

UMSL Criminology and Criminal Justice

Why UMSL?

Why study criminology and criminal justice at UMSL? Among the many reasons (small classes, rich and relevant curriculum, internship opportunities, on-line course offerings, strong preparation for a variety of fields), perhaps the most important is the quality of the faculty. The department's faculty are not only dedicated teachers but highly accomplished research scholars. Here you will learn from professors who are on the frontiers of knowledge in the field. If you are interested in learning about the very latest research findings in criminology and criminal justice, from some of the top scholars in the field, then UMSL is the place for you.

Career Outlook

The orientation of the criminology and criminal justice faculty and of the degree program prepare the graduate to work professionally for local, state and federal agencies concerned with maintaining public safety by the prevention, apprehension and rehabilitation of offenders. The BS in criminology and criminal justice is also advantageous for careers with various social agencies, especially those connected with the juvenile court system, probation and parole and local police. Many students use the BS in criminology and criminal justice as preparation for law school. The BS in Criminology and Criminal Justice also provides excellent preparation for graduate school in a variety of fields.

The interdisciplinary curricula unify a body of knowledge from criminology, social science, law, public administration and corrections, giving a unique preparation and providing the student with an understanding of the assumptions, values and processes of the system of justice.

Undergraduate Studies

Degrees and Areas of Concentration

The department offers courses leading to the bachelor of science, master of arts and PhD degrees in criminology and criminal justice.

Faculty

Criminology and criminal justice faculty represent several academic disciplines. By integrating practice with theory, faculty are able to present a comprehensive picture of crime and the justice system. An emphasis on understanding the theoretical foundations, which underlie human behavior and the institutions of justice, characterizes the departmental orientation. Faculty research and publications also reflect this concern with an understanding of both the underlying theoretical foundations and their application.

This nexus of theory and application is found most directly in the department's emphasis on understanding policy in criminology and criminal justice. All components of crime and justice are represented in the curriculum including criminal behavior, delinquency, crime prevention, arrest, prosecution, defense, court processing, probation, prison and parole. Full-time faculty members provide course work that forms the sound basis of a liberal arts education.

Internships

Majors are encouraged to participate in CRIMIN 3280 during their junior or senior year. The internship affords students the opportunity to gain experience in a criminal justice agency under the joint supervision of agency personnel and criminology and criminal justice faculty.

Minor in Criminology and Criminal Justice

The minor gives formal recognition to those students from other major areas who find that criminology and criminal justice courses fit their academic or professional needs and/or interests.

General Education Requirements

Majors must satisfy the University and College general education requirements. Foreign language proficiency is not required, although students are encouraged to take foreign language courses. Majors may not take any required CCJ courses on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. Additionally, substitutions, which have been approved by departmental advisers for these courses, may not be taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.

After fulfilling the general education and specific major degree requirements, students are to take the remaining hours required to complete the BS degree from courses which the appropriate department has evaluated as being of university-level quality. The Criminology and Criminal Justice department may require students to pass a placement test in order to enroll in the next level course, provided this or an equivalent test is administered to all students seeking to enroll in that course.

Degree Requirements

Bachelor of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice

Students may register for 3000-5000-level courses only after completing all prerequisites, including ENG 3100 (Advanced Expository Writing).

Students may register for 3000-5000-level courses only after obtaining a signature from the adviser in criminology and criminal justice. All prerequisites must be satisfied prior to enrolling in a course.

CCJ majors must maintain a 2.0 GPA for all required CCJ course work.

Bachelor of science in criminology and criminal justice candidates must complete the core curriculum listed below:

Core Curriculum

The following courses in Criminology and Criminal Justice are required:

- CRIMIN 1100, Introduction to Criminology and Criminal Justice
- CRIMIN 1110, Theories of Crime
- CRIMIN 1120, Criminal Law
- CRIMIN 2130, Criminal Justice Policy
- CRIMIN 2210, Research Methods in Criminology and Criminal Justice
- CRIMIN 2220, Statistical Analysis in Criminology and Criminal Justice (minimum grade of "C" required)
- CRIMIN 4390, Seminar in Criminology and Criminal Justice (minimum grade of "C" required)

One course from the following three:

- CRIMIN 2240, Policing
- CRIMIN 2250, The Courts
- CRIMIN 2260, Corrections

One of the following courses in Criminology and Criminal Justice:

- CRIMIN 3305, Comparative Criminology and Criminal Justice
- CRIMIN 4325, Gender, Crime and Justice
- CRIMIN 4330, Violence Against Women
- CRIMIN 4340, Race, Crime and Justice

Three additional courses at the 3000-, 4000-, or 5000-level:

- CRIMIN 3043, History of Crime and Justice
- CRIMIN 3230, Crime Prevention
- CRIMIN 3270, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency
- CRIMIN 3305, Comparative Criminology and Criminal Justice
- CRIMIN 3310, Computers in Criminal Justice
- CRIMIN 3320, The Death Penalty
- CRIMIN 3325, Violence Against Women
- CRIMIN 3330, White Collar Crime
- CRIMIN 3345, Rights of the Offender
- CRIMIN 4300, Communities and Crime
- CRIMIN 4320, Forms of Criminal Behavior
- CRIMIN 4325, Gender, Crime and Justice
- CRIMIN 4335, Probation and Parole
- CRIMIN 4340, Race, Crime and Justice
- CRIMIN 4350, Victimology

CRIMIN 4380, Special Topics in Criminology and Criminal Justice

CRIMIN 4487, Philosophy of Law

CRIMIN 5515, Ethics in Criminology and Criminal Justice

Elective Courses

CRIMIN 1150, Violence in America

CRIMIN 1990, The City

CRIMIN 2180, Alcohol, Drugs and Society

CRIMIN 2227, Urban Law: Poverty and the Justice System

CRIMIN 2251, Youth Gangs

CRIMIN 2265, Capital Punishment

CRIMIN 3280, Internship in Criminology and Criminal Justice

CRIMIN 3290, Special Readings

Requirements for the Minor

The minor has been designed to ground students in the basics of criminology and criminal justice.

All minor candidates must take: CRIMIN 1100, Introduction to Criminology and Criminal Justice. The candidates must then select from two of the following three courses:

CRIMIN 1110, Theories of Crime

CRIMIN 1120, Criminal Law

CRIMIN 2130, Criminal Justice Policy

Candidates must then complete 6 hours of criminology and criminal justice course work at the 2000-level or above.

Candidates must also have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or better in the minor. None of the courses may be taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory (s/u) basis.