

explore majors with OAAS!

The Office for Academic Advising Support
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Major: Criminology, BA

Criminology students study crime, victimization, and criminal legal systems response with the aim of creating just policies and institutions that support all members of society.

What skills do students develop in this program?

Students are taught the skills necessary for analyzing data on crime and criminal behavior; evaluating and designing prevention and intervention programs and models; and assessing and developing justice policies and practices. Specific skills may include crime mapping, crime pattern and trend analysis, assessing the quality of research and crime theory, practical applications of crime theory and research, and how to effectively communicate findings to a wide audience including legislators, practitioners, and the general public.

What kind of student is a good fit for Criminology?

Students who are successful in this major are those who are curious, interested in exploring new and innovative ways to address crime and victimization, open-minded, analytically strong, effective communicators, compassionate, and flexible/highly adaptive.

Are there any popular classes in the program that you would suggest or recommended classes for a student who is just starting to explore the major?

- CRIM 101: Introduction to the Criminal Legal System
- CRIM 105: Crime and the Media
- CRIM 107: Criminology Goes to the Movies
- CRIM 205: Race, Class, Gender and the Criminal Legal System

What are examples of internships and/or research opportunities that students in this major are currently working on or have access to as majors in this program?

Students have the opportunity to participate in an array of internships, including those associated with traditional criminal justice agencies (e.g., police, prosecutors, defense, probation, corrections), those that provide support services or prevention to justice-involved persons (e.g., victim advocates, youth advocates, reentry programs, legal advocacy), and those in aligned fields of public health, social work, forensic psychology, legal studies (in addition to criminal legal work).

Students can participate in a wide variety of research options, including research-related internships, faculty-led research projects, and student-directed research projects. Students can also participate in the Inside Out program, which offers students the opportunity to take criminology courses alongside individuals residing in a correctional facility. The Criminology program also hosts a chapter of the Alpha Phi Sigma National Criminal Justice Honor Society. Student members of the honor society engage in multiple activities throughout the year, including attending national conferences and networking events.

What are students doing after graduation?

The Criminology major provides an educational experience that allows students to enter law enforcement, probation, corrections, victim advocacy, crime prevention, crime analysis, social services, reentry support, private security, international law and investigations, and public policy professions. The major also provides a foundation for graduate study in law, social work, sociology, public policy, psychology, and public health.

Other interesting facts about the Criminology major?

Our program is structured to provide students the flexibility to explore a wide variety of criminology-related topics, including forensic and criminal investigations; crime prevention; rehabilitation, reentry, and reintegration; restorative justice; ethics; wrongful convictions; juvenile justice and delinquency; domestic and international terrorism; crime mapping; cybercrime; and other emerging topics.