

Maisha Cooper

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Education

M.S. Criminal Justice, University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO - Dec. 2013
GPA: 3.73/4.00

B.S. Criminal Justice, University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO - Dec. 2011
GPA: 3.65/4.00, *cum laude*

Research Experience

Thesis: “From Theory to Application: Is Religiosity a Factor in Criminal Behavior and Juvenile Delinquency”
Utilized secondary data from the National Study of Youth and Religion, Wave 2 (2005) to examine the relationships between Hirschi’s (1969) social bond theory, religiosity, and juvenile delinquency

Analysis: “Faith-Based Programs: A Comparative Review of the United States, England, South Korea, and Japan”

- ☐ An overview of juvenile crime in the United States, England, South Korea, and Japan; with an emphasis on the possible effectiveness of faith-based rehabilitative programs in the United States
- ☐ Illustrates some of the theoretical background for faith-based programs

Graduate Research Assistant: January 2012- December 2013

Aid the Criminal Justice faculty with research activities and projects

Editor – UCM CJ Chronicle: January 2012 – December 2013

Editor of the University of Central Missouri, Criminal Justice Department’s Newsletter, which is mailed out each semester to all UCM CJ Alumni

Initiated interviews of current and former UCM CJ students

Drafted articles for submission in the Chronicle

Worked closely with faculty throughout drafting, finalizing, and publishing process

McNair Research Internship:

“Factors Affecting Juvenile Certification in St. Louis, MO”

Identified the factors that predicted the certification decisions in the St. Louis City Family Court-Juvenile Division

Publications

Cooper, M. & Urban, L. S. (2012). Factors affecting juvenile waiver to adult court in a large Midwestern jurisdiction. *Institute of Justice & International Studies*, 12, 43-58.

Cooper, M. (2010). Factors affecting juvenile certification in St. Louis, Missouri. *The McNair Journal*, University of Central Missouri, 19, 14-17.

Manuscript in Preparation

Cooper, M. & Matusiak, R. (2013). *From theory to application: Is religiosity a factor in criminal behavior and juvenile delinquency.*

Presentations

- November 2013: The American Society of Criminology 69th Annual Meeting: Atlanta, GA
Presentation: From Theory to Application: Is Religiosity a Factor in Criminal Behavior and Juvenile Delinquency
- November 2012: The American Society of Criminology 68th Annual Meeting: Chicago, IL
Presentation: Faith-Based Programs: A Comparative Review of the United States, England, South Korea, and Japan
- September 2011: Honors Symposium: University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO
Presentation: Factors Affecting Juvenile Certification in St. Louis, MO
- September 2010: 14th Annual MKN McNair Heartland, Conference: Kansas City, MO
Presentation: Factors Affecting Juvenile Certification in St. Louis, MO

September 2010: 17th Annual McNair Research Symposium: University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO

Presentation: Factors Affecting Juvenile Certification in St. Louis, MO

Applied/Volunteer Experience

Sister 2 Sister (S2S) Mentor Ministry: 2009 to present

Founder and Coordinator of Sister 2 Sister Mentor Ministry

Implemented a faith-based mentor program for young women, ages 12 - 21,

Paired mentees with women ages 21-35 who helped guide them in their spiritual, emotional, and overall growth

Designed program to guide and encourage young women who are struggling with issues related to education, self-esteem, peer group relationships, sex, sex education, drug abuse, and other issues that the teens of today deal with on a continual basis

To date approximately 25 young women have completed this program and have seen positive results in aforementioned areas.

Over 50% of the participants have chosen to continue their mentor relationship and are making great strides in their lives

Summer Intern – Beyond the Fences, Ministries of Restorative Justice apart of the United Methodist

Church Social Justice Team: May 2, 2013 – August 9, 2013

Became a Volunteer in Corrections at Western Missouri Correctional Center in Cameron, Missouri.

Co-facilitated 6-week sessions entitled *Circles of Transformation* with offenders

Assisted offenders in embracing the Circle Process as a way of confronting the problems and issues which face the men as they prepare to re-enter the community

Accomplished program goals by helping them to recognize and repair the harm they may have caused

Worked at the Community Mediation Center of Greater Kansas City

Participated in services to individuals and families through a plethora of restorative practices which involve youth and adults in the community

Observed a Neighborhood Accountability Board responsible to the Municipal Court.

McNair Summer Research Internship: 2010

Conducted Research

Wrote research paper “Factors Affecting Juvenile Certification in St. Louis, MO

Teaching Experience

Instructor: AE 1400/ Freshman Seminar (Fall 2013)

Created curriculum and taught 16 week, 1 credit hour course for incoming freshman who were a part of a criminal justice learning community

Created lectures, powerpoint presentations, assignments, and exams

Leadership Experience

1/2009 – 1/2013 **President and Coordinator for Manna Harvest Free Grocery Distribution Program**

Distributed a semi-truck full load (approximately 2,000 pounds) of free groceries to an average of 200 families in the Warrensburg and surrounding communities on every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month

Responsible for the coordinating of volunteers, submission of bi-monthly reports, the overseeing of volunteers and distribution, and ensuring that those in need have filled out the appropriate paperwork. In addition, I was responsible for the public relations, advertising, and fundraising for the program.

2009 – 2012 **President, Alpha Theta Omega Christian Sorority, Inc., Esther Beta Chapter (ATO)**
Coordinated events and functions on the UCM Campus

Identified and participated in community service activities

Oversaw the general day-to-day activities of the Chapter

1999-2005 **Yeoman, United States Navy (Active Duty)**
Naval Communications and Telecommunications Station, Sicily (2002-2005)

Awards and Evaluation Yeoman

Supervised four junior personnel

Responsible for administrative functions including awards, evaluations, and Command

Correspondence for the Commanding Officer, Executive Officer, Command

Master Chief, and a command of 230 Active duty Enlisted and Officer Personnel

Provided tactical support for nine extremely large Command world-wide and additional support for 44 Tenant Commands

Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes (1999 – 2002)

Command Tracking Yeoman

Managed various correspondence for a command of 1,200

Honors and Awards

2013	Allen Sapp Criminal Justice Graduate Student Scholarship
2012	Richard N. Holden Graduate Scholarship
2012	Outstanding Criminal Justice Senior Award
2012	Nominated for “Who’s Who at UCM” and “Charno Award”
2011	President’s Diversity Scholarship
2011	Office of Accessibility Services Certificate of Appreciation
2011	Graduated with Honors (<i>cum laude</i>)
2011	Deans’ List (Spring, Fall)
2010	Deans’ List (Spring, Summer, Fall)
2010	Third Place McNair Research Internship Paper Award
2010	McNair Scholar, Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program, UCM
2009	Dean’s List (Summer, Fall)
2006	Dean’s List (Fall)

Professional/Academic Organizations

National Society of Collegiate Scholars - Member 2007 to Present

Missouri Restorative Justice Coalition – Student Board Member - June 2013 to Present

University of Central Missouri Graduate Council - Student Member - Fall 2013