Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice

The Bachelor of Science degree program in Criminal Justice helps provide its graduates with the communications and analytical skills critical to succeed in criminal justice and related careers. Through an interdisciplinary approach to the problems of crime and society, the program also equips students to pursue graduate study in Criminal Justice or related disciplines, and educates students to become effective problem-solvers as professionals in the field of criminal justice.

Contact

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Program Website:
https://harrisburg.psu.edu/public-affairs/criminal-justice/bachelor-science-criminal-justice
Curriculum
The study of criminal justice is approached as an applied interdisciplinary science, teaching students both the theoretical and the practical aspects of crime control and the administration of justice. The Criminal Justice curriculum provides students with the opportunity and assistance to acquire knowledge of the roles of policing, courts, laws, and corrections as they relate to both the adult and juvenile justice system. Students also gain knowledge of the history, concepts, and critical issues related to the role of gender and race/ethnicity in the criminal justice system, victimology, and ethics in criminal justice. The curriculum further provides a theoretical foundation of the discipline, combined with a thorough understanding of the scientific method as it applies to criminal justice. This combination is expected to sharpen the student's talents of reasoning and judgment; qualities imperative to rational functioning in criminal justice and related professions.

Visit for complete details.

Courses
For a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice, a minimum of 120 credits is required.

In addition to General Education requirements (45 credits), this major requires the following:

**ELECTIVES:** 13-17 credits

**REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR:** 62 credits
(This includes 0-4 credits of General Education courses: 0-4 credits of GQ courses.)

**PRESCRIBED COURSES** *(25 credits)*
CRIMJ 012 GS(1), CRIMJ 100 GS(3), CRIMJ 210(3), CRIMJ 220(3), CRIMJ 230(3), CRIMJ 250W(3), CRIMJ 450W(4), CRIMJ 465(3) (Sem: 5-8)

(At least 9 credits in Additional Courses and/or Supporting Courses must be at the 400 level.)

**ADDITIONAL COURSES** *(16 credits)*
Select 4 credits from CRIMJ 260(3)/PUBPL 320(4) or STAT 200 QG(4) (Sem: 5-8)
Select 6 credits from the following: CRIMJ 201(3), CRIMJ 220(3), CRIMJ 211(3), CRIMJ 234(3), CRIMJ 241(3) (Sem: 5-8)

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**SUPPORTING COURSES AND RELATED AREAS** *(21 credits)*
Select 6 credits: 3 credits at the 200 level and 3 credits at the 300 and 400 level or 6 credits at the 300 and 400 level from the following: AFRAS, BE SC, PL SC, PUBPL, PSYCH, SOC (Sem: 5-8)
Select 15 credits in consultation with an academic adviser and in support of the student's interests. For information about specific courses in this area, contact the School of Public Affairs. (Sem: 5-8)

* A student enrolled in this major must receive a grade of C or better, as specified in Senate Policy 82-44.

Undergraduate Admissions Requirements
Minimum high school course requirements for admission to baccalaureate (four-year) degree programs are listed below. Keep in mind that specific programs may have additional requirements or recommendations.

**English**
Four units, including one unit each in composition and literature, are required.

**Social Studies/Art/Humanities**
Three units in any combination of social studies, arts, and humanities are required.

**World Language**
Two units in a single world language other than English are required. However, a student may be admitted with fewer than two units in a world language other than English, but must correct this deficiency by the time s/he earns 60 credits or graduates from Penn State, whichever comes first. This deficiency may be corrected by passing one three- or four-credit college level world language course or by demonstrating proficiency equivalent to two units of high school world language study.

Either a third unit in the same language or an additional unit in a second world language other than English is recommended.

**Science**
Three units of science are required
Preparation in chemistry and physics is recommended but not required for our Science and Engineering/Engineering Technology programs

**Math**
Three units of mathematics are required (four are recommended), selected from any combination of algebra, geometry, and trigonometry
Some programs have additional mathematics requirements. Our Business, Engineering/Engineering Technology, and Science programs require one-half unit of trigonometry or higher level math within the required three units

Penn State requires proof of graduation or a GED for admission to four-year degree programs.

*In most high school curricula, one unit = one year.

Visit Undergraduate Admissions: Admissions Requirements for more information [http://go.psu.edu/eVGAMB](http://go.psu.edu/eVGAMB)