

Michael Logan Interview:

How would you describe your area of study to a novice?

Criminal justice is the study of crime from different perspectives of the criminal justice system. These different perspectives include, but are not limited to, law enforcement, corrections, and the courts. The goal of individuals within criminal justice, be it a practitioner or an academic, is to come together and find better solutions to prevent or respond to crime. The graduate program at Radford University accomplishes these goals by providing professors that have knowledge and experience in different areas of the criminal justice system and, more importantly, emphasize the ability to think critically.

What is your primary motivation for persevering through graduate school?

Without being too cliché, my motivation is driven by my want to continue learning. Higher education comes with the opportunity to continue accumulating knowledge and expanding my personal skill set. Additionally, there is the possible opportunity to become an academic and pass the skills I have learned to future students.

Do you think there is any value in social networking with other graduate students in non-related fields?

Absolutely, criminal justice is a field that greatly benefits when used in combination with other disciplines. That being said, any ability to collaborate with other graduate students is often valuable.

What is your favorite stress-reduction technique?

I spend a lot of time in my office at Radford, so my stress-reduction technique is that I try not to bring my schoolwork home with me. I will stay as late or come as early as I need to in order to complete any work, but when I am at home that time is reserved for family and leisure.

What is the last book you read strictly for pleasure and how long ago was it?

Interestingly enough, I am currently rereading a book from this past spring semester. The book is *Private Guns, Public Health* by David Hemenway. The author applies a public health agenda to firearms-related issues in America.

Please describe your most meaningful academic relationship.

All the professors in the Criminal Justice Department have been better than I could have ever expected. But if I had to select one, I would have to say it would be with Dr. Hendrix. She is the chair of my thesis committee and has helped me greatly throughout my time in graduate school. Overall, I could not say enough great things about Dr. Hendrix or any of the professors I have had at Radford University.

What surprised you the most about graduate school?

What surprised me most about graduate school was the care that professors have for graduate students and the expectation of graduate school. The professors are more than willing to go out of their way to help you with your work, but at the same time, it is much less handholding than it was as an undergraduate. Professors want to see you strive as a student, but you must be willing to do the work.

If travel to Mars happens in your lifetime, would you want to be one of the scientists on board? If yes, what would you contribute to the mission?

Although going to Mars would be a great story for generations to come, I would have to pass on that opportunity. The amount of time and energy that possibly goes into preparing for Mars, I would rather spend traveling the world and seeing its own unique marvels.

What is your favorite comfort food and why? How often do you consume it?

I really don't have a comfort food. However, I like a good steak or my girlfriend's homemade chili!

If you hadn't been admitted to graduate school, what do you think you would be doing right now?

I would likely be a youth care worker at a juvenile detention center that I interned at as an undergraduate.

When do you expect to complete your degree?

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