application, 3 recommendations, declaration of program form, current resume and personal statement. Students should complete the application at least one full semester in advance of when they intend to begin in the MCJ program.

How does graduation work?
During the final semester of your senior year you will apply for graduation from the BACJ program. Assuming your graduation application is approved, you will be approved to receive your BACJ degree.

Can I still participate in commencement?
Yes! You can participate in both your BACJ and MCJ commencement ceremonies!