CRIMINOLOGY, B.S.

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

Program Description
Not all options are available at every campus. Contact the campus you are interested in attending to determine which options are offered.

This major provides the opportunity to develop a stronger foundation in research methods, quantification, and the sciences. It prepares students with relevant aptitudes for pursuing further studies or finding employment where such knowledge is advantageous. Students contemplating futures in social science research, business, forensics, public service, and paralegal positions should consider this degree or some of its recommended courses.

Either the B.A. or B.S. 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/registration/semester_classification.cfm).

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

Degree Requirements
For the Bachelor of Science 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>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>17-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>61-63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 of these 45 credits 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 coursework 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 (http://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](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.

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

**Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)**

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<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIM/CRIMJ/</td>
<td>Criminology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIM/CRIMJ 100</td>
<td>Introduction to Criminal Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIM 249</td>
<td>Criminology Theory and Evidence</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIMJ 250</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 200</td>
<td>Elementary Statistics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional Courses**

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

Select one of the following:

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAS 283</td>
<td>Communication and Information Technology I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMPSC 100</td>
<td>Computer Fundamentals and Applications</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMPSC 101</td>
<td>Introduction to C++ Programming</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
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<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC 1</td>
<td>Introductory Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 3</td>
<td>Introductory Social Psychology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 5</td>
<td>Social Problems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select 6 credits in race, ethnicity, and gender from the following:

| AFAM 100 | Living While Black: Themes in African American Thought and Experience |         |
| AFAM 101 | The African American Woman                                           |         |
| AFAM/SOC/WMNST 103 | Racism and Sexism                                                   |         |
| AMST/WMNST 104 | Women and the American Experience                                  |         |
| AMST 105 | American Popular Culture and Folklife                                |         |
| AMST 432 | Ethnicity and the American Experience                                |         |
| ANTH 146 | Indigenous North America                                           |         |
| CAS 271N | Intercultural Communication                                       |         |
| CAS 422 | Contemporary African American 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                                           |         |
| CRIMJ/WMNST 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               |         |
| LER/WMNST 136 | Race, Gender, and Employment                                    |         |
| PHIL 9 | Philosophy, Race, and Diversity                                    |         |
| PSYCH 432 | Multicultural Psychology in America                          |         |
| SOC 119 | Race and Ethnic Relations                                       |         |
| 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                                   |         |

Select 6 credits from the core courses of the following:

CRIM 430 | American Correctional System
CRIM/CRIMJ | Crime and the American Court System 432
CRIM 435 | Policing in America
CRIM/CRIMJ | Race, Crime, and Justice 451
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 495, CRIM 494, or CRIM 499) 6

**Requirements for the Option**
Requirements for the Option: Require a grade of C or better

Select an option 21-23

**Requirements for the Option**
Business/Public Administration Option (21 credits)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 102</td>
<td>Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 104</td>
<td>Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional Courses**
Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better
Select 15 credits with at least 3 credits each from groups A, B, C, and D.

**Group A**
- ECON 302 Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis
- BA 301 Finance

**Group B**
- BA 303 Marketing
- BA 304 Management and Organization
- PSYCH 281 Introduction to Industrial-Organizational Psychology
- PSYCH 482 Selection and Assessment in Organizations
- PSYCH 484 Work Attitudes and Motivation
- PSYCH 485 Leadership in Work Settings

**Group C**
- BLAW 243 Legal Environment of Business
- LER 401 The Law of Labor-Management Relations
- LER 434 Collective Bargaining and Contract Administration
- LER 435 Labor Relations in the Public Sector
- LER 437 Workplace Dispute Resolution
- SOC 455 Work and Occupations

**Group D**
- CAS 404 Conflict Resolution and Negotiation
- CAS 450W Group Communication Theory and Research
- CAS 471 Intercultural Communication Theory and Research
- CAS 483 Communication and Information Technology II
- ENGL 418 Advanced Technical Writing and Editing
- ENGL 419 Advanced Business Writing
- ENGL 421 Advanced Expository Writing
- GER 408 Advanced German Business Communications
- HIST 458Y History of Work in America
- LER 400-level course(s)
- PLSC 412 International Political Economy
- PLSC 417 American Local Government and Administration
- PLSC 419 The Bureaucratic State
- PLSC 444 Government and the Economy
- PLSC 490 Policy Making and Evaluation
- PSYCH 482 Selection and Assessment in Organizations
- PSYCH 484 Work Attitudes and Motivation
- PSYCH 485 Leadership in Work Settings
- SOC 455 Work and Occupations
- SOC 456 Gender, Occupations, and Professions
- SPAN 412 Translation

Computing and Statistics Option (21 credits)

**Prescribed Courses**
- SOC 470 Intermediate Social Statistics
- STAT 480 Introduction to SAS

**Additional Courses**
- CAS 483 Communication and Information Technology II
- CMPSC 203 Introduction to Spreadsheets and Databases
- MATH 110 Techniques of Calculus I
- MATH 111 Techniques of Calculus II
- MATH 141 Calculus with Analytic Geometry I
- MATH 141 Calculus with Analytic Geometry II
- MIS 204 Introduction to Business Information Systems
- STAT 460 Intermediate Applied Statistics
- STAT 462 Applied Regression Analysis
- STAT 464 Applied Nonparametric Statistics

Legal Studies Option (21 credits)

**Prescribed Courses**
- PHIL 12 Symbolic Logic

**Additional Courses**
Select one of the following:
- PHI 213 Persuasive Speaking
- CAS 215 Argumentation
- CAS 250 Small Group Communication
- CAS 321 Rhetoric and Law

Select 12 credits of the following:
- BLAW 243 Legal Environment of Business
- COMM 403 Law of Mass Communications
- CRIM 432 Crime and the American Court System
- LER 400-level course(s)
- LER 401 The Law of Labor-Management Relations
- LER 434 Collective Bargaining and Contract Administration
- LER 435 Labor Relations in the Public Sector
- LER 437 Workplace Dispute Resolution
- SOC 455 Work and Occupations
- SOC 456 Gender, Occupations, and Professions
- SOC 456 Gender, Occupations, and Professions
- SOC 457 Intercultural Communication Theory and Research
- SOC 458 Communication and Information Technology II
- SOC 459 Policy Making and Evaluation
- SOC 460 Applied Social Research Methods
- SOC 462 Applied Regression Analysis
- SOC 464 Applied Nonparametric Statistics
- SOC 467 Law and Society
- HIST 449 Constitutional History of the United States to 1877
- HIST 450 Constitutional History of the United States since 1877
- PLSC 474 Civil Liberties and Due Process

Social Science Research Option (22-23 credits)

**Prescribed Courses**
- SOC 470 Intermediate Social Statistics
- STAT 480 Introduction to SAS
Additional Courses

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

Select 8-9 credits of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 110</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>&amp; MATH 111</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or MATH 141</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>&amp; MATH 141</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>STAT 460</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>STAT 462</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>STAT 464</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Select 9 credits of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HDFS 401</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSC 490</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any 400-level STAT course

NOTE: Internships will be counted as elective credits (CRIM 395).

NOTE: The following themes should be incorporated into all CRIM classes, as appropriate: ethical issues, ethnicity and gender issues, and theory.

Program Learning Objectives

1. Recognize the causes and consequences of crime at the micro and macro levels and match these with prominent criminological perspectives.
2. Describe the interrelated institutions and processes of the criminal justice system.
3. Apply theories of crime and criminal justice to explain actual and hypothetical scenarios, behaviors, and trends.
4. Explain the various social science methods of inquiry and use these to test specific criminological research questions.
5. Recognize and explain macro-social inequities in crime and criminal justice processes by race, social class, gender, region and age.
6. 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 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy)
General Health and Wellness 1.5 Elective 3
Elective 3
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/CAS 137 in the fall semester and ENGL/CAS 138 in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and replace both ENGL 30 and CAS 100. Each course is 3 credits.

Advising Note
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 cr. 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.

Commonwealth 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, 30, or ESL 15† 3 CRIM/SOC 12 or CRIMJ 12* 3
CRIM 100 or CRIMJ 100* 3 CAS 100, ENGL 138T, or CAS 138† 3

Second Year
Fall Credits Spring Credits
SOC 1, SOC 3, or SOC 5† 3 Race, Ethnicity, and Gender Course from List* 3
General Education Course 3 BS Option Course* 3
General Education Course 3 General Education Course 3
General Education Course 3 General Education Course 3
Elective 3 General Education Course 3

Third Year
Fall Credits Spring Credits
CRIM 249 3 CRIM 250W 3
CAS 283, CMPSC 100, or CMPSC 101† 3 Race, Ethnicity, and Gender course from list 3
BS option Course* 3 BS Option Course* 3
General Education Course 3 BS Option Course* 3
Elective 3 Elective 3

Fourth Year
Fall Credits Spring Credits
CRIM core course from list† 3 Core CRIM course from list† 3
CRIM 4XX Level Course* 3 CRIM 4xx Level Course* 3
ENGL 202A, 202B, 202C, or 202D† 3 BS Option Course* 3
BS Option Course* 3 General Health and Wellness (GHW) 1.5
General Health and Wellness Course (GHW) 1.5 Elective 3
Elective 3

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Elective 3 General Education Course 3

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CAS 283, CMPSC 100, or CMPSC 101† 3 Race, Ethnicity, and Gender course from list 3
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Criminology, B.S.

Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

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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.

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.

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/