

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE

What can I do with this major?

## AREAS

### SOCIAL SERVICES

Corrections  
Probation  
Parole  
Juvenile Justice  
Program Development  
Outreach  
Mentoring  
Victim's Assistance  
Counseling  
Casework  
Prevention Services  
Advocacy  
Administration  
Supervision  
Assessment  
Reporting  
Grant Writing  
Consulting

## EMPLOYERS

Government Agencies  
State and federal correction facilities  
County Jails  
Precinct station houses  
Prison camps  
Youth correction facilities  
Voluntary correction facilities  
Residential treatment facilities  
Halfway houses and pre-release programs  
Reintegration programs  
Alternative schools  
Juvenile detention centers  
Juvenile group homes  
Women's and family shelters  
Domestic violence agencies  
Immigrations and naturalization services  
Medical centers  
Other nonprofit organizations  
Adult education providers  
Public and private high schools

## STRATEGIES

Pursue classes or training in topics such as victimology, social problems, diversity issues, or grieving.  
Supplement curriculum with courses in psychology, sociology, social work, or child and family studies.  
To work with juveniles, gain experience through youth through sports teams, as a summer camp counselor, in parks and recreation programs, or community/religious youth groups.  
Seek volunteer or internship positions in areas such as employment interviewing, social casework, substance abuse, rehabilitation, or juvenile justice.  
Learn to work well with people of diverse backgrounds. Study a second language for increase marketability.  
Maintain a blemish-free driving and criminal record.  
Gain firearms and self-defense training for some areas.  
Earn a master's degree in social work or counseling for therapy positions.  
Obtain a master's degree in criminal justice or business for upper-level positions in facilities.

## AREAS

### JUDICIARY AND LAW

Court Reporting/Transcription Services  
Court Clerkship  
Court Security  
Legal Assistance  
Legal Research  
Administration  
Legal Representation

## EMPLOYERS

Local, state, and federal courts  
Government agencies including Depts. Of  
    Social Services  
    Justice  
    Treasury  
    Defense  
Law firms  
Corporate legal departments  
Public interest law organizations  
Self-employed

## STRATEGIES

Develop strong research, computer, and writing skills.  
Consider a double major or minor in the humanities such as English, philosophy, or history as these build good writing skills.  
Attend a postsecondary vocational or technical college that offers a court reporting (CR) or paralegal (CLA) certification programs.  
Join research groups and learn to use software packages for research positions.  
Seek opportunities to observe courtroom proceedings and become familiar with the legal system.  
Participate in mock trial groups.  
Maintain a high GPA and secure strong faculty recommendations for law school admittance.  
Research admissions requirements at individual institutions.  
Obtain a law degree from a law school accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA).

## AREAS

### LAW ENFORCEMENT

Patrolling  
Investigating  
Probation  
Parole  
Security  
Surveillance  
Loss Prevention  
Forensics

## EMPLOYERS

City/County Gov. Organizations including:

Police Departments  
Corrections facilities  
County sheriff departments  
Liquor Control Commission  
Animal Control offices

State Government Organizations including:

State troopers  
Crime laboratories  
Penitentiaries

Federal Government Organizations including:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI)  
Internal Revenue Service (IRS)  
Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)  
Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)  
Department of Homeland Security  
Postal Service  
Federal Marshals  
Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks  
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
National Parks Service  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms,  
Explosives (ATF)  
Armed Services

Prisons

Detention centers

Youth correction facilities

Airports and other transportation facilities

Crime laboratories

Colleges and universities

Banks and retail organizations

## STRATEGIES

Obtain related training or certifications such as CPR, first aid, or EMT. Seek training in firearms and self-defense.

Volunteer to work in a police department or campus safety department.

Complete a formal police academy program upon graduation.

Develop strong interviewing, researching, writing, and computer skills.

Maintain a healthy and physically fit lifestyle.

Learn to work well with people of diverse backgrounds and develop multicultural competency.

Study a "mission critical" language as those are in high demand by the federal government.

Become familiar with the government application process. Seek assistance from your campus career center.

Many federal law enforcement agencies primarily hire candidates with experience, e.g., military, law enforcement, or other areas. Research entry requirements for the agencies that interest you.

For a career in Forensics:

- Obtain a double major in criminal justice and a hard science such as biology, chemistry, or biochemistry.
- Complete an internship in a crime laboratory to gain experience in the forensic application of science.
- Consider earning a master's degree in Forensic Science or related discipline.

## AREAS

### BUSINESS

Private Security  
Consulting  
Installation  
Investigating  
Systems Integration  
Global Intelligence  
Private Investigation  
Internet Security  
Surveillance  
Loss Prevention  
Property Loss Management  
Program Development  
Staffing and Training

## EMPLOYERS

Insurance companies  
Banks  
Private security companies  
Software companies  
Retail organizations  
Hotels and resorts  
Health care facilities  
Transportation services  
Nuclear power plants  
Manufacturers  
Online companies  
Other large corporations  
Local, state, and federal agencies  
Private individuals  
Self-employed

## STRATEGIES

Minor in business or computer science, and/or take related courses in computer science or computer systems.  
Gain experience in an area of interest through internships, jobs, or volunteer positions.  
Seek opportunities that include training in the hardware and software of security systems.  
Develop exceptional written and oral communication skills, along with the ability to present information to others.  
Pursue leadership opportunities in campus organizations to hone interpersonal skills.  
Attend firearm safety courses. Obtain first aid and CPR certification.  
Consider gaining military experience and training. Maintain current knowledge of computer languages and technology.  
Obtain a high GPA to ensure a greater number of graduate school opportunities.  
Earn a graduate degree in business or law for upper-level positions.

## AREAS

### EDUCATION

Teaching  
Research  
Supervision and Consultation

## EMPLOYERS

Colleges and universities

## STRATEGIES

Earn a graduate degree for post-secondary teaching opportunities.  
Serve as a tutor to other students.  
Develop strong written and oral communication skills and the ability to present materials well to others.  
Assist a professor with research.  
Take additional coursework related to research and statistics.  
Maintain a high GPA and secure strong recommendations from faculty.  
Network with others in your field through membership in professional associations and organizations.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

- Most entry-level positions for criminal justice majors reside with law enforcement and social service organizations.
- Depending upon one's career goals, earn a master's degree in disciplines such as criminal justice, forensic science, social work, counselling, or business to obtain positions involving therapy, higher levels of administration, forensics, or research. Earn a doctoral degree for university teaching positions.
- Many criminal justice professions require candidates to possess strong oral and written communication skills, good listening skills, and the ability to work with a wide range of diverse populations. Fluency in a second language is also desirable.
- Obtain experience through volunteer, practicum, or internship opportunities.
- Supplement program of study with courses in business, psychology, anthropology, or sociology. Course work related to the hard sciences (biology, chemistry, or biochemistry) is necessary for career opportunities in forensics.
- Internet security is a rapidly growing area with a wide variety of career opportunities. Supplement course work with computer science and technology courses to gain entry into this field.
- Conduct informational interviews and job shadow with professionals in fields of interest to learn more about opportunities.
- Stay up to date on advancements in your field by reading professional journals and related literature, joining professional organizations, attending conferences, and networking with others.
- Be prepared to complete physical and psychological testing, fitness evaluations, and other evaluative tools for entry into law enforcement and related careers.