



To: Master of Arts in Restorative Justice (MARJ) and Restorative Justice Professional Certificate Class of 2021

From: Stephanie Clark, Director, Center for Justice Reform and the National Center on Restorative Justice

Date: Summer 2020

Greetings from Vermont Law School! I am delighted to welcome you to our Restorative Justice Program and Centers.

On-Campus “Virtual” Orientation will take place on August 17-19. It will be a busy week of virtual sessions preparing you for studies and academic planning.

Online registration for fall and spring residential classes are currently available online. You will be registering for both semesters but will be able to add and drop courses during the first two weeks of each semester. You will also have the opportunity to revise your spring course schedule in a special add/drop period in October. You will register for summer courses next spring. Our RJ Team will be available to meet with you to answer questions and help with your planning.

This packet includes the current course listings and when they are available, course descriptions, and degree requirements. It’s a good idea to spend some time before you arrive at VLS thinking about what courses you want to take and how you plan to fulfill the degree requirements. To help you plan, I have enclosed Program Planning Guidelines for your degree.

Please feel free to email or call the RJ team with any questions: Alanna Ojibway, aojibway@vermontlaw.edu; Robert Sand, rsand@vermontlaw.edu; Stephanie Clark, sclark@vermontlaw.edu.

We look forward to “seeing” you soon!



**2020-21 MASTER OF ARTS IN
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CURRICULUM -
Representative sample of available
courses (Subject to change)**

[VERMONT LAW SCHOOL](http://vermontlaw.edu)

Needed: MARJ 30 Credits 2020

Updated: 07/22/20

SUMMER 2020 Online Term 1 - May 12 - July 1			SUMMER 2020 Online Term 2 - July 7 - August 24			SUMMER 2020 Residential Courses		
Course	Credits		Course	Credits		Course Day/Time	Course	Credits
New Approaches to DV/SV	3		Global Restorative Justice	3		Session 1 May 26 - June 12	RI in Educational Institutions	3
Principles of Restorative Justice	3		Applied Criminal Justice	3			Juvenile Justice	3
			Principals of Restorative Justice	3				
FALL 2020 Online Term 1 - August 31 - October 18			FALL 2020 Online Term 2 - October 26 - December 13			FALL 2020 Residential Courses- Aug. 24 thru Dec. 4 (Exams Dec. 9-17)		
Course	Credits		Course	Credits		Course Day/Time	Course	Credits
Narrative Writing Seminar	3		Origins, Evolution, and Critical Issues	3		8/28-8/29 F: 2:30-6:00pm S: 8:30-4:30pm	Legal and Policy Writing	1
Race, Crimes, and Restorative Justice	3		Adversity, Trauma, and Victimization	3		Thur 11:20-12:35	Origins, Evolution, and Critical Issues	3
Legislation and Regulation Survey	3		Communications, Advocacy & Leadership	3		MW 12:45-2:00	Narrative Writing	3
			Legislation and Regulation Survey	3		MW 8:30-9:45	Advanced Criminal Law Seminar	2
						MW: 11:20-12:35	Communications, Advocacy & Leadership	3
						WF: 11:20-12:35	Legislation/Regulation	3
						Th: 11:20-12:35	Legislation/Regulation	3
						Th: 9:55-11:10	Legislation and Regulation Survey	3
						T: 3:35-4:50		
						R: 5:00-6:15	Criminal Law	
						TBA	Negotiation	2
SPRING 2021 Online Term 1 - January 4 - February 21			SPRING 2021 Online Term 2 - March 1 - April 18			SPRING 2021 Residential Courses - January 11 thru April 26 (Exams April 29-May 7)		
Course	Credits		Course	Credits		Course Day/Time	Course	Credits
Juvenile Justice	3		Applied Criminal Justice	3		TBA	Principals of Restorative Justice	3
Communications, Advocacy & Leadership	3		Restorative Justice in Educational Institutions	3		MW 3:35-4:50	Adversity, Trauma, and Victimization	3
Legislation and Regulation Survey	3		Legislation and Regulation Survey	3		WF 9:55-11:10	Ethics and Restorative Justice	3
						TBA	Negotiation	2
						Th: 2:10-3:25	Communications, Advocacy & Leadership	3
						TR: 3:35-4:50	Criminal Law	3
						TH: 12:45-2:00	Criminal Law	3



Master of Arts in Restorative Justice (MARJ)

Program Planning Guidelines

These guidelines are for general planning purposes for students. Please refer to the Academic Regulations for official regulations and policies.

REQUIRED AND CORE COURSES

Requirements of the MARJ Degree

- A minimum of 30 credits, including all required courses
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.2 for successful completion of the degree
- Students have up to 5 years from the date of matriculation to complete the MARJ

Required Courses

You must fulfill all of the following required courses (these requirements may be met by taking the course, transferring in credits, or by waiver):

RSJ7115	Principles of Restorative Justice (3 credits) or RSJ7110 Restorative Justice Theory and Practice (2 credits) or RSJ7120 Origins, Evolution, and Critical Issues in Restorative Justice (3 Credits)
REQ7186	Legislation and Regulation or Legislation and Regulation Survey (3 credits)

Writing Requirement

You must have a minimum of 3 Credits from the following:

RSJ7215	Narrative Writing Seminar (3 credits)
WRI7301	Advanced Writing Seminar (3 credits)
ENV5122	Communications, Advocacy, and Leadership (3 credits)

Core Electives

You must take a minimum of 9 Credits from the following:

RSJ7350	Ethics and Restorative Justice (3 credits)
RSJ7325	Advanced Restorative Practices (2 credits)
RSJ7330	Restorative Justice in Educational Institutions (3 credits)
CRI7319	Juvenile Justice (3 credits)
RSJ7230	Restorative Justice in Indigenous Communities (3 credits)
RSJ7250	Global Restorative Justice (3 credits)
REQ7140	Criminal Law (3 credits)
CLI9405	Advanced Criminal Law Seminar (2 credits)
RSJ7320	New Approaches to Domestic and Sexual Violence (3 credits)
ADR6420	Negotiation (2 credits)
RSJ7210	Adversity, Trauma, and Victimization (3 credits)
RSJ7360	Advanced Victim Rights Seminar (3 credits)
RSJ7270	Clemency, Pardons, Expungement (3 credits)
	Externship (4 credits)



Electives

Any remaining courses may be chosen from the approved list in the Academic Regulations.

CREDITS

Number of Credits

The minimum number of credits required to earn the MARJ is 30. You can take up to 36 credits; however, if you have reached 30 credits and satisfied all degree requirements at the end of any semester, the degree must be awarded.

ACADEMIC PLANNING

During the registration process (which takes place during MARJ orientation), work with your academic planning advisor to establish a tentative schedule of courses you plan to take for your MARJ degree, subject to later modifications as your individual program planning requires.

It is your responsibility to ensure fulfillment of all degree requirements. Check with the Registrar if you have questions regarding your degree status.

REGISTRATION AND TUITION BILLING

Withdrawing from a Course

During the Add/Drop period in the fall and spring semesters, students may drop a course with no enrollment limit during the first ten days of the semester. Limited enrollment courses and seminars must be dropped during the first five days. Courses may not be added after the sixth class day without the written permission of the professor. After the Add/Drop period, you may withdraw from any course which is not required or does not have a limited enrollment. This withdrawal will be reflected on your transcript as "WD." You may not withdraw from a required course or limited enrollment course unless you obtain permission from the Committee on Standards. Contact registrar@vermontlaw.edu regarding petitioning the Committee on Standards.

Auditing

Fulltime Students in Fall and Spring may audit two courses at no charge. Any additional audits will be charged at the current audit rate. Contact registrar@vermontlaw.edu to determine if space is available in the class you wish to audit. Students may not audit courses or seminars that have a wait list. If the Registrar determines that space is available, you will be given an Audit Form to obtain the professor's permission to audit. This form should be returned to the Registrar's Office once faculty approval has been obtained. Audited courses will appear on your transcript.

MARJ Tuition

MARJ students are billed on a per-credit basis. For further information, contact the Business Office at studentaccounts@vermontlaw.edu.



SUMMER SESSION

Registering for Summer Session

Summer Session registration begins in April. You may take a maximum of eleven credits. Anything beyond that requires a waiver from the Center for Justice Reform Director or Designee.

Summer Add/Drop Period

You have between the first and second meeting of the class to add or drop a course. If you miss the Add/Drop period and need to withdraw from a class, a tuition refund schedule is published in the Summer Session catalog and is also available from the Business Office.

ONLINE CLASSES

Most of the MARJ required courses, as well as many electives are available online. Online semesters are divided into two terms of seven weeks; each online class is seven weeks long and worth three credits. Online classes are available to residential students on a space-available basis. Talk with your academic planning advisor to learn about the registration process.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

RSJ7115.1 Principles of Restorative Justice (3 Credits - Residential)

This highly participatory course will explore restorative justice and the ideas that form its foundation, question its strengths and shortcomings, examine restorative practices, and investigate opportunities to put the theory into practice.

RSJ7120.1 Origins, Evolution, and Critical Issues in Restorative Justice (3 Credits – Residential and Online)

This online course covers the evolving definitions and history of restorative justice and related regulatory and relational practices and approaches. Faculty and students will consider the ways concepts and debates in restorative justice are evolving and being used to tackle some of society's most challenging problems.

REQ7185.1 Legislation & Regulation or REQ7186.1 Legislation & Regulation Survey – 3 Credits (Residential and Online)

This course will provide students an introduction to the legislative process, regulatory agencies, and agency law-making. Students will learn to navigate modern U.S. government institutions and processes, with a particular emphasis on the legislative process and the administrative state. Key topics include the structure and animating principles of the U.S. system of government, the relationship between the federal government and the States, the legislative law-making process, the nature and scope of administrative agency authority, the diverse modes of agency law-making and other decision-making, and the procedures and standards governing court review of legislative measures and agency actions.



RSJ7215.1 Narrative Writing Seminar (3 Credits – Residential and Online)

Today, being an advocate requires more than knowing how to write a brief. Fluency in a variety of written forms – memorandums, op-eds, letters, emails, blog posts – is all but required. This course will cover these forms and others. Students will be graded on regular written assignments and a final paper.

ENV5113 Legal and Policy Writing Seminar (1 Credit—Residential)

This course will introduce students to key principles of clear and precise writing, familiarize them with legal organization and IRAC (Issue, Rule, Analysis, Conclusion), and teach them the basics of legal research. These basic skills help students succeed in their other classes, as well as in their professional careers. For Masters Students Only

RSJ5122.1/ENV5122.1 Communications, Advocacy and Leadership – 3 Credits (Residential and Online)

A successful professional should possess the ability to advocate, counsel, investigate, persuade, research, and educate. This course will develop those skills through various writing and oral advocacy projects. In addition to other writing projects, students will compose a Freedom of Information Act request, draft a public comment letter, write a grant proposal letter of inquiry, and create an environmental communication campaign. Different skills will be emphasized through the exploration of these diverse types of writing.

RSJ7350.1 Ethics and Restorative Justice (3 Credits – Residential and Online)

This course provides a brief review of ethical codes of conduct applicable in various professional disciplines and analyzes the possible tension between modern codes of conduct and a pure restorative approach to harm and conflict. Students will be presented with a series of ethical dilemmas across various disciplines and will be asked to analyze the ethical issues in each problem. The course will draw upon philosophical underpinnings and will analyze and explore how to discern a proper path in complex ethical situations.

RSJ7210.1 Adversity Trauma and Victimization (3 Credits – Residential and Online)

This course will explore the legal, historical, cultural, and psychological frameworks underlying victim rights law, as well as best practices for effective victim/survivor engagement across the American criminal justice system. Topics will include: 1) the history of victim rights and victim/survivor services in the United States, to include the violence against women and/or Mothers Against Drunk Driving movements, the array of state responses (funding, agency-based direct service, correctional/institutional, etc.); 2) statutory, constitutional, evidentiary, and procedural schemes intended to protect and give voice to crime victims in both traditional and restorative criminal justice processes; 3) the psychology and brain science of trauma and how to competently address trauma in direct service/representation of victims; 4) ethical challenges; 5) interviewing techniques; and 6) theories and strategies for effectively managing vicarious/secondary trauma as a legal or restorative justice practitioner in the field.

RSJ7340.1 Race, Crimes, & Restorative Justice – 3 Credits (Residential and Online)

This course explores the impact of race on the criminal justice system and how restorative justice approaches might help address the systemic racism that permeates the system. Starting with the US Constitution, the course will explore the 13th Amendment, convict leasing, Jim Crow, and the War on Drugs, mass incarceration, and racial disparities in arrest, prosecution, and sentencing practices. Through guest presentations, case study, film, and literature, students will tackle challenging questions about how law, policy, and practice has perpetuated racial divide and discrimination in this country.



RSJ7330.1 Restorative Justice in Educational Institutions (3 Credits - Residential)

This course explores how restorative justice approaches can provide important alternatives to more traditional responses to harm within educational settings. Restorative justice has three primary applications in school settings, which includes both K-12 schools and higher education. Restorative circles are commonly used to build and strengthen relationships between students and with their teachers. Restorative practices help develop “social-emotional learning.” Restorative conferences are used in response to conflict and misconduct. Cognizant of the “school to prison pipeline,” administrators are looking for more effective and less punitive response to school misconduct. Finally, when students are suspended, restorative circles of support and accountability assist with effective reintegration back into the classroom. The course will focus on the restorative justice movement in education, examining the theory behind restorative justice, its various practices, and evidence of effectiveness. The course will also consider the problems of racial bias in K-12 discipline and sexual and gender-based misconduct on college campuses.

CRI7319.1 Juvenile Justice (3 Credits – Residential)

This course will explore the historical and current administration of juvenile justice in the US, including the legal and policy justifications for having a separate system for young offenders, and whether this division continues to make sense today. This course will also explore contemporary alternatives to the more traditional juvenile justice responses to include the use of restorative practices.

ADR6420.1 Negotiation – 2 Credits (Residential)

This course is designed to help you explore what it means to be an effective negotiator and to practice the skills needed to improve on this important life skill. You will be expected to learn and apply theories from a broad range of disciplines including law, economics, psychology, sociology and management. These theories will be discussed and debated in class discussions and practice through highly interactive simulations. The course examines the dynamics, constraints, and skills needed to be an effective negotiator.

RSJ7140.1 Applied Criminal Justice – 3 Credits (Residential and Online)

This course will explore the use of criminal legal systems to address social and environmental harms. Following an introductory section covering the basics of criminal law and procedure, the course will explore conventional and alternative criminal justice applications to address crimes against people including drug and internet offenses, animal abuse, and environmental harms. The course will also explore new arenas in which criminal law might be used to advance social justice. This 3-credit course will build on and expand upon the existing 2 credit Advanced Criminal Law Seminar. Students will design a proposal related to a new application of criminal law and submit a graded paper and presentation in support of their proposal.

CRI7305.1 Advanced Criminal Law Seminar – 2 Credits (Residential)

This seminar rotates between two topics: 1) a focus on alternative, less punitive, responses within the criminal justice system; and, 2) an exploration of the law and policy surrounding police use of force. Students will be graded based on their engagement during the semester, a paper, and a presentation to the class.

REQ7140.1 Criminal Law – 3 Credits (Residential)

This course focuses on the foundation of our system of substantive criminal law, with emphasis upon mental state, responsibility, justification and excuse, inchoate crimes, and liability for the conduct of another.