Criminal Justice, B.A. (Berks)

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus
End Campus: Berks

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 (http://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 third-semester classification (http://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/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/37-00-entrance-to-a-college-or-major/)

Degree Requirements

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>6-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts Degree</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>48-49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

3 of the 24 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major, General Education, or Electives and 0-12 credits are included in Electives if foreign language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.

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

Knowledge Domains
- Arts (GA): 6 credits
- Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits
- Humanities (GH): 6 credits
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 6 credits
- Natural Sciences (GN): 9 credits

Integrative Studies (may also complete a Knowledge Domain requirement)
- Inter-Domain or Approved Linked Courses: 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 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

**B.A. Degree Requirements**

**Foreign Language** (0-12 credits): Student must attain 12th credit level of proficiency in one foreign language. See the Placement Policy for Penn State Foreign Language Courses (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/advising-planning-degree-program/course-placements/placement-policy-world-language-courses/).

**B.A. Fields** (9 credits): Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts, Foreign Languages, Natural Sciences, Quantification (may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major; foreign language credits in this category must be in a second foreign language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the first language)

**Other Cultures** (0-3 credits): Select 3 credits from approved list. Students may count courses in this category in order to meet other major, minor, elective, or General Education requirements, except for the General Education US/IL requirement.

**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 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44).

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

**Program Learning Objectives**
- Students will demonstrate knowledge about the major concepts associated with the various components of both the adult and juvenile justice systems through a variety of assessment methods, including examinations, research projects, and case study applications.
- Students will exhibit the importance of the scientific inquiry and the role it plays in the criminal justice policy arena.
- Students will be prepared for the complex nature of society through the exposure to an interdisciplinary curriculum and appreciate the intersections between such disciplines as public policy, behavioral science, sociology, and criminal justice.
- Students will demonstrate the importance of ethics in the field of criminal justice through course materials and internship experiences.
- Students will appreciate the role that gender, race/ethnicity, and social class play in the criminal justice field and the need to be prepared to interact with individuals from diverse backgrounds.
- Students will learn to effectively communicate both in writing and orally.
- Graduates of the Program will be prepared for either work in the field of criminal justice or placement in criminal justice or related graduate programs.

**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/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/)

**Berks**
Jennifer Murphy
Program Coordinator, Associate Professor
Franco,F138
Reading, PA 19610
610-396-6050
jxm1192@psu.edu

**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

**DuBois**
David Bish
Assistant Teaching Professor and Program Coordinator
1 College Place
DuBois, PA 15801
814-372-3014
drb218@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

**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

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

**Wilkes-Barre**
Jeremy Olson
Interim Program Coordinator, Administration of Justice
44 University Drive
Dallas, PA 18612
570-675-9255
jjo5358@psu.edu
Suggested Academic Plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2021-22 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 (Note: the archive only contain suggested academic plans beginning with the 2018-19 edition of the Undergraduate Bulletin).

Criminal Justice, B.A. at Berks 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15 or 30H (GWS)‡</td>
<td>3 CAS 100A or 100B (GWS)‡</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRIMJ 100*</td>
<td>3 CRIMJ 12‡</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Language Level 1</td>
<td>4 World Language Level 2</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course (GN or GA or GH or GS)</td>
<td>3 General Education Course (GQ)‡</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>General Education Course (GN or GA or GH or GS)</td>
<td>3 General Education Course (GN or GA or GH or GS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>First-Year Seminar</td>
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Second Year

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<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRIMJ 210*</td>
<td>3 ENGL 202A, 202B, 202C, or 202D (GWS)‡</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH 200 or STAT 200 (GQ)‡</td>
<td>4 CRIMJ 220*</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Language Level 3</td>
<td>4 CRIMJ 230*</td>
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<td>General Education Course (GN or GA or GH or GS)</td>
<td>3 General Education Course (GN or GA or GH or GS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Education Course (GHW)</td>
<td>1.5 General Education Course (GN or GA or GH or GS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15.5</td>
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Third Year

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<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRIMJ 290*</td>
<td>3 CRIMJ 250W or SOC 207*</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRIMJ 441*</td>
<td>3 400 Level CRIMJ Selection*</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 103 (GH)‡ or CRIMJ 465*</td>
<td>3 Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirement: Knowledge Domain</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 119N*</td>
<td>3 Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirement: Other Cultures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirement: Knowledge Domain</td>
<td>3 Elective</td>
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Fourth Year

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<th>Spring</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRIMJ 495*</td>
<td>3 CRIMJ 450W*</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>400 Level CRIMJ Selection*</td>
<td>3 400 Level CRIMJ Selection*</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course (GN or GA or GH or GS)</td>
<td>3 General Education Course (GN or GA or GH or GS)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirement: Knowledge Domain</td>
<td>3 Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Education Course (GHW)</td>
<td>1.5 Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>13</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 120

* 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 University 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.

GWS, GQ, GHW, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of ‘C’ or better.

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

Bachelor of Arts Requirements:

Bachelor of Arts students must take 9 credits in Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Fields (Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Arts; World Languages [2nd language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the 1st]; Natural Sciences; Quantification). The B.A. Fields courses may not be taken in the area of the student’s primary major. See your adviser and the Degree Requirements section (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/) of this Bulletin.

Bachelor of Arts students must take 3 credits in Other Cultures. See your adviser and the full list of courses approved as Other Cultures courses (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/course-lists/ba-other-cultures/).

1 The following courses are offered Spring Semester only: ENGL 202B.

Career Paths

Graduates of the Criminal Justice program are prepared to enter the workforce or can continue their graduate education in Master’s and Ph.D. 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**

**Berks**
DIVISION OF HUMANITIES, ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
Franco Building
Reading, PA 19610
610-396-6050
jxm1192@psu.edu

http://berks.psu.edu/babs-criminal-justice

**Abington**
DIVISION OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
1600 Woodland Road
Abington, PA 19001
215-881-7397
lxv2@psu.edu

http://abington.psu.edu/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

http://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/degrees/crimj

**DuBois**
1 College Place
DuBois, PA 15801
814-372-3014
drb218@psu.edu

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

**Greater Allegheny**
109C Main Building
4000 University Drive
McKeesport, PA 15132
kjm47@psu.edu

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

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

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

https://schuylkill.psu.edu/academics/degrees/bacc-degrees/criminal-justice

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

https://shenango.psu.edu/academics/majors-shenango/criminal-justice

**Wilkes-Barre**
44 University Drive
Dallas, PA 18612
570-675-9255
jjo5358@psu.edu

https://wilkesbarre.psu.edu/academics/criminal-justice