

# CRIMINOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE



Most entry-level positions for criminal justice majors reside with law enforcement and social service organizations. Depending upon one’s career goals, earn a master’s degree in disciplines such as criminal justice, forensic science, social work, counseling, or business to obtain positions involving therapy, higher levels of administration, forensics, or research. Earn a doctoral degree for university teaching positions.

Many criminal justice professions require candidates to possess strong oral and written communication skills, good listening skills, and the ability to work with a wide range of diverse populations. Fluency in a second language is also desirable. Obtain experience through volunteer, practicum, or internship opportunities. Supplement program of study with courses in business, psychology, anthropology, or sociology. Course work related to the hard sciences (biology, chemistry, or biochemistry) is necessary for career opportunities in forensics.

Internet security is a rapidly growing area with a wide variety of career opportunities. Supplement coursework with computer science and technology courses to gain entry into this field. Conduct informational interviews and job shadow with professionals in fields of interest to learn more about opportunities. Stay up to date on advancements in your field by reading professional journals and related literature, joining professional organizations, attending conferences, and networking with others. Be prepared to complete physical and psychological testing, fitness evaluations, and other evaluative tools for entry into law enforcement and related careers.

## AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY

- Corrections
- Probation
- Parole
- Juvenile justice
- Program development
- Outreach
- Mentoring
- Victim’s assistance
- Counseling
- Casework
- Supervision
- Assessment
- Reporting
- Grant writing
- Consulting
- Administration
- Legal research
- Administration
- Teaching
- Security

- Government agencies
- State and federal correction facilities
- County jails
- Precinct station houses
- Prison camps
- Youth correction facilities
- Voluntary correction facilities
- Halfway houses and pre-release programs
- Reintegration programs
- Alternative schools
- Juvenile detention centers
- Juvenile group homes
- Women’s and family shelters
- Domestic violence agencies
- Local, state, and federal courts
- Law firms
- Corporate legal departments
- Colleges and universities

## COMMON EMPLOYERS



## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



- Academy for Criminal Justice Sciences
- American Correctional Association
- National Association of Criminal Justice
- National Association of Legal Assistants
- National Narcotic Officers Association
- The American Parole and Probation Association



## STRATEGIES ON ENTERING THE FIELD

- Pursue classes or training in topics such as victimology, social problems, diversity issues, or grieving.
- Supplement curriculum with courses in psychology, sociology, social work, or child and family studies.
- To work with juveniles, gain experience with youth through sports teams, as a summer camp counselor, in parks and recreation programs, or community/religious youth groups.
- Seek volunteer or internship positions in areas such as employment interviewing, social casework, substance abuse, rehabilitation, or juvenile justice.
- Learn to work well with people of diverse backgrounds. Study a second language for increased marketability.
- Consider gaining military experience and training.
- Maintain current knowledge of computer languages and technology.
- Obtain a high GPA to ensure a greater number of graduate school opportunities.
- Earn a graduate degree in business or law for upper-level positions.