CRIMINOLOGY, B.S.

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

Program Description
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 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/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/37-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44).

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

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/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44).

Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRIM</td>
<td>Criminology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIM/CRIMJ/SOC 12</td>
<td>Introduction to Criminal Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIM/CRIMJ 100</td>
<td>Criminology Theory and Evidence</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIM 249</td>
<td>Research Methods in Criminology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 200</td>
<td>Elementary Statistics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Courses
Select one of the following:

- CAS 283 Communication and Information Technology I
- CMPSC 100 Computer Fundamentals and Applications
- CMPSC 101 Introduction to Programming
- SOC 1 Introductory Sociology
- SOC 3 Introductory Social Psychology
- SOC 5 Social Problems
- AFAM 100N Black Freedom Struggles
- AFAM 101N African American Women
- AFAM/SOC/WMNST 103 American Popular Culture and Folklife
- AMST/WMNST 104 Ethnography and the American Experience
- ANTH 146 Indigenous North America
- CAS 271N Intercultural Communication
- CAS 422 Contemporary African American Communication
- CAS 455 Topics in Gender and Communication
- CAS 471 Intercultural Communication Theory and Research
- CMLIT 101 Race, Gender, and Identity in World Literature
Criminology, B.S.

CRIM 451  Race, Crime, and Justice
CRIM/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
PHIL 9  Race, Racism, and Diversity
PSYCH 432  Multicultural Psychology in America
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
Select 6 credits from the core courses of the following:

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 495, CRIM 494, or CRIM 499)

Requirements for the Option

Select an option: 21-23

Requirements for the Option

Business/Public Administration Option (21 credits)

Code  Title  Credits
Prescribed Courses
Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better
ECON 102  Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy  3
ECON 104  Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy  3
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: 15

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

Computing and Statistics Option (21 credits)

Code  Title  Credits
Prescribed Courses
Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better
ECON 102  Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy  3
ECON 104  Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy  3
Additional Courses
Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better
Select 16 credits of the following: 16

CAS 483  Communication and Information Technology II
CMPS 203  Introduction to Spreadsheets and Databases
MATH 110  Techniques of Calculus I & MATH 111  Techniques of Calculus II
or MATH 141  Calculus With Analytic Geometry I & MATH 142  Calculus With Analytic Geometry II
MIS 204  Introduction to Management Information Systems
STAT 460  Intermediate Applied Statistics
STAT 462  Applied Regression Analysis
STAT 464  Applied Nonparametric Statistics
Legal Studies Option (21 credits)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 12</td>
<td>Symbolic Logic</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional Courses**

**Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better**

Select one of the following: 3

- CAS 213 | Persuasive Speaking
- CAS 215 | Argumentation
- CAS 250 | Small Group Communication
- CAS 321 | Rhetoric and Law

Select 12 credits of the following: 12

- BLAW 243 | Legal Environment of Business
- COMM 403 | Law of Mass Communications
- CRIM 432 | Crime and the American Court System
- or CRIM/ SOC 467 | Law and Society
- CRIM 469 | Seminar in the Law
- LST 370 | Research Methods for Law and Government Information Resources
- PHIL 105 | Philosophy of Law
- PHIL 108 | Social and Political Philosophy
- PHIL 408W | Seminar in Social and Political Philosophy
- PLSC 403 | The Legislative Process
- PLSC 431 | Ancient, Medieval, and Renaissance Political Theories
- PLSC 432 | Modern and Contemporary Political Theories
- PLSC 471 | American Constitutional Law
- PLSC 472 | The American Legal Process
- SOC 405 | Sociological Theory

Select one of the following: 3

- 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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC 470</td>
<td>Intermediate Social Statistics</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 480</td>
<td>Introduction to SAS</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Prescribed Courses**

**Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better**

Select 8-9 credits of the following: 8-9

- MATH 110 | Techniques of Calculus I
- & MATH 111 | Techniques of Calculus II
- or MATH 141 | Calculus With Analytic Geometry I
- & MATH 141 | Calculus with Analytic Geometry II
- STAT 460 | Intermediate Applied Statistics
- STAT 462 | Applied Regression Analysis
- STAT 464 | Applied Nonparametric Statistics

Select 9 credits of the following: 9

- HDFS 401 | Project Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation in the Human Services
- PLSC 490 | Policy Making and Evaluation
- 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.

**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 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.
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 Meet the Academic Advisers web page (https://la.psu.edu/student-services/academic-advising/meet-the-academic-advisers/) 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 2023-24 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 contains suggested academic plans beginning with the 2018-19 edition of the Undergraduate Bulletin).

All Options: Criminology, B.S. 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Year</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course (GWS)†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CRIM/SOC 12*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIM 100*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course (GWS)†</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Quantification (GQ)‡</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>STAT 200 (GQ)††</td>
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<tr>
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<td>General Education Course</td>
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<td>General Education Course or First-Year Seminar</td>
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<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Second Year</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
<td><strong>Third Year</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 1, 3, or 5*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Race, Ethnicity, and Gender Course from List*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIM 249*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CRIM 250W‡</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>BS Option Course*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
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<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fourth Year</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Credits 121</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>CRIM 4XX Level Core Course from List</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Education (GWS)‡</td>
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<tr>
<td>BS Option Course*</td>
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<td>BS Option Course*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BS Option Course*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Health and Wellness (GHW)</td>
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<td>General Health and Wellness Course (GHW)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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.

**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 requirement. 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.

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University Requirements and General Education Notes:

* 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
All Options: Criminology, B.S. 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.

First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CRIM 100 or CRIMJ 100*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Education Quantification (GQ)*</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Education Course</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Elective</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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</table>

Second Year

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<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>SOC 1, 3, or 5*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>General Education Course</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BS Option Course*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
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</table>

Third Year

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<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>CRIM 249*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CAS 283, CMPSC 100, or CMPSC 101*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>BS option Course*</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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</table>

Fourth Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Core CRIM course from list*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CRIM 4XX Level Course from List*</td>
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<td></td>
<td>General Education Course (GWS)*</td>
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<td>BS Option Course*</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Health and Wellness Course (GHW)</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>16.5</strong></td>
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</table>

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 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.

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 (https://sociology.la.psu.edu/undergraduate/criminology/careers-in-criminology/)

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 (https://sociology.la.psu.edu/graduate/)

Professional Resources

• The American Society of Criminology (https://asc41.org/)
• American Sociological Association (https://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
https://sociology.la.psu.edu