

# Career

# Paths

## 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, a person may 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.

### Social Services

**Example Career Paths:** Corrections | Probation / Parole | Juvenile justice | Program development | Outreach | Mentoring | Victim's assistance | Counseling | Casework | Prevention services | Advocacy | Supervision | Assessment | Reporting | Grant writing | Consulting | Administration

**Potential Employers:** Government agencies | State and federal correction facilities | County jails | Precinct station houses | Youth correction facilities | Voluntary correction facilities | Residential treatment 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 | Immigration and naturalization services | Medical centers | Other nonprofit organizations | Adult education providers | Public and private high schools

**Professional Associations:** [National Organization of Forensic Social Work](#) | [National Association of Social Workers](#)

**Related Occupations:** [Correctional Officers and Jailers](#) | [Probation Officers & Correctional Treatment Specialists](#) | [Substance Abuse & Behavioral Disorder Counselor](#) | [Social & Human Service Assistance](#)

## Judiciary and Law

**Example Career Paths:** Court reporting/transcription services | Court clerkship | Security | Legal assistance | Legal research | Administration | Legal representation

**Potential Employers:** Government agencies | Local, state, and federal courts | Law firms | Corporate legal departments | Public interest law organizations | Self-employed

**Professional Associations:** [National Association of Criminal Justice](#) | [National Association of Legal Assistants](#) | [The American Parole and Probation Association](#)

**Related Occupations:** [Court, Municipal, and License Clerks](#) | [Court Reporters & Simultaneous Captioners](#) | [Judicial Law Clerks](#) | [Judges, Magistrate Judges, and Magistrates](#) | [Administrative Law Judges, Adjudicators, & Hearing Officers](#) | [Lawyers](#)

## Law Enforcement

**Example Career Paths:** Patrolling | Investigating | Probation/ Parole | Court security | Surveillance | Loss prevention | Forensics

**Potential Employers:** City/County Government Organizations | State Government Organizations | Federal Government Organizations | Prisons | Detention centers | Youth correction facilities | Airports and other transportation facilities | Crime laboratories | Colleges and universities | Banks and retail organizations

**Professional Associations:** [American Correctional Association](#) | [National Narcotic Officers Association](#)

**Related Occupations:** [Bailiffs](#) | [Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers](#) | [First-Line Supervisors of Police & Detectives](#) | [Transit & Railroad Police](#) | [Detectives & Criminal Investigators](#) | [Forensic Science Technician](#)

## Business

**Example Career Paths:** Private security | Consulting | Installation | Investigating | Systems integration | Global intelligence | Private investigation | Internet security | Surveillance | Loss prevention | Property loss management | Program development | Staffing and training

**Potential Employers:** Insurance companies | Banks | Private security companies | Software companies | Retail organizations | Hotels and resorts | Health care facilities | Transportation services | Nuclear power plants | Manufacturers | Other large corporations | Local, state, and federal agencies | Private individuals | Self-employed | Online companies

**Professional Associations:** [American Society of Criminology](#)

**Related Occupations:** [Private Detectives & Investigators](#) | [Fraud Examiners, Investigators, and Analysts](#) | [Intelligence Analysts](#) | [Information Security Analysts](#)

## Education

**Example Career Paths:** Teaching | Research | Supervision and consultation

**Potential Employers:** Colleges and universities

**Professional Associations:** [Academy for Criminal Justice Sciences](#) | [Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development](#)

**Related Occupations:** [Criminal Justice & Law Enforcement Teachers, Postsecondary](#) | [Law Professors, Postsecondary](#) | [Psychology, Post Secondary](#) | [Sociology, Postsecondary](#) | [Political Science, Post Secondary](#)

## Preparing for your Career

- 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.

This resource was adapted from What Can I Do With My Major.

For more, visit <https://web.uri.edu/career/wcidwmm/>

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### WCIDWMM

What Can I Do With This Major? features 100 major profiles with information on common career paths, types of employers that hire in the field, and strategies to maximize opportunities. Scroll to the...

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