Criminal Justice

The Criminal Justice Program leads to a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice and supports the Bachelor of Applied Science Degree with several specialized fields of study available courses applicable to the Criminal Justice, Community and Mental Health, and Legal Studies tracks. The program has two main objectives: to provide an advanced understanding of the criminal justice system and its components; and to provide either a concentration of knowledge and application of skills in a specialized subfield of study or a broad exploration of the discipline based on individual student needs through the selection of disciplinary electives.

The curriculum is planned to offer preparation for a professional career by integrating a core of Criminal Justice courses into a general program of the arts, sciences, humanities and social sciences. The student in consultation with faculty will determine the most desirable course offerings from core courses and recommended electives to achieve his/her particular educational goals. The program may be used as preparation for entry into graduate work or law school. Criminal Justice courses are recommended as social science electives for non-majors.

Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice graduates will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the operation and purposes of the major components of the criminal justice system (police, courts, and corrections)
- Demonstrate the ability to critically analyze the criminal justice system and its aims and objectives
- Demonstrate the ability to apply professional standards of writing and research to criminal justice issues
- Obtain advanced knowledge of one of the three major components of the criminal justice system (police, courts, and corrections).

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The Criminal Justice major requires a minimum of 30 semester hours, 24 semester hours of which must be at the upper-division level. Supporting courses related to essential skills totaling 6 hours are also required. Criminal Justice majors are encouraged to take MATH 1442 to satisfy the Mathematics University Core Curriculum requirement. Students who do not take MATH 1442 in the Core Curriculum will be required to do so to fulfill the supporting coursework requirement for majors. Criminal Justice majors must complete the Systems Requirement in the Core, CRIJ 1301 or CRIJ 1313, within their first 12 credit hours of Criminal Justice courses. No more than 21 semester hours of lower-division criminal justice credit may be applied to fulfill baccalaureate degree requirements. The College of Arts and Humanities: Liberal Arts also requires students in Criminal Justice to take at least 6 hours of a second language.

Students seeking the Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice are expected to develop a breadth of knowledge of the component parts of the criminal justice system, as well as in-depth understanding of one component. Through their choice of disciplinary electives, students may concentrate on Criminal Justice subfields or broadly explore the discipline and its career options. Students should select a majority of their upper-division elective hours from disciplines which support their choice of specialization.

MAJOR IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Students choosing to major in Criminal Justice must complete the following coursework.

Criminal Justice Core: (15–18 sem. hrs.)

Systems* 3 hrs
   From: CRIJ 1301, or CRIJ 1313, CRIJ 2328
Theoretical Perspectives 3 hrs
   From: CRIJ 3315, CRIJ 4331, or CRIJ 4335, CRIJ 4322
Corrections 3 hrs
   From: CRIJ 3320, CRIJ 3325, CRIJ 4320, or CRIJ 4321,
   CRIJ 4324, CRIJ 4390**
Courts 3 hrs
   From: CRIJ 3310, CRIJ 4310, CRIJ 4311, CRIJ 4312,
   or CRIJ 4313, CRIJ 4390**
Law Enforcement 3 hrs
   From: CRIJ 3302, or CRIJ 3340, CRIJ 4340, CRIJ 4351,
   CRIJ 4390**
Research Methods 3 hrs
   CRIJ 4345

*The three credit Systems requirement may be satisfied by lower-division transfer credit. The Systems requirement must be taken within the first 12 credit hours of Criminal Justice.

**Where topic is appropriate

Specialization: (6 sem. hrs.)
   In ONE of the following components: Corrections, Courts, or Law Enforcement

Criminal Justice Electives: (9-15 sem. hrs.)
   Any Criminal Justice course may be taken as an elective.
   (Three credits of Criminal Justice electives may be satisfied by a lower-division course or lower-division transfer credit.)

Required Supporting Courses: (6 sem. hrs.)
   ENGL 3301 3 hrs
   MATH 1442** 3 hrs

**The MATH 1442 supporting course requirement may be satisfied if the student completes this course as part of the math core curriculum requirement.

Students may choose to concentrate their Criminal Justice Electives in a subfield as suggested by the following lists.

Theoretical Perspectives: CRIJ 3315, CRIJ 4331, CRIJ 4335, CRIJ 4322
Corrections: CRIJ 3320, CRIJ 3325, CRIJ 4320, CRIJ 4321, CRIJ 4324
Courts: CRIJ 3310, CRIJ 4310, CRIJ 4311, CRIJ 4312, CRIJ 4313
Law Enforcement: CRIJ 2328, CRIJ 3302, CRIJ 3340, CRIJ 4340, CRIJ 4351

Students may also choose Criminal Justice Electives from among courses not categorized in the subfields including CRIJ3350, CRIJ4360, CRIJ 4390, CRIJ 4396, and CRIJ4398.

MINOR IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The minor in Criminal Justice consists of 18 semester hours of Criminal Justice course work, 15 of which must be at the upper-division level. The 18 semester hours for the Minor in Criminal Justice must be selected from the following courses.

Criminal Justice Minor Core Courses: (15 sem. hrs.)

- Systems *
  - From: CRIJ 1301, CRIJ 1313, CRIJ 3350
- Theoretical Perspectives
  - From: CRIJ 3315, CRIJ 4331, CRIJ 4335, CRIJ 4322
- Corrections
  - From: CRIJ 4320, CRIJ 4321, CRIJ 4390**
- Courts
  - From: CRIJ 3310, CRIJ 4311, CRIJ 4312, CRIJ 4313, CRIJ 4390**
- Law Enforcement
  - From: CRIJ 3302, CRIJ 3340, CRIJ 4390**

Elective: 3 sem. hrs.*

*Either the three credit Systems requirement or the Elective requirement may be satisfied by lower-division transfer credit.
**CRIJ 4390 may be included on recommendation of the faculty adviser when the topic is appropriate for the specialization.

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

All course descriptions are located in one section near the back of the catalog.
Criminal Justice (CRIJ)

CRIJ 1301 (CRIJ 1301)  3 sem. hrs.
INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE
History and philosophy of criminal justice. Overview of criminal justice system: police, prosecution and defense, courts, trial process, and corrections as they affect the individual, as well as their impact on society. The definition, nature, and impact of crime. The functions of criminal justice agencies will be examined in relation to common analytical themes such as ethics and discretion.

CRIJ 1313 (CRIJ 1313)  3 sem. hrs.
THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM
The administration of the juvenile justice process. Historical and philosophical origins of the juvenile justice system. A systematic analysis of problems and procedures at each stage of the process.

CRIJ 2328 (CRIJ 2328)  3 sem. hrs.
POLICE SYSTEMS AND PRACTICES
The history and development of police in America. Topics examined include: the police profession, organization of law enforcement systems, the policing role, police discretion, ethics, police-community interaction, current and future issues, and research findings.

CRIJ 3302.  3 sem. hrs.
POLICE AND SOCIETY
Examination of policing in a democratic society. A critical review of various professional and community influences on police behavior, together with a consideration of social problems created by such forces, and potential remedial actions.

CRIJ 3310.  3 sem. hrs.
THE JUDICIAL PROCESS
Examination of the civil and criminal legal systems and the roles played by political, social and economic factors in the administration of justice. Consideration of the roles and interests of litigants, defendants, police, attorneys, and the judiciary in the process.

CRIJ 3315.  3 sem. hrs.
CRIME PREVENTION

CRIJ 3320.  3 sem. hrs.
ISSUES IN CORRECTIONS
Analysis of contemporary developments, controversies and management concerns in the field of corrections. Includes examination of theoretical foundations of correctional policy.

CRIJ 3325.  3 sem. hrs.
COMMUNITY-BASED CORRECTIONS
Examination of the correctional strategies and facilities available in community settings including diversion programs, probation, parole, half-way houses, boot camps, and restitution centers.

CRJ 3340. 3 sem. hrs.
COMPARATIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Comparison of the police in selected countries with the U.S. criminal justice system. Particular emphasis on social, political, and economic factors in the development and change in law enforcement.

CRJ 3350. 3 sem. hrs.
CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT
Study of criminal justice agencies from a management perspective. An examination of basic organizational concepts as they apply to the management of criminal justice agencies: purpose, structure, technology, leadership, relationships and rewards.

CRJ 4310. 3 sem. hrs.
CONSTITUTIONAL LAW
A case study of American constitutional law based on the leading decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court. Examination of the evolution of judicial review and the development of due process and the protection of individual rights.

CRJ 4311. 3 sem. hrs.
CRIMINAL LAW
Review of the influence of theory and philosophy of law on the development of American criminal law. Consideration of the functions of criminal law, elements of specific offenses, types of defenses, and legal reasoning.

CRJ 4312. 3 sem. hrs.
LAW AND EVIDENCE
A detailed examination of the use, admissibility, and presentation of evidence. Issues and problems dealing with the rules of evidence and the theories on which those rules are based.

CRJ 4313. 3 sem. hrs.
CRIMINAL PROCEDURE
A detailed examination of the legal constraints on investigation and prosecution of criminal offenses. Analysis of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure and of Search and Seizure Law under the Fourth Amendment, as well as other due process issues arising under the Fifth and Sixth Amendments.

CRJ 4320. 3 sem. hrs.
OFFENDER REHABILITATION
Theories of rehabilitation, treatment, and correction of criminal offenders. Includes analysis of the historical development of the rehabilitative ideal and contemporary controversies surrounding it, and a survey of therapeutic models and methods.
CRIJ 4321. 3 sem. hrs.
AMERICAN PRISONS AND PRISONERS
Analysis of the history, philosophy, and function of prisons. Examination of control and treatment of offenders in institutional settings. Focus is upon current developments, controversies and management problems.

CRIJ 4322. 3 sem. hrs.
CRIME AND PUNISHMENT IN LITERATURE
A study of selected literary classics that treat of crime and punishment. The works of literary artists from various cultures which describe experience with crime and the criminal justice system will be placed in historical and theoretical perspective.

CRIJ 4324. 3 sem. hrs.
WOMEN & CRIMINAL JUSTICE
An historical and ideological analysis of the role of women in the criminal justice system as offenders, reformers, and professionals.

CRIJ 4331. 3 sem. hrs.
JUVENILE DELINQUENCY
Examination of the nature and extent of juvenile crime today. Analysis of the history and theory of delinquency and society's response to it. (Credit may not be given for both this course and SOCI 4331.)

CRIJ 4335. 3 sem. hrs.
CRIMINOLOGY
An examination of the major sociological explanations for crime, criminal behavior, and the social responses to crime. (Credit may not be given for both this course and SOCI 4335.)

CRIJ 4340. 3 sem. hrs.
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
Critical examination of investigation methods and comparison of these to research methods. Advanced examination of investigative procedures, theory, supervision, and evaluative research. Some practical applications.

CRIJ 4345 3 sem hrs.
RESEARCH METHODS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE
This course is designed to help students gain a working understanding of the research process with direct application to criminal justice research. Attention will focus on various aspects of the research process including quantitative and qualitative methods. Students will complete literature reviews, create research proposals, conduct observations/interviews, and construct surveys in addition to various assignments and activities. Prerequisite: CRIJ 1301 or CRIJ 1313.

CRIJ 4351. 3 sem. hrs.
POLICE SUPERVISION & MANAGEMENT
Study of contemporary theories of management and supervision as they relate to law enforcement. Management concerns considered include planning, motivation, organizational communication, discipline, productivity, ethics, conflict, and job stress.

CRIJ 4360. 3 sem. hrs.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
Violence involving acquaintance, spouse, child, and elder abuse is examined within a theoretical construct relating violence to social responses. Alternative causal theories, prevention, counseling, administration, innovative programs, and inter-agency coordination are addressed.

CRIJ 4390. 3 sem. hrs.
TOPICS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE
May be repeated for credit when topics vary.

CRIJ 4396. 1-3 sem. hrs.
DIRECTED INDIVIDUAL STUDY
See College description. Offered on application.

CRIJ 4398. 3 sem. hrs.
APPLIED EXPERIENCE
See College description. Offered on application.