

Criminology & Criminal Justice Studies

Criminology is the sociology-based study of crime and the criminal justice system. The criminology and criminal justice studies major exposes students to the dimensions of the crime problem, explanations of the prevalence of various types of crime, and the various agencies and programs designed to prevent and control crime and delinquency. These agencies and programs include the police, courts, probation and parole systems, and correctional institutions. Attention also is given to such issues as youth and crime, women and crime, and the place of control agencies in the larger societal context. As a social science/liberal arts field, criminology provides majors with a variety of techniques for examining and responding to important questions about the causes and consequences of crime and the workings of the criminal justice system.

Pursuing Criminology & Criminal Justice Studies at Ohio State

All Ohio State freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus. The primary criteria for admission are the completion of the applicant's high school college preparatory program, performance in that program as indicated by class rank and/or grade-point average, and performance on either the ACT or SAT. Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies within the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

For students interested in majoring in Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies, the first step is to see a counselor in Arts and Sciences Advising in Denney Hall. A counselor will work with the student to set up a program of study to complete the General Education Curriculum (GEC) requirements. The student should then see the Undergraduate Advisor in the Department of Sociology (141 Townshend Hall) to plan course work for the major. (Sociology is the home department for criminology majors.)

Criminology & Criminal Justice Studies Requirements Core Requirements

As a prerequisite to declaring a major in Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies, all students should complete Sociology 101, Introductory Sociology. This five-hour course may be taken concurrently with other lower-level criminology (and sociology) courses. Criminology majors must complete the following 20 hours of core requirements: Sociology 410, Criminology; Sociology 487, Types of Sociological Inquiry; Sociology 488, Introduction to Sociological Theory; and

Sociology 549, Quantitative Research Methods in Sociology.

Criminology majors must complete a minimum of 30 additional credit hours of course work in criminology/sociology, including a minimum of 15 hours of 500- or 600- level criminology courses. Students should consult with the sociology/criminology undergraduate advisor to develop a plan of study that is appropriate for meeting their academic and career interests and goals.

Elective

In an effort to best prepare our students for life after college, we require our majors to complete either a research or internship experience. Students will enroll in either Sociology 489, Internship Program; Sociology 699, Undergraduate Research; or Sociology H783.xx, Senior Honor Thesis.

World Renown Faculty

The Sociology faculty is nationally and internationally recognized for their contributions to research, scholarship, and teaching. Students have the opportunity to study with some of the leading scholars in the world in their respective fields. The contacts and references provided by these faculty members can be invaluable when applying to graduate school or for landing a great job after graduation.

Co-Curricular Opportunities

The Department of Sociology has a strong internship program for its undergraduate majors in criminology. Students may augment their course work with career-related internship and volunteer experiences. Students may participate in community-based experiences at settings such as the Columbus City Prosecutor's Office, Columbus Division of Police, and the Office of the Inspector General. Students can receive credit for their internship experience. Additional information can be found at www.sociology.osu.edu/ug.

The Organization of Minority Students in Criminology and Sociology (OMSICS) is a student-led organization which is open to all students and has the specific mission of establishing academic, professional and social networks for minority students in the Department of Sociology. OMSICS hosts speakers, educational programs, social events, and service opportunities. This club works in conjunction with the Department of Sociology's diversity initiatives.

For more information, check these web sites:

Sociology: sociology.osu.edu/ug

College of SBS: sbs.osu.edu

Ohio State: www.osu.edu

Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu

Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu

First Year Experience Program: fye.osu.edu

Curriculum Sample*

This is a sample list of classes a student may take to pursue a degree in Criminology & Criminal Justice Studies. Since university students need more than specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete the General Education Curriculum (GEC). The GEC will allow students to develop the fundamental skills essential to collegiate success across major programs. Course work options satisfying the GEC often come from a variety of academic areas of study allowing students to tailor their GEC toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in criminology. Consult the departmental web site, sociology.osu.edu/ug, for details.

Freshman Year:

Introduction to Criminal Justice (major)	5
Introduction to Sociology (GEC)	5
First-Year English Composition (GEC)	5
Arabic 101 -103 (GEC)	15
SBS Survey (GEC)	1
College Algebra (GEC)	5
Introductory Biology (GEC)	5
Introduction to Intelligence (elective)	5
Freshman Seminar (elective)	1
Total hours	47

Sophomore Year:

Criminology (major)	5
Sociology of Gangs (major)	5
Arabic 104 (GEC)	5
Issues in Arab-American Society (GEC)	5
Introduction to Environmental Science (GEC)	5
Politics: Global Problems (GEC)	5
Natural Hazards (GEC)	5
Arabic Grammar (minor)	10
Total hours	50

Junior Year:

Internship: U.S. Marshals (major)	5
Types of Sociological Inquiry (major)	5
Sociological Theory (major)	5
Quantitative Methods in Sociology (major)	5
World History (GEC)	5
History of War (GEC)	5
Arabic Literature (GEC)	5
Introduction to Comparative Religion (GEC)	5
Modern Arabic (minor)	5
Total hours	50

Senior Year:

Penology (major)	5
Deviance (major)	5
Sociology of Terrorism (major)	5
Control and Prevention of Crime (major)	5
History of Rock & Roll (GEC)	5
Cultural Conflict (GEC)	5
Culture/Contemp. Arab World (GEC/minor)	5
International Security & Causes of War (elective)	5
Weapons of Mass Destruction (elective)	5
Total hours	45

*This sample represents a student interested in a Federal Law Enforcement/Investigations career path, with a minor in Arabic. Knowledge of Arabic language and cultures and International Security along with internship experiences compliment major to make the student an competitive in the workforce after graduation.

Honors & Scholars Programs

Honors students who pursue a major in Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies have the opportunity to enroll in Honors-specific courses, conduct research with faculty, attend departmental forums, and engage in intellectual discussions as a member of our Honors Community. The following courses all have honors sections offered at least once/year:

- Sociology 101: Introduction to Sociology
- Sociology H345: Contemporary American Society
- Sociology H367.03: Work and Family in the United States
- Sociology H410: Criminology
- Sociology H463: Social Stratification: Race, Class & Gender
- Sociology H487: Types of Sociological Inquiry
- Sociology H549: Quantitative Research Methods in Sociology

Honors students are exposed to research in several ways. Most courses at the 500 level and above require students to read and critique research articles. Relationships developed in class lead many students to become involved in faculty-led research projects or conduct their own independent research (Senior Honors Thesis) under the supervision of a faculty advisor.

Career Prospects in Criminology & Criminal Justice Studies

An undergraduate major in Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies provides an excellent liberal arts foundation, and graduates are able to apply their skills and knowledge across a wide variety of occupations and professions and for graduate or professional education. Some graduates enter directly into the labor force in law enforcement, delinquency prevention and control services, crime prevention, corrections, probation or parole, criminal justice administration, and research. Like other social science majors, undergraduate criminology majors also are employed in non-crime related sectors: health and social services (e.g., in substance abuse and rehabilitation counseling); community work (e.g., in child welfare agencies); and federal, state, and local government (e.g., in urban planning and housing).

The criminology major provides a foundation for post-baccalaureate work in law, public policy, social work, business, theology, and urban planning. Many students also will use the undergraduate major as preparation for graduate work in criminology or in a related field, such as sociology. Graduate degrees lead to teaching and/or research positions in universities or colleges, governmental agencies, business and industrial firms, research institutes in the nonprofit sector, or self-employment and consulting.

Revised September 2008. For the most up-to-date information on the Criminology & Criminal Justice Studies program, please visit sociology.osu.edu/ug.

Contact information:

Undergraduate Student Services | Department of Sociology
141 Townshed Hall | 1885 Neil Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43210 | (614) 292-1175