

Criminal Justice Studies



Department of Social Sciences
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters

The Field

Criminal justice is an interdisciplinary field that focuses on the study of criminal behavior and society's response to it. The field draws upon the insights of the social and behavioral sciences, the physical sciences, statistics, and the humanities to illuminate the issues of maintaining social order in a constitutional democracy committed to individual freedom, equality, and justice. More specifically, the field focuses on the causes and prevention of criminal behavior. The criminal justice system is composed of the police agencies, prosecutors, the legal profession, the courts, and correctional agencies, among others. The system is part of a larger social system which inevitably influences the effectiveness and fairness of law enforcement. Criminal justice analyzes system responses to changes in social structure and cultural values, and the reciprocal relationship between societal values and law enforcement.

Career Opportunities

The program is intended to prepare students for careers in public security, criminal justice administration, law and paralegal professions, public administration, policy analysis, and graduate study in the social and behavioral sciences.

The Program

Criminal Justice Studies is a joint program of interdisciplinary study between the University of Michigan–Dearborn and participating community colleges that offer an associate's degree in criminal justice. Students can continue their criminal justice studies at UM–Dearborn and earn a bachelor of arts degree. The program is designed for students interested in law enforcement who seek a broad liberal arts approach to the study of criminal justice issues. The program produces thoughtful, humane leaders with the technical skills and the social and ethical sensitivity needed to succeed in the criminal justice field.

Requirements for Admission to the Program

The basic requirement for entry into the UM–Dearborn program is a minimum of 19 hours of criminal justice coursework at the community college level in either a law enforcement or a corrections/parole/probation track. In addition, candidates must meet the University's requirements for transfer students as outlined in the *Undergraduate Catalog*.

The Major

Requirements are subject to change. Degree-seeking students will be subject to the requirements in effect at the time that they are admitted or re-admitted.

Prerequisites

POL 101 (Intro to American Government); SOC 200 (Understanding Society) or 201 (Contemporary Social Problems); and, PSYC 170 (Introduction to Psychology as a Natural Science) or 171 (Intro to Psychology as a Social Science).

Required Courses

Thirty additional criminal justice (CRJ) credits at the 300 level or above are required. (PHIL 240, however, will count toward this requirement.) At least 15 credits must be taken at UM–Dearborn. Internship, co-op, and internship-related directed studies are limited to three hours toward the 30-hour total.

Cognates

An additional six hours of cognates from the approved course list of 300-level or above. For the list of courses that qualify as cognates, consult a program advisor.

Minor/Area of Focus

Criminal Justice Studies is available as a minor, or as an area focus in General Studies or Liberal Studies. The minor or area of focus requires successful completion of a minimum of 15 hours of upper-division criminal justice coursework, including CRJ 468 and two courses from CRJ 363, 470, or 469.

Evening and Saturday Offerings

The CRJ faculty are committed to offering both a day and evening/weekend program. Evening students should watch for infrequently offered courses and take them when available. If a required course is not offered during a reasonable period, a full-time evening student may petition to substitute another course.

Internships

An internship or co-op experience of three hours is required. Students may opt out of this requirement if they already have had comparable experience in the criminal justice field.

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UM-Dearborn Courses

CRJ 240	Ethics
CRJ 300	Political Analysis
CRJ 302	Theory of the Law
CRJ 303	Justice
CRJ 305	Race, Justice, Freedom in America
CRJ 308	Moral and Political Dilemmas
CRJ 316	American Judicial Process
CRJ 322	Psychology of Prejudice
CRJ 323	Urban Politics
CRJ 325	Psychology of Interpersonal Relations
CRJ 335	Philosophy of Law
CRJ 350	Poverty and Inequality
CRJ 362	Women, Politics, and the Law
CRJ 363	Criminal Justice Policy & Administration
CRJ 369	Civil Rights Movement in America
CRJ 382	Social Psychology
CRJ 383	Introduction to Statistics
CRJ 384	Immigration in America
CRJ 403	Minority Groups
CRJ 407	Psychology of Adolescence
CRJ 410	Social Research (4 credits)
CRJ 413	American Constitutional Law
CRJ 414	Civil Rights and Liberties
CRJ 416	Criminal Law
CRJ 421	Group Processes
CRJ 423	American Social Classes
CRJ 425	Lab in Social Psychology (4 credits)
CRJ 435	Urban Sociology
CRJ 440	Abnormal Psychology
CRJ 443	Gender Roles
CRJ 445	Contemporary Ethical Theory
CRJ 446	Marriage and Family Problems
CRJ 447	Family Violence
CRJ 453	Sociology of Law
CRJ 455	Immigrant Community in North America
CRJ 465	Deviant Behavior and Social Disorganization
CRJ 466	Drugs, Alcohol, and Society
CRJ 467	Drugs, Crime, and Justice
CRJ 468	Criminology
CRJ 469	Juvenile Delinquency
CRJ 470	Current Issues in Criminal Justice
CRJ 471	Comparative Criminal Justice Systems
CRJ 472	Corrections
CRJ 473	Race, Crime, & Justice
CRJ 478	Criminal Justice Studies/Sociology Internship
CRJ 479	Women's Studies Internship
CRJ 485	Psychology Internship
CRJ 490	Topics in Criminal Justice
CRJ 490C	Topics in Criminal Justice: Homeland Security
CRJ 494	Political Science Internship Seminar (3 credits)
CRJ 495	Political Science Internship (3-6 credits)
CRJ 497	Washington DC Internship (3-6 credits)
CRJ 498	Directed Studies

Program Committee and Advisors

Kevin Early, Ph.D., CCJS, Director of Criminal Justice Studies

Susan D. Cushnier, M.A., Director of Academic Outreach

CASL Administration

Lora B. Lempert, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, Department of Behavioral Sciences

Lawrence B. Radine, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology, Department of Behavioral Sciences

Ahmad A. Rahman, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History, Department of Social Sciences

For More Information

For additional information about the criminal justice studies program, contact:

Dr. Kevin E. Early, Program Director
Department of Behavioral Sciences – 4012 CB
University of Michigan–Dearborn
4901 Evergreen Road
Dearborn, MI 48128-2406
313-583-6404
kearly@umd.umich.edu
or
criminal_justice@umd.umich.edu

To request an application or obtain more information about admission to the University:

Office of Admissions and Orientation
University of Michigan–Dearborn
4901 Evergreen Road
Dearborn, MI 48128-2406
313-593-5100
admissions@umd.umich.edu
www.umd.umich.edu