The Center for Justice Reform at Vermont Law and Graduate School provides an education to transform the criminal justice system. The center offers degree and training programs for law and master’s degree students, as well as criminal justice professionals, educators, and other community members who seek to develop alternative, less punitive, responses to harm. Academic offerings include a Master of Arts in Restorative Justice (MARJ) degree, a joint JD/MARJ degree program, and a Professional Certificate in Restorative Justice (PCRJ).
WHY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?
Justice requires a new way to think about and respond to harm, conflict, and crime. Wrongdoings are not just transgressions against government or institutions; harm involves a breach of relationships. Responding to harm requires more than punishment—more than retribution—the response requires an opportunity for acceptance of responsibility, amends to the aggrieved parties, and the creation of an environment that promotes healing.

CHANGE STARTS HERE
By bringing together students committed to developing new ways of thinking about harm with national and international restorative justice leaders, VLGS educates the next generation of justice reformers—leaders who understand the workings of the existing legal system but who are also educated and equipped to infuse systems and communities with principles of inclusion, tolerance, equity, compassion, and positive change.

GET STARTED
VLGS offers a 30-credit Master of Arts in Restorative Justice (MARJ) degree or a nine-credit Professional Certificate in Restorative Justice. Both the MARJ degree and Professional Certificate may be completed online, on campus, or a hybrid of both. The MARJ can also be combined with the JD for a joint degree. VLGS offers an array of courses, conferences, and presentations that will change how you think about harm and social inequality and how you lead your organizations, community, state, and country to a more just place.

Agents of Change
At Vermont Law and Graduate School, students who are committed to developing new ways of thinking about crime and justice are brought together with national and international restorative justice leaders to become the next generation of justice reformers. Students wishing to specialize in restorative justice will combine traditional law courses with restorative justice courses, simulations, and experiential learning opportunities. Graduates are prepared to become forceful and articulate agents for change in law and restorative justice.

Alumni Spotlight
My work as has been impacted by my master’s in restorative justice because I have more of an insight on what is needed to prevent and maintain better spaces for people and communities that are suffering. I can plant seeds for future organizers to share in reforming the legal system that is a set up to fail for poor and marginalized people, especially the reentry community.”

– Vanessa Nelson-Knox MARJ’20
HOME OF THE NATIONAL CENTER ON RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

The National Center on Restorative Justice (NCORJ) is a partnership between Vermont Law and Graduate School, the University of Vermont, the University of San Diego, and the U.S. Office of Justice Programs. The NCORJ is funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to:

- Promote and resource the teaching of restorative justice in universities and law schools in order to educate future justice system actors in restorative approaches.

- Provide effective restorative justice education and training for criminal justice system actors and the general public.

- Support and lead research focusing on restorative justice and addressing social inequities in the U.S. criminal legal system.

- Offer intensive training, technical assistance, and competitive subawards to criminal justice agencies interested in partnering with community-based organizations to implement restorative justice programs.

QUESTIONS?

Contact our Admissions Team
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802-831-1239

LEARN MORE
vermontlaw.edu/justice-reform

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