

Crime and Legal Studies: Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)

Degree Type

Bachelor of Arts

The crime and legal studies major offers students a unique, critically oriented, interdisciplinary program that has two complementary missions. First, this program provides a broad academic background for students to have maximum flexibility during their academic tenure and after they graduate, regardless of whether they intend to pursue a career in law enforcement, helping professions in the criminal justice system or attend law school or graduate school. Second, the program places an emphasis on the interrelation of ethics, social justice, race/ethnicity, socio-economic class and other cultural factors with the various components of the system including law enforcement, juvenile justice, court services and corrections. Ultimately, through a liberal arts and career-focused curriculum, students will have practical opportunities to prepare for a variety of careers in the field of criminal justice.

Learning Outcomes

Students in the Crime and Legal Studies major will:

- Review the history of the American criminal justice system.
- Describe comparative criminal justice systems.
- Identify and apply legal concepts and terminology in substantive area of criminal law.
- Review procedural and evidentiary rules and to understand the relationship between procedural rules and substantive law.
- Identify and interpret constitutional constraints on law enforcement.
- Identify and assess the procedures in the major areas of the criminal justice system, including policing, courts, corrections and juvenile justice system.
- Critically analyze scholarly research, government crime statistics and public policy.
- Evaluate qualitative and quantitative data for its accuracy and its impact on public policy.
- Identify problems facing criminal justice organizations through the integration of criminological and social theory with research and evidence-based analysis to assess how data and other types of information can be translated into effective and ethical policies and programs.
- Propose possible solutions to the contemporary problems facing criminal justice organizations.
- Engage in critical and creative thinking using evidence-based analysis to address problems.
- Identify vulnerable populations, such as racial and ethnic minorities, juveniles and gender and sexual minorities, in the criminal systems and identify the roles criminal and legal personnel can play to assist these people in the legal system.

Crime and Legal Studies B.A. Progress to Completion Requirements:

Item #	Title	Credits
CLS 100	Introduction to Crime and Legal Studies	4.0
CLS 200	Juvenile Justice	4.0
CLS 300	Criminology	4.0
CLS 320	Social Stratification and Crime	4.0
CLS 330	Criminal Law	4.0
CLS 485	Internship	4.0-12
	PHI 210 or PHI 213 or PHI 305	4
PSY 101	Introduction to Psychology	4.0
	PSY 245 or SHS 217	4
SHS 101	Introduction to Sociology	4.0
SHS 333	Research Methods in the Social Sciences	4.0
SHS 486	Capstone for the Social Sciences	4.0
	One CLS elective from	4

Suggested Registration Sequence

First Year - Fall

Item #	Title	Credits
WRT 101	Introduction to Academic Writing	4.0
CLS 100	Introduction to Crime and Legal Studies	4.0
FYE 101	First Year Experience	4.0
SHS 101	Introduction to Sociology	4.0

First Year - Spring

Item #	Title	Credits
PSY 101	Introduction to Psychology	4.0
	MAT - Quantitative Literacy Proficiency	4
	PSY 245 or PHI 210 or PHI 213	4
CLS 200	Juvenile Justice	4.0

Sophomore Year - Fall

Item #	Title	Credits
	Lib Ed - Liberal Education Core Course	4
	SHS 217 or CLS Elective	4
	Lib Ed - Liberal Education Core Course	4
	Lib Ed - Liberal Education Core Course	4

Sophomore Year - Spring

Item #	Title	Credits
	Lib Ed - Liberal Education Core Course	4
	PSY 245 or PHI 210 or PHI 213	4
	Lib Ed - Liberal Education Core Course	4
	CLS Elective Course or Liberal Education Core Course	4

Junior Year - Fall

Item #	Title	Credits
	CLS 300 or CLS 330	
	IE - Integrative Experience Course	4
	SHS 217 or CLS Elective	
	Free Elective Course or CLS Internship Course	

Junior Year - Spring

Item #	Title	Credits
SHS 333	Research Methods in the Social Sciences	4.0
	CLS 320 or Free Elective Course	
	Free Elective Course or CLS Internship Course	
	Free Elective Course	4
	Free Elective Course or IE Course	

Senior Year - Fall

Item #	Title	Credits
	CLS 300 or CLS 330	
CLS 485	Internship	4.0-12
	Free Elective Course or CLS Internship Course	
SHS 486	Capstone for the Social Sciences	4.0

Senior Year - Spring

Item #	Title	Credits
	CLS 320 or Free Elective Course	
	Free Elective Course	4
	Free Elective Course or CLS Internship Course	