

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE, A.S. (UNIVERSITY COLLEGE)

**Begin Campus:** Greater Allegheny

**End Campus:** Greater Allegheny

## Program Description

Students receiving an associate degree in criminal justice should understand each of the three main components of the criminal justice system and their interrelationships. This program 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 Associate in Science degree in Criminal Justice prepares students for entry-level positions in criminal justice or for study at the baccalaureate level.

## 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 entry level positions in the criminal justice system, or complete the baccalaureate level.

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

## Entrance to Major

Students must have a minimum 2.0 GPA to change to this Associate degree after admission to the University.

## Degree Requirements

**For the Associate in Science in Criminal Justice, a minimum of 64 credits is required:**

| Requirement                | Credits |
|----------------------------|---------|
| General Education          | 21      |
| Electives                  | 26      |
| Requirements for the Major | 29      |

## 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/associate-degree-general-education-program>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

education/associate-degree-general-education-program) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

## Foundations (grade of C or better is required.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 3 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 3 credits

## Knowledge Domains

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

## Foundations or Knowledge Domains

- **A General Education course selected from GWS, GQ, GN, GA, GH, or GS, and may include Integrative Studies (Inter-domain or Linked) courses:** 3 credits

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.

12 of these credits are included in the Requirements for the Major.

## University Degree Requirements

### Cultures Requirement

3 credits of United States (US) or International (IL) cultures coursework are required and may satisfy other requirements

### 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 60 degree credits must be earned for an associates degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 60 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

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.

## Requirements for the Major

This includes 12 credits of General Education courses: 3 credits of GH courses; 3 credits of GQ courses; 6 credits of GS courses.

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>).

| Code  | Title                              | Credits |
|---|------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Prescribed Courses</b>                                 |                                    |         |
| <i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i> |                                    |         |
| CRIMJ 100   | Introduction to Criminal Justice   | 3       |
| PHIL 103  | Introduction to Ethics             | 3       |
| SOC 12  | Criminology                        | 3       |
| SOC 119   | Race and Ethnic Relations          | 4       |
| CRIMJ 210   | Policing in America                | 3       |
| CRIMJ 220   | Courts and the Prosecution Process | 3       |
| CRIMJ 230   | Corrections in America             | 3       |
| STAT 200  | Elementary Statistics              | 4       |
| <b>Additional Courses</b>                                 |                                    |         |
| <i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i> |                                    |         |
| CRIMJ 250   |                                    | 3       |
| or SOC 207  | Research Methods in Sociology      |         |

## 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 need 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>)

## Greater Allegheny

### Advising Office

#### Academic Affairs

101 Frable Building  
4000 University Drive  
McKeesport, PA 15132  
412-675-9140  
GA-Academics@lists.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

## Suggested Academic Plan

### Greater Allegheny 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 <sup>1</sup> | 3       | SOC 119 <sup>*†</sup>                     | 4       |
| CRIMJ 100 <sup>*</sup>              | 3       | SOC 12 <sup>*†</sup>                      | 3       |
| General Education Course            | 3       | CAS 100, 100A, 100B, or 100C <sup>‡</sup> | 3       |
| Elective                            | 3       | General Education Course                  | 3       |
| Elective                            | 3       | Elective                                  | 3       |
|                                     | 15      |   | 16      |

### Second Year

| Fall                    | Credits | Spring                         | Credits |
|-------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|---------|
| STAT 200 <sup>*††</sup> | 4       | CRIMJ 250 or SOC 207           | 3       |
| PHIL 103 <sup>*†</sup>  | 3       | CRIMJ 230 <sup>*</sup>         | 3       |
| CRIMJ 210 <sup>*</sup>  | 3       | CRIMJ 220 <sup>*</sup>         | 3       |
| Elective                | 3       | ENGL 202A or 202D <sup>1</sup> | 3       |
| Elective                | 3       | Elective                       | 3       |
|                         | 16      | Elective                       | 3       |
|                         |         |                                | 18      |

Total Credits 65

\* 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, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GN, GA, GH, and GS). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

Integrative Studies courses can be completed 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.

<sup>1</sup> Suggested Electives for students moving into a Baccalaureate (Bachelor of Art or Science in Administration of Justice) degree program are ENGL 15 and ENGL 202 or other General Education or major requirements in consultation with an academic adviser.

## Contact

### Greater Allegheny

101 Frable Building  
4000 University Drive  
McKeesport, PA 15132

412-675-9140  
GA-Academics@lists.psu.edu

<http://greaterallegheny.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](mailto:alg177@psu.edu)

<http://altoona.psu.edu/academics/bachelors-degrees/criminal-justice>