

CRIMINOLOGY (BA)

Justice and Security

The Department of Criminal Justice at Plymouth State University aims to serve students interested in a variety of careers spanning law enforcement, investigations, court administration, corrections, juvenile services, loss prevention, as well as graduate or law school. Consistent with the general mission of Plymouth State University, the department seeks to produce well-rounded graduates who are equipped to both continue their education and enter the work force. In addition, the department serves the surrounding community, not only by producing high quality graduates well prepared to enter their field, but also by partnering with local and regional agencies to provide academic and research support.

Students in the BA in criminology degree program are exposed to a well-rounded liberal arts education that is interdisciplinary in nature. Students develop skills in a variety of areas including, but not limited to, problem solving techniques, communication skills, data analysis skills, and foreign language proficiency, along with an appreciation for ethical and professional behavior in the field. Upon completion of the program, students will understand how the criminal justice system fits into our broader society, the functions it serves, how it relates to and interacts with other fields and systems, and how policy is shaped and formed. Students will also have developed an independent sense of self, with a tolerance toward others and the ability to work in diverse cultures.

Degree Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
Major Requirements		
CJ 1020	Criminal Justice in Action	4
CJ/SO 2080	Crime and Criminals	4
CJ 3157	Society, Ethics, and the Law (DICO)	4
CJ 3225	Research Methods in Criminal Justice (WRCO)	4
CJ 3260	Data Analysis for Criminal Justice (QRCO,TECO)	4
CJ/SO 3270	Explaining Crime	4
CJ 4805	Criminal Justice Seminar (WRCO)	4
Major Electives ¹		
Complete two courses from the following:		8
CJ 2025	Police and society	
CJ 2045	Criminal Procedure	
CJ 2075	Corrections	
CJ 2090	Criminal Law	
Complete one course from the following:		3-4
AN 3605	Forensic Anthropology	
CJ 3005	Criminal Investigation	
CJ 3015	Cybercrime	
CJ 3025	Forensic Science	
CJ 3075	Race, Class, Crime and Justice (DICO)	
CJ 3110	Youth and Crime	
CJ 3350	Criminal Justice and Mental Health	
CJ 3405	Homeland Security	
CJ 3515	Women and Crime (DICO,GACO)	
CJ 3600	Restorative Justice Practice with Youth	
CJ 3720	Topics in Criminal Justice	

IS 4360	Cultural Diversity and American Society (DICO,INCO)	
PO 3635	Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties	
SO 3085	Juvenile Delinquency	
SO 3185	Sociology of Deviance (DICO)	
SO 3375	Sociology of Race and Ethnicity (DICO)	
SO 3385		
General Education (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/)		
EN 1400	Composition	4
IS 1115	Tackling a Wicked Problem	4
MA (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#MATH)	Mathematics Foundations	3-4
CTDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#CTDI)	Creative Thought Direction	3-4
PPDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#PPDI)	Past and Present Direction	3-4
SIDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SIDI)	Scientific Inquiry Direction	3-4
SSDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SSDI)	Self and Society Direction	3-4
Directions (choose from CTDI, PPDI, SIDI, SSDI) (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/) ²		4-8
WECO (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#WECO)	Wellness Connection	3-4
GACO (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#GACO)	Foreign Language ³	6-8
INCP (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#INCP)	Integrated Capstone 3-4	0-4
Electives		38-41
Total Credits		120

¹ Several of the Major Electives have prerequisites; see their course description for details.

² Directions should total 20 credits (unless the major has a waiver for a specific Direction).

³ The foreign language requirement for all BA degrees calls for 0-8 credits: one year of one language (6-8 credits); or one 3000/4000 level world language course (3 credits); or being a native speaker of a language other than English (zero credit). American Sign Language I and II fulfill this requirement; however, American Sign Language does not satisfy the Global Awareness Connection.

Complementary Courses

Students in Criminology are encouraged to consider a minor in another department that would interface with the field of Criminology. Free electives could be used to fulfill the requirements for minors such as: Anthropology/Sociology, Business Administration, Child Welfare and Family Studies, Computing, French, Information Technology, Media Studies, Peace and Social Justice Studies, Political Science, Pre-Law, Professional Communication, Psychology, Spanish or Women's Studies.

Recommended Course Sequence

Check all course descriptions for prerequisites before planning course schedule. Course sequence is suggested but not required.

To complete the bachelor's degree in 4 years, you must successfully complete a minimum of 15 credits each semester or have a plan to make up credits over the course of the 4 years. For example, if you take 14 credits one semester, you need to take 16 credits in another semester. Credits completed must count toward your program requirements (major, option, minor, certificate, general education or free electives).

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
EN 1400	Composition	4
IS 1115	Tackling a Wicked Problem	4
MA (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#MATH)	Mathematics Foundation	3-4
CJ 1020	Criminal Justice in Action	4
CJ 2080	Crime and Criminals	4
CTDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#CTDI)	Creative Thought Direction	3-4
PPDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#PPDI)	Past and Present Direction	3-4
Elective		1-4
Credits		26-32
Year Two		
Complete two Major Electives from the following:		8
CJ 2025	Police and society	
CJ 2045	Criminal Procedure	
CJ 2075	Corrections	
CJ 2090	Criminal Law	
SIDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SIDI)	Scientific Inquiry Direction	3-4

SSDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SSDI)	Self and Society Direction	3-4
Directions (choose from CTDI, PPDI, SIDI, SSDI) (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/) ¹		4-8
GACO (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#GACO)	Foreign Language	6-8
Electives		4-6
Credits		28-38
Year Three		
CJ 3157	Society, Ethics, and the Law (DICO)	4
CJ 3225	Research Methods in Criminal Justice (WRCO)	4
CJ 3260	Data Analysis for Criminal Justice (QRCO,TECO)	4
INCP (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#INCP)	Integrated Capstone 3-4	0-4
Electives		18
Credits		30-34
Year Four		
CJ 3270	Explaining Crime	4
CJ 4805	Criminal Justice Seminar (WRCO)	4
Complete one Major Elective from the following:		3-4
AN 3605	Forensic Anthropology	
CJ 3005	Criminal Investigation	
CJ 3015	Cybercrime	
CJ 3025	Forensic Science	
CJ 3075	Race, Class, Crime and Justice (DICO)	
CJ 3405	Homeland Security	
CJ 3515	Women and Crime (DICO,GACO)	
CJ 3600	Restorative Justice Practice with Youth	
CJ 3720	Topics in Criminal Justice	
IS 4360	Cultural Diversity and American Society (DICO,INCO)	
PO 3635	Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties	
SO 3085	Juvenile Delinquency	
SO 3185	Sociology of Deviance (DICO)	
SO 3375	Sociology of Race and Ethnicity (DICO)	
WECO (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#WECO)	Wellness Connection	3-4
Electives		13-15
Credits		27-31
Total Credits		120

¹ Directions should total 20 credits (unless the major has a waiver for a specific Direction).

Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate an understanding of criminal justice processes, terminology, and history,
- Articulate an understanding of the link between criminological theory, research methodology, and criminal justice policy,
- Analyze and evaluate moral and ethical perspectives as related to the field of criminal justice,
- Demonstrate technical competencies, and verbal and written communication skills,
- Describe and evaluate the principles of scientific methodology to become informed consumers of criminal justice research, and
- Identify and appraise the presence of biases and prejudices and the role of diversity (racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, gender, socioeconomic, age, disabilities) in the application of justice

Career Pathways

- Attorney
- Case Worker/Manager
- Child Protective Service Worker
- Clerk of Courts
- Court Diversion Program Case Manager/Coordinator
- Correctional Officer
- Correctional Treatment Specialist
- Criminal Investigator
- DEA Agent
- Domestic Violence Counselor
- Drug Abuse Counselor
- FBI Agent
- Homeland Security Officer
- Law Clerk
- Legal Assistant
- Paralegal
- Parole Officer
- Postal Inspector
- Prison Warden
- Private Investigator
- Probation Officer
- Restorative Justice Counselor
- Victim/Witness Advocate
- Youth Service Worker/Coordinator