Criminal Justice

Major, Minor, Endorsement
School of Arts and Sciences
Department of Sociology

Faculty
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About the discipline
Students majoring in Criminal Justice will develop awareness of society’s understanding of and response to the challenges of crime. Classes cover a range of topics, including the nature and societal impact of crime, theories of criminal behavior, current issues and practices in criminal justice systems both here and abroad. Special emphasis is placed on restorative justice. The department also offers a criminal justice endorsement and a criminal justice minor.

Career Opportunities
The major will provide sufficient breadth so that students can go into careers in law enforcement, corrections, parole and probation, pre-law, homeland security, a variety of other careers in Criminal Justice, or graduate study.

Program Strengths and Emphases
The greatest strengths of the Criminal Justice program come from its connection to the overall sociology curriculum. Students develop an awareness of issues of inequality, the importance of careful research, and the significance of a Christian commitment to justice (Shalom). The faculty are committed to assisting students to become capable of critical reflection and analysis, rooted in Christian values, and ready to participate positively and critically in the contemporary world. These emphases reflect the mission of the department of Sociology, Global Studies, and Criminal Justice - social analysis for social change toward social justice.

Requirements
The 48-hour criminal justice major requires:
- CRJ 201 Crime, Corrections, & Criminal Justice (3)
- CRJ 202 Social Deviance (3)
- CRJ 217 Criminal Justice Exploratory (1)
- CRJ 301 Criminological Theory (3)
- CRJ 302 Comparative Criminal Justice Systems (3)
- CRJ 342 Criminal Law and Court Procedures (3)
- CRJ 344 Juvenile Delinquency (3)
- CRJ 447 Criminal Justice Policy (3)
- CRJ 449 Restorative Justice (3)
- CRJ 450 Criminal Justice Internship (6)
- SOC 311 Racial and Ethnic Relations (3)
- SOC 327 Social Stratification (3)
- SOC 351 Statistics (3)
- SOC 352 Research Design (4)
- SOC 480 Senior Seminar I (1)
- SOC 484 Spirituality, Faith, and Justice (3)

Support courses:
- PSY 100 Introduction to Psychology (4)
- SOC 100 Social Problems (3)
- SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology (4)

The 21-hour criminal justice minor requires:
- CRJ 201 Crime, Corrections, Criminal Justice (3)
- CRJ 202 Social Deviance (3)
- CRJ 301 Criminological Theory (3)
- CRJ 447 Criminal Justice Policy (3)
- CRJ 449 Restorative Justice (3)
- SOC 484 Spirituality, Faith, and Justice (3)

Choose one of the following courses:
- SOC 311 Racial and Ethnic Relations (3)
- SOC 327 Social Stratification (3)
- SOC 360 Gender Roles (3)

The 12-hour criminal justice endorsement requires:
- CRJ 201 Crime, Corrections, & Criminal Justice (3)
- CRJ 301 Criminological Theory (3)
- CRJ 447 Criminal Justice Policy (3)
- CRJ 449 Restorative Justice (3)

Course descriptions:
CRJ 201 Crime, Corrections and Criminal Justice (3)
An introduction to the criminal justice system including an overview of criminological theory. Examines current theories, practices, and careers in criminal justice. Also listed as SOC 201. (Offered in fall; online.)
CRJ 202 Social Deviance (3)
This course analyzes deviance and crime from a societal perspective as it is socially and contextually defined and constructed. This course will cover a range of social theories that account for deviance from functionalist, anomie and strain theories, symbolic interactionist and labeling theories, to conflict and learning theories. Discussion issues may include alcohol and drug use, sexual deviance, mental illness, street crimes and white-collar crimes. Also listed as SOC 202. (Offered in fall; online.)

CRJ 217 Criminal Justice Exploratory (1)
A course designed to expose the student to careers in Criminal Justice. Students will also be made aware of the minimum requirements (fitness, exam scores, etc.) for various careers in criminal justice. Should be taken concurrently with CRJ 201. (Offered in fall.)

CRJ 253 Forensic Psychology (3)
See PSY 253 for description. Prerequisite: PSY 100. (Offered in fall.)

CRJ 301 Criminological Theory (3)
An overview of biological, sociological, psychological, and cultural theories of crime causation. Includes a brief history of criminological theory and places special emphasis on social process, social structure, and social conflict theories. Also listed as SOC 301. Prerequisite: CRJ 201, PSY 100 and SOC 101. (Offered in fall; online.)

CRJ 302 Comparative Criminal Justice Systems (3)
Provides a basic overview of political, administrative, organizational and cultural differences in various state and national criminal justice systems. (Offered in fall of odd academic years; online.)

CRJ 342 Criminal Law and Court Procedures (3)
A basic introduction to criminal law, criminal procedures, the roles of prosecution and defense attorneys, court procedures and decision-making processes. The course will also deal with issues such as rules of evidence, prosecutorial and judicial discretion, and sentencing guidelines. (Offered in spring of even academic years.)

CRJ 344 Juvenile Delinquency (3)
Introduction to juvenile delinquency including causes, incidence, and the history of juvenile delinquency in the United States. The course will include topics such as gangs, substance abuse, and runaways. Criminal justice policies and programs focused on juveniles will also be explored. (Offered in spring of odd academic years.)

CRJ 385 Criminal Justice Practicum (3)
A basic internship that allows students broader exposure to the professions available in criminal justice. (Limited offering.)

CRJ 447 Criminal Justice Policy (3)
This course focuses on criminal justice policies by emphasizing evidence-based policy analysis. Students will apply knowledge gained from criminological theory and research design to critically analyze and evaluate criminal justice policies. Prerequisite: CRJ 201, CRJ 301 and SOC 352. (Offered in fall of even academic years.)

CRJ 449 Restorative Justice (3)
Students will study basic principles of restorative justice and will explore specific programs focused on redemptive practices in criminal justice including restitution programs, victim-offender reconciliation programs, and alternatives to incarceration. Students will actively explore principles of the Christian faith and how they inform criminal justice policies. (Offered in spring of even academic years.)

CRJ 450 Criminal Justice Internship (6)
Students will complete 240 hours of internship in an organization working in some aspect of criminal justice. (Limited offering.)

For more course descriptions, see Psychology, Social Work and Sociology.