

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The department of Sociology offers a major in criminal justice for those interested in pursuing careers in law enforcement, prevention of crime, rehabilitation of criminals and criminal law. The program is essentially humanistic and based on the assumption that both individuals and institutions are responsible for their behavior. Two characteristics distinguish this approach: 1) it is scientific in studying phenomena; 2) it studies phenomena as human interaction.

Criminal Justice is an interdisciplinary field, so this program includes courses in a variety of disciplines: some designated as criminal justice, sociology, political science and psychology. This major is designed to prepare students for immediate employment or for continuing education on the graduate level. Employment as law enforcement officers, probation officers, practitioners in preventive or rehabilitative work, and the practice of law are careers that criminal justice majors might pursue.

MAJOR IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE (36 credits)

REQUIRED: 10 courses (30 credits)

SOC 111 Intro Sociology	SOC 223 Research Methods
CJ/SOC 113 Intro Criminal Justice	CJ/SOC 333 Corrections
SOC 114 Social Problems	CJ/SOC 334 Law Enforcement in America
CJ/SOC 117 Juvenile Justice	CJ/SOC 446 Criminal Law
CJ/SOC 220 Criminology	SOC 447 Law and Society

Choose 6 credits from:

SOC 227 Race and Ethnicity	BIO 218 Intro to Forensic Science
SOC 302 Political Sociology	CJ/SOC 332 Crime Prevention
SOC 442 Urban Community	POL 404 Constitutional Law: Bill of Rights

MINOR IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE (18 credits)

REQUIRED: 4 courses (12 credits)

SOC 111 Intro to Sociology	SOC 114 Social Problems
CJ/SOC 113 Intro Criminal Justice	CJ/SOC 220 Criminology

Choose 3 credits:

SOC 227 Race and Ethnicity	SOC/PSY 119 Marriage and Family
CJ/SOC 117 Juvenile Justice	SOC 302 Political Sociology
	SOC 442 Urban Community

Choose 3 credits from:

CJ/SOC 332 Crime Prevention	POL 404 Const Law: Bill of Rights
CJ/SOC 333 Corrections	CJ/SOC 446 Criminal Law

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

113. Introduction to Criminal Justice (SOC 113) 3 credits

This course offers students an overview of the entire field of criminal justice. Students are introduced to: elements of criminal law, profiles of offenders, profiles of victims of crime, the prevalence of crime, the enforcers of law, and the punishment of criminals. The course also includes information about the prevention of criminal activity.

117. Juvenile Justice (SOC 117) 3 credits

This course involves a study of the juvenile justice system. Areas of focus include: types of offenders, the extent of the juvenile delinquency problem, historical developments in the handling of juvenile offenders, and the current structure, objectives, responsibilities, and functions of the juvenile justice system.

220. Criminology (SOC 220) 3 credits

Study of the factors that cause crime and criminal behavior, organization of criminal behavior, theories and practices of criminal control and rehabilitation. **Prerequisite:** CJ/SOC 113.

301. Exploring White-Collar Crime (SOC 301) 3 credits

This course covers the definitions, causal theories, and prevalence and enforcement/regulation of various white-collar crimes. Topics included, but not limited to, crimes against consumers, the environment, corporate and other fiduciary fraud, crimes by the state, and in the medical and other professions.

332. Crime Prevention (SOC 332) 3 credits

This course emphasizes the prevention of criminal activity. This includes strategies to help prevent oneself from becoming a victim, and to protect one's property. Students learn about a variety of crime prevention programs used by police from all over the country. Special emphasis will focus on identifying problems, stopping criminal activity, and preventing future criminal activity. **Prerequisite:** CJ/SOC 220.

333. Corrections (SOC 333) 3 credits

This course focuses on institutions of corrections, particularly jails and prisons. It includes the changing nature of institutions of incarceration, and current problems faced by wardens, guards, and inmates, and on the changing nature of the inmate population. Attention will also be given to alternatives to incarceration. **Prerequisite:** CJ/SOC 220.

334. Law Enforcement in America (SOC 334) 3 credits

This course surveys the nature, structure and current state of the profession of formal social control agencies in the United States. Students are exposed to the operation of law enforcement at the local, state, and federal levels, as well as specialized policing agencies such as private police, railroad police, airport police, and sea port police. A significant amount of time will be spent on current topics in policing, such as racially biased policing, police corruption and misconduct, public cooperation, public perception of police, police administration and police and news media. **Junior/Seniors only.**

446. Criminal Law (SOC 446)

3 credits

Criminal law is the body of law defining crimes. Cases and statutes describing the essential elements of substantial criminal law will be analyzed. Crimes prohibited by Acts of Congress and triable in federal court as well as those prohibited under state law and triable in state courts will be among the topics studied. **Juniors/Seniors only.**



A state police officer discusses career plans with a student during the annual Career Fair