

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE, B.S. (ABINGTON)

**Begin Campus:** Any Penn State Campus

**End Campus:** Abington

## Program Description

Students receiving a baccalaureate degree in criminal justice should understand each of the three main components of the criminal justice system and their interrelationships, be able to evaluate critically both current and future crime control policy proposals and criminal justice research, and understand the complexity of the crime phenomenon and its relationship to individual, social, and cultural factors. This major includes study in law enforcement, courts and corrections individually and as components of a system, plus work in theories of crime causation, and crime control policy. Students should expect reading, writing, and critical thinking skills to be rigorously applied and developed throughout the degree program. The Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice provides a broadly based liberal arts background for the study of crime, justice and the criminal justice system. The Bachelor of Science degree offers an opportunity for educational enrichment in fields not traditionally considered part of the liberal arts. Either degree is excellent preparation for a career in criminal justice, graduate, or professional study, or informed citizenship.

## What is Criminal Justice?

Criminal justice is the study of the adult and juvenile justice systems, including law enforcement, the courts, and corrections. It is interdisciplinary and includes understanding the intersections of law, public policy, and behavioral science, in an effort to understand crime as a social problem and improve these systems for the good of society.

## You Might Like This Program If...

You have an interest in working in corrections, courts, court administration, law enforcement, and probation and parole. Students completing this course of study are prepared to enter law school and graduate degree programs in more specialized areas. Every student in this degree will participate in an internship at a host agency located in a local, state or federal agency of their choice.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CRIMINAL JUSTICE (<https://altoona.psu.edu/academics/bachelors-degrees/criminal-justice/>)

## Entrance to Major

In order to be eligible for entrance to this major, a student must:

1. attain at least a C (2.00) cumulative grade-point average for all courses taken at the University; and
2. have at least third-semester classification (<https://www.registrar.psu.edu/enrollment/semester-classification.cfm>).

READ SENATE POLICY 37-30: ENTRANCE TO AND CHANGES IN MAJOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/37-00-entrance-to-a-college-or-major/>)

## Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	18-22
Requirements for the Major	60-61

**4-7 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 0-3 credits of GH courses; 4 credits of GQ courses.**

## Requirements for the Major

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>).

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Prescribed Courses</b>		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
CRIMJ/CRIM 100	Introduction to Criminal Justice	3
CRIMJ 210	Policing in America	3
CRIMJ 220	Courts and the Prosecution Process	3
CRIMJ 230	Corrections in America	3
CRIMJ 290	Introduction to Internship Experience	2
CRIMJ/CRIM 441	The Juvenile Justice System	3
CRIMJ 450W	Senior Seminar	3
CRIMJ 495	Internship in Criminal Justice	3
SOC/CRIMJ/CRIM 12	Criminology	3
SOC 119N	Race, Ethnicity and Culture	3-4
STAT 200	Elementary Statistics	4
<b>Additional Courses</b>		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
CRIMJ 250W	Research Methods in Criminal Justice	3
or SOC 207	Research Methods in Sociology	
PHIL 103	Ethics	3
or CRIMJ 465	Ethics in Criminal Justice	
Select 9 credits from any 400-level CRIMJ course that does not already fulfill another requirement in the major		9

## Supporting Courses and Related Areas

<i>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 12 credits, in consultation with the adviser, in one or two of the following skill enhancement areas: accounting, computers, composition and rhetoric, counseling, education, law and legal studies, world language, management, public speaking, research methods and statistics, science and engineering, biobehavioral health; or in the following topics: adolescence, deviant behavior, drugs, minorities		12

## General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills

necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

### **Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)**

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

### **Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)**

- **Arts (GA):** 3 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 3 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 3 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 3 credits

### **Integrative Studies**

- **Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain):** 6 credits

### **Exploration**

- **GN,** may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- **GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses.** This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

## **University Degree Requirements**

### **First Year Engagement**

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

### **Cultures Requirement**

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- **United States Cultures:** 3 credits
- **International Cultures:** 3 credits

### **Writing Across the Curriculum**

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

### **Total Minimum Credits**

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

### **Quality of Work**

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

### **Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition**

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

## **Program Learning Objectives**

- **Criminal Justice Policies to Reduce Crime and Delinquency**
  - Identify and summarize the most effective criminal justice policies for reducing adult criminal behavior
  - Identify and summarize the most effective criminal justice policies for reducing juvenile delinquent behavior.
- **Knowledge About Crime and Delinquency**
  - Understand and describe different levels of adult crime and juvenile delinquency.
  - Understand the difference between adult crime and juvenile delinquency.
- **Risk Factors for Crime and Delinquency**
  - Identify well-established biological, psychological, and social risk factors for adult crime.
  - Identify well-established biological, psychological, and social risk factors for juvenile delinquency.
- **The Application of Criminological Theory for Criminal Justice Policy**
  - Summarize how criminological theory can inform and improve criminal justice policy.
  - Demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate criminal justice policies based on knowledge from criminological theories.

## **Academic Advising**

The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee's unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/>)

## Abington

**Lisa Morris**  
Program Chair  
1600 Woodland Road  
Abington, PA 19001  
215-881-7397  
lxv2@psu.edu

## Altoona

**Mary Ann Probst, Esq.**  
Program Coordinator/Assistant Teaching Professor  
Cypress Building 103  
3000 Ivyside Park  
Altoona, PA 16601  
814-949-5352  
map141@psu.edu

## Beaver

**Mari Pierce, Ph.D.**  
Professor in Charge & Associate Professor, Criminal Justice  
100 University Drive  
213 Ross Administration Building  
724-773-3549  
mpb16@psu.edu

## Berks

**Lauren Martin**  
Program Chair, Criminal Justice and Associate Professor of Sociology  
Gaige 304  
Reading, PA 19610  
610-396-6214  
BKCrimJust@psu.edu

## DuBois

**Adam Bundy**  
Academic Advising Manager  
214 DEF Building  
1 College Place  
DuBois, PA 15801  
814-375-4763  
ajb5294@psu.edu

## Fayette

**LaVarr W. McBride**  
Assistant Teaching Professor  
Department of Administration of Justice  
2201 University Drive  
Lemont Furnace, PA 15456  
724-430-4240  
lwm13@psu.edu

## Greater Allegheny

**Katherine McLean**  
Associate Professor, Criminal Justice  
109C Main Building  
4000 University Drive  
McKeesport, PA 15132

kjm47@psu.edu

**Sandra Trappen**  
Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice  
104B Main Building  
4000 University Drive  
McKeesport, PA 15132  
slt62@psu.edu

**Jennifer Croyle**  
Assistant Teaching Professor, Psychology  
104D Main Building  
4000 University Drive  
McKeesport, PA 15132  
jmc948@psu.edu  
(Internship Advising Only)

## Hazleton

**Pamela Black**  
Associate Professor of Administration of Justice  
Memorial 105  
Hazleton, PA 18202  
570-450-3548  
pup1@psu.edu

## Lehigh Valley

**Debra Dreisbach**  
Lecturer  
2809 Saucon Valley Road  
Center Valley, PA 18034  
610-2895-5000  
dad68@psu.edu

## New Kensington

**Richard Wentling**  
Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice  
3550 7th Street Road  
New Kensington, PA 15068  
724-334-6761  
rwentling@psu.edu

## Schuylkill

**Ron Kelly**  
Criminal Justice Program Coordinator  
200 University Drive  
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972  
570-385-6075  
rap179@psu.edu

## Shenango

**Travis Milburn**  
Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice  
147 Shenango Avenue  
Sharon, PA 16146  
724-983-2954  
twm5527@psu.edu

## Wilkes-Barre

**Rebecca Sarver**  
Program Coordinator, Criminal Justice  
44 University Drive  
Dallas, PA 18612

570-675-9216  
 rss5718@psu.edu

## Suggested Academic Plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2024-25 academic year. To access previous years' suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/>) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition.

### Criminal Justice, B.S. at Abington Campus

The course series listed below provides **only one** of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an **Academic Requirements** or **What If** report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

#### First Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
ENGL 15 or 30H	3 CRIMJ 12 or SOC 12 <sup>**1</sup>	3
General Education Course	3 CRIMJ 220 <sup>*</sup>	3
Elective	3 General Education Course	3
General Education Course	3 General Education Course (IL Cultures)	3
CRIMJ 100 <sup>*</sup>	3 CAS 100A or 100B	3
General Education Course (GHW)	1.5	
	<b>16.5</b>	<b>15</b>

#### Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
STAT 200 <sup>**2</sup>	4 Elective	3
CRIMJ 210 <sup>*</sup>	3 PHIL 103, BA 243, or CRIMJ 465 (PHIL 103 can also satisfy GH) <sup>*</sup>	3-4
CRIMJ 230 <sup>*</sup>	3 ENGL 202A, 202B, 202C, or 202D	3
General Education Course	3 General Education Course	3
General Education Course	3 SOC 119N or CRIMJ 451 (US Cultures) <sup>**†</sup>	3-4
	<b>16</b>	<b>15-17</b>

#### Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
CRIMJ 441 <sup>*</sup>	3 CRIMJ 400 Level Course <sup>**5</sup>	3
Skills Enhancement Course <sup>**3</sup>	3 CRIMJ 250W or SOC 207 <sup>*</sup>	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
CRIMJ 290 <sup>**4</sup>	2 Skills Enhancement Course <sup>**3</sup>	3
	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>

#### Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Skills Enhancement Course <sup>**3</sup>	3 CRIMJ 450W <sup>*</sup>	3

CRIMJ 400 Level Course <sup>**5</sup>	3 CRIMJ 400 Level Course <sup>**5</sup>	3
CRIMJ 495 <sup>*</sup>	3 Skills Enhancement Course <sup>**3</sup>	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
General Education Course (GHW)	1.5 Elective	3
	<b>13.5</b>	<b>15</b>

#### Total Credits 120-122

- \* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
- ‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
- # Course is an Entrance to Major requirement
- † Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

#### University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy Cultural Diversity Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ), Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) and Integrative Studies (Inter-domain) requirements. N or Q (Honors) is the suffix at the end of a course number used to help identify an Inter-domain course, but the inter-domain attribute is used to fill audit requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

- <sup>1</sup> CRIMJ 12 and SOC 12 are cross-listed courses. Only complete one course.
- <sup>2</sup> STAT 200: Course substitution includes PSYCH 200.
- <sup>3</sup> Consult with adviser.
- <sup>4</sup> It is strongly recommended that students enroll in CRIMJ 290 the semester prior to enrolling in CRIMJ 495.
- <sup>5</sup> CRIMJ 400 Level Course constitutes any Criminal Justice 400 Level course within the department that does not already fulfill another requirement in the major.

## Career Paths

Graduates of the Criminal Justice program are prepared to enter the workforce or can continue their graduate education in Master's and PhD programs, as well as law school. Penn State Altoona Career Services supports and serves students in all areas related to career development and preparation including: Major and Career Exploration Career Decision-Making Preparation of Employment Documents Internship and Job Search Strategies Interview Preparation Preparing for Graduate School Developing your Professional Online Brand Presentations and Workshops.

## Contact

### Abington

DIVISION OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
 1600 Woodland Road  
 Abington, PA 19001  
 215-881-7397

lxv2@psu.edu

<https://www.abington.psu.edu/academics/majors-at-abington/criminal-justice> (<https://www.abington.psu.edu/academics/majors-at-abington/criminal-justice/>)

## Altoona

DIVISION OF EDUCATION, HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
Elm Building 103  
3000 Ivyside Park  
Altoona, PA 16601  
814-949-5756  
alg177@psu.edu

<https://altoona.psu.edu/academics/bachelors-degrees/criminal-justice> (<https://altoona.psu.edu/academics/bachelors-degrees/criminal-justice/>)

## Beaver

100 University Drive  
213 Ross Administration Building  
Monaca, PA 15061  
724-773-3549  
mbp16@psu.edu

<https://beaver.psu.edu/academics/majors/crimj> (<https://beaver.psu.edu/academics/majors/crimj/>)

## Berks

DIVISION OF HUMANITIES, ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
Gaige Building  
Reading, PA 19610  
610-396-6214  
BKCrimJust@psu.edu

<https://berks.psu.edu/academics/baccalaureate-degrees/babs-criminal-justice> (<https://berks.psu.edu/academics/baccalaureate-degrees/babs-criminal-justice/>)

## DuBois

1 College Place  
DuBois, PA 15801  
814-375-4703  
lvn5194@psu.edu

<https://dubois.psu.edu/academics/degrees/crimj> (<https://dubois.psu.edu/academics/degrees/crimj/>)

## Fayette

2201 University Drive  
Lemont Furnace, PA 15456  
724-430-4240  
lwm13@psu.edu

<https://fayette.psu.edu/academics/baccalaureate/criminal-justice> (<https://fayette.psu.edu/academics/baccalaureate/criminal-justice/>)

## Greater Allegheny

109C Main Building  
4000 University Drive  
McKeesport, PA 15132

kjm47@psu.edu

<https://greaterallegheny.psu.edu/academics/criminal-justice> (<https://greaterallegheny.psu.edu/academics/criminal-justice/>)

## Hazleton

Memorial 105  
Hazleton, PA 18202  
570-450-3548  
pup1@psu.edu

<https://hazleton.psu.edu/criminal-justice> (<https://hazleton.psu.edu/criminal-justice/>)

## Lehigh Valley

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS  
2809 Saucon Valley Road  
Center Valley, PA 18034  
610-285-5000  
dad68@psu.edu

<https://lehighvalley.psu.edu/criminal-justice-babs> (<https://lehighvalley.psu.edu/criminal-justice-babs/>)

## New Kensington

3550 7th Street Road  
New Kensington, PA 15068  
724-334-6761  
rwentling@psu.edu

<https://newkensington.psu.edu/academics/criminal-justice-ba-or-bs> (<https://newkensington.psu.edu/academics/criminal-justice-ba-or-bs/>)

## Schuylkill

200 University Drive  
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972  
570-385-6075  
rap179@psu.edu

<https://schuylkill.psu.edu/academics/bacc-degrees/criminal-justice> (<https://schuylkill.psu.edu/academics/bacc-degrees/criminal-justice/>)

## Shenango

CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
147 Shenango Avenue  
Sharon, PA 16146  
724-983-2954  
twm5527@psu.edu

<https://shenango.psu.edu/academics/degrees/criminal-justice> (<https://shenango.psu.edu/academics/degrees/criminal-justice/>)

## Wilkes-Barre

44 University Drive  
Dallas, PA 18612  
570-675-9216  
rss5718@psu.edu

<https://wilkesbarre.psu.edu/academics/bachelors/criminal-justice> (<https://wilkesbarre.psu.edu/academics/bachelors/criminal-justice/>)