

Criminal Justice Major

CRIMINAL JUSTICE MAJOR

First launched in 2016, criminal justice is one of the most popular majors on campus. The program emphasizes corrections and law enforcement, and requires major courses that range from Juvenile Justice to Constitutional Law, and Criminal Evidence and Procedure to Community Based Corrections. Majors also take courses in psychology and history to gain a better understanding of the national debates on the American criminal justice and prison systems. Upon graduating, majors have the content knowledge and analytical skills to pursue careers in law enforcement; community corrections; and federal, state, and local agencies, such as the FBI, Alabama crime scene unit, and county sheriff's office. Majors also might apply to graduate school and law school, opening the possibility of academic and legal-related careers.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Criminal Justice major, students will be able to perform the following:

1. Discuss the evolution of the correctional system in the United States (Content).
2. Distinguish between criminal justice and corrections (Content).
3. Distinguish between parole and probation (Content).
4. Explain the legal issues and liabilities that relate to offenders and corrections personnel (Content).
5. Differentiate between public and private federal, state and local correctional systems (Content).
6. Analyze issues relating to corrections in scholarly writings (Critical Thinking).
7. Develop skills of critical analysis, criminological research, and writings (Critical Thinking and Communication).
8. Demonstrate knowledge of legal concepts and terminology (Content).

Program Outcomes

As a result of successful completion of the Criminal Justice Program, graduates will be able to perform the following:

1. Demonstrate the professional values essential to employment by the city, county, state, and federal agencies, as well as private facilities.
2. Find employment in the field of security of local, regional and national organizations.
3. Pursue graduate degrees in criminal justice or related fields.

Semester Plan

Included below is a sample semester-by-semester plan for a major in Criminal Justice.

Degree Type

Bachelor of Arts

Major in Criminal Justice

Required courses for the major in Criminal Justice

The Criminal Justice major consists of a minimum of 30 hours of Criminal Justice courses and 21 hours of cognate courses. Required courses are:

Item #	Title	Credits
CJ 131	Introduction to Criminal Justice	3
CJ 132	Juvenile Justice	3
CJ 232	Community Based Corrections	3
CJ 331	Constitutional Law	3
CJ 332	Criminal Evidence and Procedure	3
CJ 333	Corrections	3
CJ 430	Senior Seminar in Criminal Justice	3
CJ 431	Penology	3
CJ 432	Public Policy and Criminal Justice	3
CJ 433	Research in Criminal Justice	3
BUS 233	Principles of Macroeconomics	3
GEO 231	World Regional Geography	3
HIS 132	Foundations of American Civilization	3
PSY 334	Abnormal Psychology	3
PSY 335	Social Psychology	3
MAT 132	Trigonometry and Analytic Geometry	3
MAT 233	Introduction to Statistics	3
Total Credits		51

Major in Criminal Justice FRESHMAN YEAR Fall Semester

Item #	Title	Credits
ENG 131	English Composition I	3
REL 131	Introduction to the Old Testament	3
MAT 131	Algebra	3
HUM 130	African American Heritage	3
STI 111	Orientation	1

FRESHMAN YEAR Spring Semester

Item #	Title	Credits
ENG 132	English Composition II	3
REL 132	Introduction to the New Testament	3
HIS 131	Foundations of World Civilization	3
PSY 230	Introduction to Psychology	3
BIO 131	Life Science	3
STI 114	Orientation II	1

SOPHOMORE YEAR Fall Semester

Item #	Title	Credits
GEO 231	World Regional Geography	3
PHY 131	Physical Science	3
CSC 121	Critical Thinking in Digital Age	2
CJ 131	Introduction to Criminal Justice	3
BUS 233	Principles of Macroeconomics	3
HPR 121	Lifetime Wellness	2

SOPHOMORE YEAR Spring Semester

Item #	Title	Credits
HIS 132	Foundations of American Civilization	3
MAT 132	Trigonometry and Analytic Geometry	3
SPE 232	Public Speaking	3
	200-level Religion	3
BUS 210	Financial Literacy	1
CJ 132	Juvenile Justice	3

JUNIOR YEAR Fall Semester

Item #	Title	Credits
CJ 232	Community Based Corrections	3
PSY 334	Abnormal Psychology	3
CJ 333	Corrections	3
	300-level Religion	3
MAT 233	Introduction to Statistics	3

JUNIOR YEAR Spring Semester

Item #	Title	Credits
CJ 332	Criminal Evidence and Procedure	3
LOG 330	Logic	3
CJ 331	Constitutional Law	3
EDU 310	Test Taking Strategies	1
PSY 335	Social Psychology	3
	General Elective (3 credits)	3

SENIOR YEAR Fall Semester

Item #	Title	Credits
CJ 430	Senior Seminar in Criminal Justice	3
CJ 433	Research in Criminal Justice	3
	General Elective (3 credits)	3
	General Elective (3 credits)	3
	General Elective (2 credits)	2

SENIOR YEAR Spring Semester

Item #	Title	Credits
CJ 432	Public Policy and Criminal Justice	3
CJ 431	Penology	3
	General Elective (3 credits)	3
	General Elective (3 credits)	3
	General Elective (2 credits)	2