

Criminal Studies

Recent Majors

Students interested in criminal studies have designed a variety of majors through the Individualized Major Program. Some recent titles include:

Crime, Law, and Justice
Criminal Behavior

Cybersecurity, Crime, and Law
Crime, Justice, and Youth

Required Courses

Your individualized major plan of study will consist of at least 36 credits of 2000-level or higher courses, 18 of which must be from the college granting your degree, and must include the following:

Research Methods Course

A research methods course will introduce you to how knowledge is produced and evaluated in a particular discipline. Choose one from an academic department that is integral to your major. Some examples include: SOCI 3201, HDFS 2004W, PSYC 2100WQ, or POLS 2072Q.

Capstone

UNIV 4600W Capstone Course, UNIV 4697W Senior Thesis, or an approved alternative.

Writing Intensive Course

A writing intensive course that is relevant to the major theme. This will normally be designated “W” in the course catalog and is *in addition to* the capstone.

We strongly recommend that you include an **experiential learning** component, such as an *internship*, *research*, or *study abroad*, in your plan of study.

Recommended Courses

The following courses included in the Crime and Justice minor are an excellent place to start:

- HDFS 3420 Abuse and Violence in Families
- POLS 3827 Politics of Crime and Justice
- PSYC 2300 Abnormal Psychology
- SOCI 2301 Criminology
- SOCI 2305 Deviant Behavior
- SOCI 2310 Intro to Criminal Justice
- WGSS 2263 Women, Gender, and Violence

Prerequisites

Check the course catalog for the specific prerequisites for the courses in your plan of study. The following courses are almost always useful:

- PSYC 1100 General Psychology I and PSYC 1101 General Psychology II or PSYC 1103 General Psychology II (Enhanced) are required for upper-level Psychology courses.
- SOCI 1001 Introduction to Sociology or SOCI 1251 Social Problems, while not formal prerequisites, provide a good foundation in social issues related to crime.

Frequently Included Courses

Please note that this is **not** a complete list; you may find other relevant courses in the catalog. Please check Student Admin and consult with your faculty advisors to be sure that the courses you would like to include in your major will be taught in the upcoming semesters.

AFRA

3898 Special Topics: Prisons, Human Rights and Social Control
3898 Special Topics: Human Rights and Mass Incarceration in the US

BADM

3720 Legal and Ethical Environment of Business

HDFS

2004W Research Methods in HDFS
2300 Family Interaction Processes
3319 Risk and Resilience in Individuals and Families
3340 Individual and Family Interventions
3420 Abuse and Violence in Families
3520 Legal Aspects of Family Life
3540/W Child Welfare, Law and Social Policy

HRTS

2263 Women, Gender, and Violence
2800 Human Rights in the United States
2830 Class, Power, and Inequality
3042 Theories of Human Rights
3055 Theory and Practice of International Criminal Justice
3807 Constitutional Rights and Liberties

PHIL

2215/W Ethics
2217 Social and Political Philosophy

POLS

2062 Privacy in the Information Age
2072Q Quantitative Analysis in Political Science
2998 Political Issues (*if a relevant issue*)
3042 Theories of Human Rights
3802 Constitutional Law
3807 Constitutional Rights and Liberties
3817 Law and Society
3827 Politics of Crime and Justice

PSYC

2100WQ Principles of Research in Psychology
2201 Drugs and Behavior
2300 Abnormal Psychology
2400 Developmental Psychology
2501 Cognitive Psychology
2700 Social Psychology

SOCI

2280 Sociology of Mental Illness
2301 Criminology
2305 Deviant Behavior
2310 Introduction to Criminal Justice
2320W Drugs and Society
2510 Ethnicity and Race
2800 Human Rights in the United States
2820 Sociological Perspectives on Poverty
2830 Class, Power, and Inequality
3201 Methods of Social Research
3211Q Quantitative Methods of Social Research
3823 Sociology of Law: Global and Comparative Perspectives

WGSS

2263 Women, Gender, and Violence