

Criminal Justice (CJ)

The major in criminal justice provides the professional knowledge and skills needed to work and advance in the field of criminal justice. The interdisciplinary curriculum blends a strong foundation of liberal arts with professional course work which prepares students for a broad range of careers in criminal justice. Students engage in study that examines causes, prevention, and control of crimes, as well as the foundational theories and policies relevant to the traditional and non-traditional structures and operations of the criminal justice system. Students develop a comprehensive understanding of criminology, research methods, management, ethics, criminal law, corrections, and juvenile and restorative justice. Grounded in an urban context, the practicum provides diverse opportunities for students to apply theory learned in the classroom to real life situations in a variety of work settings. This major is intended for sworn police officers as well as students interested in entry-level positions in a variety of settings such as law enforcement, private security, judiciary, corrections, victim assistance, probation, parole, federal service, and social service agencies. Students interested in augmenting the criminal justice major can enhance their learning through minors in human psychology, counseling and social services, nonprofit management, and business administration.

The curriculum provides a strong foundation for graduate study in criminal justice or law, and it may be helpful to those students interested in social work.

Major requirements for a B.A. or B.G.S. degree in Criminal Justice

Required semester hours

36 sh

Required core courses

CJ 3000, 3100, 3200, 3300, 3400, 3500, 4000, 4100, 4200, 4300, 4400

Minor requirements in Criminal Justice

The minor includes the following courses for a total of 20 sh. The minor reflects the core content in the field of criminal justice.

Required semester hours

20 sh

Required core courses

CJ 3000, 3100, 3200, 3300, 3400, 3500,

GESAL Designates a course that fulfills all or part of a General Education (G.E.) requirement for the B.A. or B.G.S. degree; see the General Education section of the School of Adult Learning for more information.

3000 Introduction to Criminal Justice (4 sh) GESAL

Provides an interdisciplinary and critical analysis of the criminal justice system in the United States. Emphasis is on key theories, causation of crime, and pertinent research that assesses the implications for policies related to crime control and prevention. An analysis of the roles of the police, prosecution, defense attorneys, and courts, from diversionary processes to arrest, trial and sentencing and imprisonment. An examination of contemporary structures and practices of corrections will build upon a historical understanding of the criminal justice system in the United States. Representative Supreme Court decisions in the law of arrest, right to counsel, capital punishment, search and seizure, and self-incrimination are analyzed.

3100 Research Methods in Criminal Justice (4 sh)

Emphasis is on the theory, principles, and methods used in criminal justice research. The course addresses a broad range of research methods, data collection strategies, and analytical tools that are commonly used in the criminal justice system. Provides an overview of various types of research design and data collection strategies such as questionnaires, interviews, observational techniques, sampling, and the use of secondary sources, computers, and other technology.

3200 Correctional Services (4 sh)

Review of the historical and contemporary structure, philosophical underpinnings, and administration of adult corrections in the United States. Emphasis is placed on the purpose and goals of the correctional system and the critical issues and problems facing it today. Major topics include discussion of the various philosophies of punishment, sentencing strategies, and the prison community. The social, political, and economic impact on correctional services, such as boot camps, sentencing reform, overcrowding, community-based alternatives, punishment versus rehabilitation debates, and reintegration are explored.

3300 Juvenile Justice System (4 sh)

The contemporary juvenile justice system is analyzed from historical and philosophical perspectives. An overview of the procedures, structures, and treatment of juvenile offenders are provided as well as an exploration of the purpose and primary operations of juvenile detention and probation services. Further emphasis is placed on the nature and extent of delinquency, theories of causation, current trends, prevention, problem solving, and the delivery of services to this population. Students compare and contrast different approaches and future trends in juvenile justice among countries within and outside of the United States.

3400 Criminal Procedure (2 sh)

An overview of the structure of the United States court system, sources of individuals' rights and the constitutional limitations on the prohibition of criminal conduct will provide a foundation for this study of criminal procedural law. This course will examine the legal continuum from the initial search and seizure of a suspect, to the arrest and interrogation, pre-trial process, criminal trial, sentencing and punishment, and appeal and post-conviction rules.

3500 Criminal Law (2 sh)

Provides an overview of criminal law with an emphasis on the major crimes to include offenses against: the person, habitation, property, public morality, alcohol and drug offenses, and white collar and organized crime. The course will explore an individual's liability for criminal conduct, criminal responsibility or intent, and the circumstances that may modify the individual's responsibility for a criminal act. Special defenses to criminal acts will also be discussed.

3910 Topics in Criminal Justice (1-4 sh)

Intensive investigation of a selected topic in criminal justice offered from time to time at the discretion of the School of Adult Learning.

4000 Law Enforcement Administration (2 sh)

Application of the fundamental theories and principles related to the professional management and administration of law enforcement agencies. The basic management concepts of police administration and forms of police organization are analyzed and evaluated. Examines specific operational functions such as budgeting, personnel, planning, technology, and productivity measurements. Designed to assist students in developing the ability to interpret

and implement complex policy such as homeland security into their professional practice. Prerequisite: CJ 3000.

4100 Urban Communities and Crime (4 sh)

An overview of the most common crimes and issues related to crime and delinquency within urban communities. In-depth analysis of theories and research that emphasize community factors that lead to crime and delinquency, including local community approaches to crime prevention. Topics include but are not limited to youth culture and deviance, substance abuse, gun control, and domestic violence. Current community-oriented initiatives such as problem oriented policing and alternatives to incarceration aimed at reducing crime will be discussed. Prerequisite: CJ 3000.

4200 Restorative Justice (2 sh)

An in-depth analysis of the key principles and concepts critical to the practical application of restorative justice. Acknowledges that crime causes injury to people and communities and that restorative justice seeks healing, wholeness, and reconciliation for all parties. Introduces the student to a variety of established restorative methods such as family/group conferencing, victim/offender mediation, and peacemaking circles. Prerequisite: CJ 3000.

4300 Professional Issues, Ethics, and Diversity (4 sh)

An intense examination of the ethical dilemmas and diversity issues facing the professional criminal justice practitioner. Myths and realities surrounding race, gender, social class, and the relationship to the criminal justice system are discussed. Typical applied ethical issues might include the following: plea bargaining, capital punishment, insanity defense, mandatory sentencing, search and seizure rules, white collar crime, terrorism, and community-based alternatives to incarceration. Prerequisite: CJ 3000.

4400 Practicum in Criminal Justice (4 sh)

The practicum includes observation and hands-on experience within an appropriate criminal justice agency. The student will develop and/or work on a larger institutional-wide project that involves reflection and application of theory and research learned in the classroom to practical situations in the work setting. The student applies relevant theory and research methods to inform their practicum project. The practicum is designed to increase the student's interdisciplinary knowledge and practical skills employed in the field of criminal justice. The practicum is approximately four hours a week over one full semester and is the final course in the major. Prerequisite: CJ 3000, 3100, 3400, 3500.

4910 Independent Study in Criminal Justice (1-4 sh)

Advanced independent research in criminal justice.

4970 Internship in Criminal Justice (1-8 sh)

An assignment in the field of criminal justice other than the current employer in which reflective experience is the goal. Interested students who have completed 20 hours or more in the major should apply to their academic advisor.