CRIMINOLOGY, B.A.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus
End Campus: University Park

Program Description

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminology is offered by the Criminology Program in the Department of Sociology.

This major provides students with a broadly based liberal education focused on the understanding and analysis of crime and justice systems. Students obtain a foundation of knowledge of the basic components of the criminal justice and legal systems as well as abilities to solve problems, think and read critically, and write effectively within the context of criminal justice and criminological research and theory.

The B.A. degree is suitable for students seeking entry-level positions in the criminal justice system and for students interested in graduate and law school. Students interested in acquiring strong quantitative skills should consider the B.S. degree.

What is Criminology?

Criminology is a broad and interdisciplinary field of study that promotes an understanding of crime and the criminal justice system and how they relate to human behavior, social environments, and government policy. Examples of topics studied in Criminology are: the causes and consequences of deviant and/or criminal behavior; the structure and functions of the criminal justice system; societal and individual reactions to crimes and criminal justice processing; the spatial and geographical elements associated with crime and poverty; and the dynamics of criminal justice policy making.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You are interested in studying human behavior through an interdisciplinary lens.
- You are fascinated with deviance and/or criminal behavior.
- You would like to study the functioning of the criminal justice system.
- You’re passionate about issues of social justice.
- You would like to go to law school or graduate school.
- You want to pursue a career in policing, corrections or governmental.

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 Criminology, a minimum of 121 credits is required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
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<td>Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes 4 credits of General Education GQ courses.

Per Senate Policy 83-80.5, 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. For more information, check the Recommended Academic Plan for your intended program.

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). 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.

**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.

### Prescribed Courses

- **CRIM/CRIMJ/ SOC 12** Criminology
- **CRIM/CRIMJ 100** Introduction to Criminal Justice
- **CRIM 249** Criminology Theory and Evidence
- **CRIM 250W** Research Methods in Criminology
- **STAT 200** Elementary Statistics

### Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better
Select one of the following:
- **CAS 283** Communication and Information Technology I
- **CMPSC 100** Computer Fundamentals and Applications
- **CMPSC 101** Introduction to Programming

Select one of the following:
- **SOC 1** Introductory Sociology
- **SOC 3** Introductory Social Psychology
- **SOC 5** Social Problems

Select two of the following core courses:
- **CRIM 430** American Correctional System
- **CRIM/CRIMJ 432** Crime and the American Court System
- **CRIM 435** Policing in America
- **CRIM/CRIMJ 451** Race, Crime, and Justice
- **CRIM/CRIMJ/ WMNST 453** Women and the Criminal Justice System
- **CRIM/CRIMJ/ SOC 467** Law and Society
- **CRIM 490** Crime Policy

Select 6 credits from non-core CRIM/CRIMJ courses at the 400 level (including no more than 3 credits of LA 496, CRIM 494, or CRIM 499)

Select 6 credits in race, ethnicity and gender:
- **AA 100** Introduction to International Arts
- **AMST 105** American Popular Culture and Folklore
- **AMST 432** Ethnicity and the American Experience
- **ANTH 146** Indigenous North America
- **CAS 271N** Intercultural Communication
- **CAS 455** Gender Roles in Communication
- **CAS 471** Intercultural Communication Theory and Research
- **CMLIT 101** Race, Gender, and Identity in World Literature
- **CRIM 451** Race, Crime, and Justice
- **CRIM 453** Women and the Criminal Justice System
- **ENGL 135** Alternative Voices in American Literature
- **ENGL 139** African American Literature
- **ENGL 462** Reading Black, Reading Feminist
- **HIST 154** History of Welfare and Poverty in the United States
- **PHIL 9** Race, Racism, and Diversity
- **PSYCH 432** Multicultural Psychology in America
- **SOC 103** Racism and Sexism
- **SOC 119N** Race, Ethnicity and Culture
- **SOC 409** Racial and Ethnic Inequality in America
- **SOC 419** Race and Public Policy
- **SOC 429** Social Stratification
- **WMNST 1** Introduction to Women's Studies

### Code Title Credits

**Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better**
Integrated B.A. in Criminology and M.P.S. in Criminal Justice Policy and Administration

Requirements for the Integrated B.A. in Criminology and M.P.S. in Criminal Justice Policy and Administration can be found in the Graduate Bulletin (https://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/criminal-justice-policy-administration/#integratedundergradgradprogramtext).

Integrated B.A. in Criminology and M.I.A. in International Affairs

Requirements for the Integrated B.A. in Criminology and M.I.A. in International Affairs can be found in the Graduate Bulletin (https://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/international-affairs/#integratedundergradgradprogramtext).

Program Learning Objectives

- Recognize the causes and consequences of crime at the micro and macro levels and match these with prominent criminological perspectives.
- Describe the interrelated institutions and processes of the criminal justice system.
- Apply theories of crime and criminal justice to explain actual and hypothetical scenarios, behaviors, and trends.
- Explain the various social science methods of inquiry and use these to test specific criminological research questions.
- Recognize and explain macro-social inequities in crime and criminal justice processes by race, social class, gender, region and age.
- Locate and consult works in the area to produce a research paper that is coherent, cogent, and attentive to conventions of the field.

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/)

University Park

Liberal Arts Academic Advising
814-865-2545
Use the Liberal Arts Majors and Minors web page (https://www.la.psu.edu/current-students/undergraduate-students/education/majors-and-minors/) to see the contact information for the specific adviser(s) of this program

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).

Criminology, B.A. at University Park 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>
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<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<td>CRIM 100*</td>
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<td>STAT 200 (GQ)†</td>
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<td>General Education Quantification (GQ)‡</td>
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Second Year

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Third Year

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<th>Spring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAS 283, CMPSC 100, or CMPSC 101†</td>
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Fourth Year

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<td>General Education Course (GWS)†</td>
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Criminology, B.A.

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<tr>
<th>Course Type</th>
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<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA Other Cultures Course</td>
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<td>(GHW)</td>
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<td>Elective</td>
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**Total Credits 121**

- 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.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL 137H/CAS 137H in the fall semester and ENGL 138T/CAS 138T in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and replace both ENGL 30H and CAS 100. Each course is 3 credits.

**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/).

**Advising Notes:**

- All incoming first-year students must take a First-Year Seminar (FYS) during Fall or Spring of their first year. Academic advisers can provide a list of FYS being offered and help the student enroll. Most FYS in the College of the Liberal Arts are worth 3 credits and count as a General Humanities (GH) or General Social Sciences (GS) course. For this reason, the FYS is not listed separately on this eight-semester plan; most students will be able to fulfill the FYS requirement while also fulfilling a GH or GS requirement.
- The following sequence **MUST** be followed: CRIM 12/SOC 12 # CRIM 249 # CRIM 250W. It is suggested that CRIM 12 and CRIM 249 be taken as early as possible. CRIM 100 and CRIM 249 can be taken in the same semester. CRIMJ 250W will only be used as elective credits.
- While CRIM 294, CRIM 296, and CRIM 494 provide students with terrific opportunities and learning experiences, these credits may **NOT** be counted in fulfillment of the Criminology major requirements. They may, however, be used as elective credits to count toward the credit requirement for graduation.
- Internship credits will be counted towards elective credits, unless approved by the internship coordinator to meet a general 3 credit 400 level CRIM course requirement.
- 3 credits of the Netherlands Education Abroad experience (CRIMJ 499) can be used to meet a general 400 level course requirement. A total of 15 education abroad credits (max) may be applied toward the major; courses must be approved by the department for application toward the major. CRIM 12/SOC 12, CRIM 100, CRIM 249 and CRIM 250W cannot be taken abroad.
Criminology, B.A. at Commonwealth Campuses

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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Year</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tr>
<td>General Education Course (GWS)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CRIM 12, CRIMJ 12, or SOC 12</td>
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<td>CRIM 100 or CRIMJ 100*</td>
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<td>STAT 200 ‡</td>
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<td>World Language Level 1</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Education Course (GQ)*</td>
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<thead>
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<th>Second Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Race, Ethnicity, and Gender Course from List</td>
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<td>World Language Level 3</td>
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<td>General Education Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
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<td>BA Fields</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
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<td>Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<th>Spring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAS 283, CMPSC 100, or CMPSC 101*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CRIM 250W †</td>
</tr>
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<td>CRIM 249 †</td>
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<td>Race, Ethnicity, and Gender Course from List</td>
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<tr>
<th>Fourth Year</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4XX Level Course from List*</td>
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<td>Core CRIM Course from List*</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRIM Core Course from List †</td>
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<td>BA Other Cultures Course</td>
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<td>General Education Course (GWS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Education Course (GHW)</td>
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<td>Elective</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Total Credits 121

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
† Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
‡ Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to identify 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.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL 137H/CAS 137H in the fall semester and ENGL 138T/CAS 138T in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and replace both ENGL 30H and CAS 100. Each course is 3 credits.

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/).

Career Paths

There are opportunities for careers in criminology for everyone. Whether you like field work, working in a laboratory or working behind the scenes in research or administration, the chances are you’ll find a rewarding career.

Careers

Majoring in Criminology will prepare you for a wide array of criminal justice careers, such as law enforcement, corrections and rehabilitation, research analysis, governmental and non-governmental organizations.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES OF THE CRIMINOLOGY PROGRAM (http://sociology.la.psu.edu/undergraduate/career-and-professional-development/)
Opportunities for Graduate Studies
A baccalaureate degree in Criminology is suitable for students seeking entry-level positions in the criminal justice system and for students interested in graduate and law school.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (http://sociology.la.psu.edu/graduate/)

Professional Resources
- The American Society of Criminology (https://www.asc41.com/)
- American Sociological Association (http://www.asanet.org/)
- Penn State Justice Association (https://pennstateja.wixsite.com/justice-association/academics/)

Contact
University Park
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND CRIMINOLOGY
211 Oswald Tower
University Park, PA 16802
814-865-2527
sociology@psu.edu
http://sociology.la.psu.edu/