

## PROGRAM FORMAT

The Juvenile Justice Institute, housed within the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice facilitates the Certificate Program. The program is designed to meet the needs of professional adult learners through a combination of in-person, video conference, and online content. Participants meet monthly from September through April, wrapping up with participation in the annual Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association (NJJJA) Conference in May. In-person sessions will take place on the UNO Dodge Campus at the Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center.

Attendance is essential for successful completion of the program. Participants are expected to attend all sessions unless excused with permission from the program director.

## COST

The cost for the program is \$2,500. This covers all program materials, fees, trainers, on-site meals, and registration and lodging for NJJA. Costs for travel and lodging to attend Omaha monthly sessions are the responsibility of the participant. Program fee due dates will be included in registration information.

## HOW TO ENROLL

Applications will be open in early May of each year. Interested applicants can find information on how to enroll at [juvenilejustice.unomaha.edu/certificate](http://juvenilejustice.unomaha.edu/certificate).

### For Questions:

Questions regarding the Certificate Program can be sent to:  
[unojji@unomaha.edu](mailto:unojji@unomaha.edu)

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# Juvenile Justice Certificate Program

*Designed to equip individuals working directly with justice involved youth*



*Join an elite network of  
juvenile justice professionals  
committed to doing “what  
works” for youth and families!*

**UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA  
OMAHA**  
SCHOOL OF CRIMINOLOGY  
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
  
**UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA  
OMAHA** JUVENILE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

## PURPOSE

The Juvenile Justice Certificate Program was developed in alignment with the UNO and School of Criminology and Criminal Justice strategic vision for ongoing workforce development and advancing the professionalism of the juvenile justice field.

The program is designed to enhance participants' knowledge of "what works" and develop skills that can be applied directly with the youth they serve. The learning environment creates a safe space for professional development by engaging in critical dialogue, self-reflection, skill demonstration, and exposure to experiential learning opportunities.

## WHO SHOULD ENROLL

The program is open to anyone working with youth at-risk of or involved in the juvenile justice or related systems (i.e. child welfare, education, etc.) or supervising staff in these systems.

Individuals likely to benefit the most from the curriculum are those who have a passion for working with at-risk youth but have limited education and/or juvenile justice experience, have education outside the juvenile justice field, or those with a desire to learn and stretch their knowledge and skills.

Cohorts will be limited to approximately 25 people.

## GOALS

The Juvenile Justice Certificate Program aims to impact Nebraska's juvenile justice workforce by:

1. Developing the capacity of current and future juvenile justice professionals to implement best practices in their organizations and Nebraska's juvenile justice system.
2. Equipping future juvenile justice leaders with the knowledge to lead Nebraska in an evidence-based manner.
3. Growing a statewide network of juvenile justice professionals who act as a resource and support to each other and their communities.

## PROGRAM CURRICULUM

This program provides a comprehensive view into the research that supports juvenile justice best practices and helps participants apply that knowledge in practice. Participants will engage with local and national experts on essential topics such as adolescent development, evidence-based interventions, policy reform, equity and inclusion, restorative practices, and more. This program also provides an innovative youth engagement model, where youth with lived experience serve as trainers and coaches.

Participants who complete the program will receive a certificate in motivational interviewing and gain specific skills in, but not limited to, reflective practice, group facilitation, restorative circles, and youth engagement. Skill development will be demonstrated through monthly activities and a final Capstone Project.



2022 Juvenile Justice Certificate Program Cohort