

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE, B.A.

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**Degrees offered:** Bachelor of Arts, Graduate Concentration within the Master of Public Administration degree, Undergraduate Minor

Criminal justice is an interdisciplinary field that studies crime and the ways society responds to crime. The criminal justice curriculum examines the nature and causes of crime, the purposes and activities of the criminal justice system, and the impact of crime on victims and society. Since crime is a social problem, many courses include the study of community-based programs and social service agencies as well as the components of the criminal justice system. The criminal justice department, located within the College of Public Affairs and Administration, emphasizes the study of public policy and reform efforts as an essential part of its curriculum. Students have the opportunity to participate in public affairs research projects conducted by department faculty.

The criminal justice degree program is designed

for students interested in the general study of crime and the administration of justice and those pursuing professional careers in criminal justice or related fields. The degree also prepares students for entrance into graduate or professional schools in criminal justice, law, public administration, social work, and the social sciences. Graduate study in criminal justice is available at UIS through the public administration department, which offers a concentration in criminal justice.

The criminal justice major provides an integrated program of study that emphasizes problem-solving and analytical skills, an approach favored by many criminal justice agencies and employers. The curriculum reflects the multidisciplinary character of the field, drawing on a variety of liberal arts and professional areas of expertise. Faculty associated with the department have degrees in fields such as criminal justice, criminology, law, political science, psychology, and sociology. Student majors take a core curriculum that familiarizes them with a range of perspectives,

methods, and content areas of the criminal justice field. They may use their electives to take additional courses or to minor in another field. Majors also have the opportunity to study abroad.

All majors participate in experiential learning through the UIS applied study term program. Students have the opportunity to work with state agencies and training centers as well as local criminal justice and social service agencies. Students with extensive career experience may meet this requirement through the credit for prior learning program or may petition to substitute public affairs colloquia and liberal studies colloquia in the UIS requirement.

**Contact:** Information about the criminal justice department is available at (217) 206-6301. Information can also be requested at [crj@uis.edu](mailto:crj@uis.edu). Students interested in the criminal justice degree in the Peoria area can contact the UIS office at Illinois Central College by calling (309) 694-5546 for advising or information.

## THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE

### ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Students who have been admitted to UIS and who have a grade-point average of 2.50 on a 4.00 scale qualify for admission to the criminal justice program. Students admitted to UIS with a GPA below 2.50 may be granted conditional admission to the major, which permits enrollment in up to 12 semester hours of adviser-approved courses during the first semester. The final decision on admission to the major for conditionally admitted students is made after completion of 8 to 12 hours at UIS.

### UPPER-DIVISION DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

#### Core Courses

CRJ 309 Administration of Justice	4 Hrs.
CRJ 311 Law and Legal Processes	4 Hrs.
Core course in policing or corrections (either CRJ 312 Policing in America or CRJ 313 Correctional Systems)	4 Hrs.
CRJ 345 Research Methods in Criminal Justice	4 Hrs.
CRJ 421 Criminological Theory	4 Hrs.

CRJ 489 Senior Seminar	4 Hrs.
<b>CRJ electives</b>	<u>16 Hrs.</u>
Total CRJ hours	40 Hrs.

#### General electives

#### UIS Requirements (See page 41.

Must include 8 hours of AST)	<u>12 Hrs.</u>
Total	60 Hrs.

### GRADING POLICY

Criminal justice majors must receive a grade of C or better in all required core courses.

### TRANSFER COURSES

Upper-division courses are evaluated for transfer on a case-by-case basis. The department will accept up to eight hours of lower-division criminal justice courses with grades of B or better in partial satisfaction of the CRJ electives requirement. Acceptance of these credits allows students to substitute general electives for CRJ electives, but does not reduce the total number of required upper-division hours.

### COMPUTER COMPETENCE

Students must demonstrate competence in the use of

computers for word processing, database, and spreadsheet applications by taking an approved lower-division course or CSC 318 Computer Literacy at UIS or by successfully completing the department's competency-based exam process.

### COMMUNICATION SKILLS

To satisfy the UIS communication skills requirement, students prepare a portfolio of written work from 300-level core courses with final assessment occurring in the senior seminar.

## THE MINOR IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CRJ 309 Administration of Justice	4 Hrs.
One of the following CRJ core courses:	
CRJ 311 Law and Legal Processes	
CRJ 312 Policing in America	
CRJ 313 Correctional Systems	4 Hrs.
Two criminal justice elective courses	<u>8 Hrs.</u>
Total	16 Hrs.

Up to four hours of upper-division CRJ electives may be accepted as transfer credit through the student petition process.

## GRADUATE STUDIES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

UIS offers a concentration in criminal justice as part of the M.P.A. degree offered by the public administration department. This is a 48-hour degree program and includes 16 hours of specialized criminal justice graduate courses. Applications for this degree program should be submitted to the public administration (PAD) department.

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### CORE COURSES

#### **CRJ 309 Administration of Justice (4 Hrs.)**

Underlying principles and processes of the criminal justice system, with emphasis on the interdependence of law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and corrections. Relationship between criminal justice agencies and social groups and communities. Offered fall semester (day and evening), spring semester (day).

#### **CRJ 311 Law and Legal Processes (4 Hrs.)**

Legal issues and policies in criminal justice, including court authority and operation, criminal law and procedure, and legal rights and responsibilities of criminal justice personnel. Constitutional limits on law and police powers in the U.S. Offered fall semester (day), spring semester (evening).

#### **CRJ 312 Policing in America (4 Hrs.)**

Critical analysis of the role and function of American law enforcement. Consideration of the police role in a democratic society, historical development and heritage of policing, organizational models and methods of service delivery, theories of patrol and investigation, occupational socialization of police, and ethical dilemmas for police. Offered fall semester (alternates day and evening).

#### **CRJ 313 Correctional Systems (4 Hrs.)**

Foundations and development of adult and juvenile correctional systems. Organization and operation of jails, prisons, and community-based programs. Corrections issues include pre-trial diversion, social control, alternatives to incarceration, post-release issues, and the study of inmate and correctional officer cultures. Offered spring semester (alternates day and evening).

#### **CRJ 345 Research Methods in Criminal Justice (4 Hrs.)**

Problem definition, proposal writing, study design, information gathering, and data interpretation. Attention given to research design, sampling techniques, interviewing, questionnaire or survey instrumentation, and observation-participation techniques. Prerequisite: CRJ 309, and permission of instructor. Offered fall semester (evening), spring semester (day and evening).

#### **CRJ 421 Criminological Theory (4 Hrs.)**

Classical and modern theories of crime; social and economic factors in criminal behavior, crime formation, and social control; exploration of the justice system; evalua-

tion of treatment of offenders. All elements of criminology viewed critically. Prerequisite: CRJ 345, submission of communication skills portfolio, and permission of instructor. See SOA 421. Offered fall semester (day), spring semester (evening).

#### **CRJ 489 Senior Seminar (4 Hrs.)**

Capstone seminar for CRJ majors in their final semester. Builds on each student's knowledge of criminal justice policy, theory, and practice. Students prepare a major research paper dealing with criminal justice public policy and make a formal presentation. Seminar provides the basis for exit assessment of writing, research, and communication skills in the major. Prerequisites: CRJ 345, CRJ 421, and permission of instructor. Offered fall semester (evening), spring semester (day).

### ELECTIVES

#### **CRJ 201 Criminal Justice in America (3 Hrs.)**

Uses case studies to analyze issues related to the administration of justice. Topics include uses of police authority, court procedures, defining crimes and setting penalties, sentencing and punishment practices, and current reform proposals. Prerequisite: Capital Scholar status, or permission of instructor. Offered spring semester.

#### **CRJ 321 Juvenile Delinquency (4 Hrs.)**

Theoretical explanations of juvenile delinquency with critical view of their value in the field, followed by practical and analytical view of juvenile justice systems in operation. See SOA 321.



**CRJ 324 Issues of Intervention: Law Enforcement and Human Services (4 Hrs.)**

Responsibilities of community members and criminal justice professionals, including those in helping agencies, in dealing with persons under stress; intervention situations involving marriage and family problems, alcoholism, and suicide; child neglect and abuse; truancy; and advocacy.

**CRJ 409 Criminal Justice Policies (4 Hrs.)**

Contemporary public policy issues in criminal justice. Examines how problems are defined, the development of alternative approaches, and ways in which policies are shaped during adoption and implementation. Identifies and analyzes both intended and unintended consequences. Specific policies to be considered vary from year to year.

**CRJ 417 Criminal Procedure (4 Hrs.)**

Examines the rights of criminal defendants as set out in the U.S. Constitution and interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court. Studies procedures governing state and federal criminal justice systems and related public policies using court opinions, statutes, and case studies. See LES 477.

**CRJ 418 Substantive Criminal Law (4 Hrs.)**

Examines the elements of selected crimes, using both state and federal court cases and statutes. Topics include criminal responsibility, criminal liability, and criminal defenses. Particular attention paid to the Illinois criminal code. See LES 478.

**CRJ 419 Judicial Process (4 Hrs.)**

Social science literature on judicial process in the United

States. Major topics include legal culture, court structure, litigation, legal profession, trial and appellate courts, impact and compliance, and criticisms of the process. See LES 411 and POS 417.

**CRJ 422 Violence Against Women and Children (4 Hrs.)**

Explores the two most common crimes against women and children: sexual assault and abuse and domestic violence. Examines nature and frequency of these assaults, legal definitions and treatment, victim and survivor experiences, criminal justice and social service responses, offender characteristics, victim services and treatment, and local community resources. See SWK 461 and WMS 422.

**CRJ 423 Study of Being Different: “Deviant Behavior” (4 Hrs.)**

In-depth look at issues in sociology of deviance and social control, including topics such as lifestyles, extremism, lawbreakers, and social capacity to handle deviance. See SOA 423.

**CRJ 424 Juvenile Detention (4 Hrs.)**

Examines the history, philosophy, and current conditions in juvenile detention. Opportunity to develop treatment and programming skills through field experience and clinical observation at local institutions. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor.

**CRJ 428 Juvenile Law (4 Hrs.)**

Laws and legal practices governing children and youth, particularly wards of the courts and juvenile offenders.

Rights of children, youth services available, and institutional practices and laws governing juveniles. See LES 448.

**CRJ 431 Correctional Policies and Practices (4 Hrs.)**

Examines contemporary correctional environment, including new policies and emerging trends in corrections. Analyzes the impact of recent sentencing practices, changes in corrections population, enhanced probation and parole responsibilities, emerging community-based programs, and leadership and ethics in corrections. Prerequisite: CRJ 313, or permission of instructor.

**CRJ 432 Alternatives to Incarceration (4 Hrs.)**

Theory and practice of sentencing alternatives. Studies the range of existing programs and considers ways to expand community-based alternatives to detention centers and prisons. Impact of restorative justice as an alternative framework is considered.

**CRJ 436 Justice and Juveniles (4 Hrs.)**

Children in families and in community institutions and their interaction with the juvenile justice system. Includes the range of programs and institutions concerned with child abuse and neglect, minors receiving formal intervention or supervision, and criminal offenses committed by juveniles. Prerequisite: CRJ 321 or permission of instructor.

**CRJ 441 Electronic Resources and Research in Criminal Justice (4 Hrs.)**

Exploration of the range of criminal justice resources

and information available through the Internet, the World Wide Web, and related electronic tools. Course includes use of resources to research a specific topic.

**CRJ 442 Management Issues in Law Enforcement (4 Hrs.)**

Contemporary approaches to law enforcement management and administration. Management issues include changing views of police responsibilities, proactive policing, profiling and other targeting practices, diversity within police agencies, and leadership and ethics in law enforcement. Prerequisite: CRJ 312, or permission of instructor.

**CRJ 443 Women and Criminal Justice (4 Hrs.)**

Examines women as perpetrators and victims of crime and as criminal justice professionals. Evaluates factors that contribute to women becoming involved with the criminal justice system in each of these capacities and assesses the degree to which the criminal justice system provides women with equitable treatment. See WMS 443.

**CRJ 445 Organizational Crime (4 Hrs.)**

Focuses on organized crime and on the larger category of this behavior, organizational or white collar crime. Compares the two activities, their impact on society, and the criminal justice system response. Explores definitions, characteristics, and theories of each.

**CRJ 447 Investigative Concepts and Analysis (4 Hrs.)**

Organizational and logical components of investigation

as they relate to decision making and policy development in specific situations. Definition and analysis of fact-finding problems in both criminal and civil settings.

**CRJ 453 Psychology of the Offender (4 Hrs.)**

Psychological makeup and selected characteristics of various types of criminal offenders. Psychological patterns in criminal behavior, including risk assessment and impulse control. Considers how and why psychological rehabilitation or change may occur.

**CRJ 456 Counseling and Communication Skills (4 Hrs.)**

Communication skills, including interviewing, crisis intervention, and basic counseling approaches. Counseling as a model helping relationship and its potential for criminal justice personnel. Includes techniques, theoretical counseling concepts and strategies, basic interviewing skills, the role of the helper, and components of personal change.

**CRJ 457 Counseling Criminal Justice Clients (4 Hrs.)**

Applies counseling techniques and strategies to problems encountered by those working within the criminal justice system. Course topics include counseling the reluctant or resisting client, working within criminal justice constraints, and safety and security issues. Prerequisite: CRJ 456, or permission of instructor.

**CRJ 461 International Criminal Justice Systems (4 Hrs.)**

Justice systems throughout the world. Comparative compo-

nents include criminal codes, legal systems, policing and prosecution, and punishment principles and institutions.

**CRJ 465 Substance Abuse: Criminal Justice Issues (4 Hrs.)**

Criminal justice perspective on substance abuse issues. Examines changing patterns of criminalization and tolerance over time, enforcement and sentencing patterns for drug-related crimes, controlling drug use within the criminal justice system, and rehabilitation and treatment programs for drug users. Explores alternative approaches to identified problems.

**CRJ 467 Images of Crime and Justice (4 Hrs.)**


Examines images of crime and criminal justice as presented in a variety of media sources. Analyzes ways in which images create and support myths about criminal justice, support symbolic crime waves, and influence public policy options and decisions.

**CRJ 470 Special Topics (2 or 4 Hrs.)**

Selected topics of special interest to the criminal justice field. Specific topic is reflected in course title, with description available in the course schedule and from the department office. May be repeated, but topics must vary.

**CRJ 490 Criminal Justice Problems and Research (2 or 4 Hrs.)**

Structured group study of special topics not offered in the regular curriculum. Small groups of students may



arrange for special courses on otherwise unavailable topics. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor.

**CRJ 499 Tutorial (1 to 4 Hrs.)**

Independent study on selected topic by agreement with a criminal justice faculty member. Topics, method of study, and means of evaluation are determined between student and supervising faculty member. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor.

**GRADUATE COURSES**

**CRJ 523 Criminal Justice Policy Process (4 Hrs.)**

Presents the policy process as it operates within the criminal justice arena. Examines the ways in which criminal justice policy issues are formulated, legitimated, implemented, and evaluated. Emphasizes policy formulation and the relationships between implementation and evaluation.

**CRJ 531 Drug Abuse in America: A Critical Perspective (4 Hrs.)**

Examines the phenomena of drug abuse from a sociological perspective. Explores cultural, political, and econom-

ic dynamics intertwined with drug abuse including the massive war on drugs and its consequences. See HMS 531.

**CRJ 541 Law Enforcement Administration (4 Hrs.)**

Examines major aspects of law enforcement administration and management, including the community policing approach. Focuses primarily on local law enforcement. Special attention given to the application of organizational theory and the relationship between formal and informal organizational structure.

**CRJ 551 Correctional Policy and Administration (4 Hrs.)**

Examines major forces shaping post-adjudication sentencing practices for both community and institutional corrections. Studies operational considerations within both legal and policy frameworks. Uses case studies to examine administrative dimensions of underlying correctional philosophies and approaches.

**CRJ 565 Race, Class, and Social Justice (4 Hrs.)**

Considers the relationship between race and ethnicity, class and the American criminal justice system, and the

intersection of race/ethnic and class relations in America. Explores the experiences of marginalized ethnic minorities and working class and poor people in the criminal justice system.

**CRJ 572 Law and Criminal Justice (4 Hrs.)**

Selected topics of special interest in the area of law, criminal justice, and public policy. Focuses on legal issues related to criminal justice policy, such as the development and implementation of the death penalty or the transformation of the juvenile justice system.

**CRJ 590 Criminal Justice Seminar (4 Hrs.)**

Examines selected topics of special interest within the criminal justice field. Specific topics vary each semester. Course may be repeated for up to 8 hours, but seminar topic must differ. Seminar design varies with instructor, but always includes a graduate-level research project or paper. Prerequisite: Graduate status, permission of instructor.

**CRJ 599 Tutorial (1 to 4 Hrs.)**

Independent study on selected topic by agreement with a criminal justice faculty member. Prerequisite: Graduate status, permission of instructor.