

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE

## What can I do with this major?

### AREAS

### EMPLOYERS

### STRATEGIES

#### **SOCIAL SERVICES**

Corrections  
Counseling  
Juvenile Justice  
Casework  
Administration  
Probations & Parole  
Victim Advocacy

State and federal correction facilities  
County jails  
Precinct station houses  
Prison camps  
Youth correction facilities  
Medium-security correction facilities  
Voluntary correction facilities  
Halfway houses and pre-release programs  
Reintegration programs  
Alternative schools  
Juvenile detention centers  
Juvenile group homes  
Women's and family shelters  
Domestic violence agencies  
Immigration and naturalization services  
Other nonprofit organizations

Seek courses or training in topics such as victimology, social problems, diversity issues, or grieving.  
Supplement curriculum with courses in psychology, sociology, or social work.  
Gain experience working with a juvenile population in any capacity (i.e., sports teams, summer camp counselor, parks and recreation programs, and community/religious youth groups).  
Gain related experience in employment interviewing, social casework, substance abuse, and rehabilitation.  
Learn to work well with people of diverse backgrounds.  
Consider learning a second language.  
Maintain a blemish-free driving and criminal record.  
Gain firearms and self-defense training.  
Earn a master's degree in social work or counseling for therapy positions.  
Obtain a masters degree in criminal justice or business for upper-level positions in facilities management or administration.

#### **JUDICIARY AND LAW**

Court Reporting  
Legal Assistance  
Legal Research  
Administration

Local, state, and federal courts  
Law firms  
Corporate legal departments  
Public interest law organizations

Consider a double major or minor in the social sciences such as psychology, anthropology, sociology, or political science.  
Attend a postsecondary vocational or technical college that offers court reporting or paralegal certification programs.  
Obtain a law degree from a law school accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA).  
Learn to use software packages such as CD-ROM research databases.  
Develop strong research, computer, and writing skills.  
Maintain a high grade point average to gain admittance to law school.  
Participate in mock trial groups.

## AREAS

## EMPLOYERS

## STRATEGIES

### LAW ENFORCEMENT

Patrolling  
Investigating  
Forensics  
Probation  
Security

City/County Government Organizations including:  
Police departments  
Correction facilities  
County sheriff departments  
Liquor Control Commission  
State Government Organizations including:  
State troopers  
Crime labs  
Penitentiaries  
Federal Government Organizations including:  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI)  
Internal Revenue Service (IRS)  
Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)  
Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)  
Department of Homeland Security  
Postal Service  
Federal Marshals  
Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks  
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
National Parks Service  
Crime laboratories  
Colleges and universities

Obtain related training or certifications such as CPR, first aid, or EMT.  
Complete a formal police academy program upon graduation.  
Maintain a healthy and physically fit lifestyle.  
Volunteer to work in a police department or campus safety department.  
Complete an internship in a crime laboratory to gain experience in the forensic application of science.  
Obtain a double major in criminal justice and a hard science (biology, chemistry, or biochemistry) if interested in a career in forensics.  
Consider earning a master's degree in Forensic Science or related discipline.  
Become familiar with the government application process.  
Learn a second language.

### BUSINESS

Private Security  
Consulting  
Investigating  
Systems Integration  
Global Intelligence  
Private Investigation  
Internet Security  
Loss and Prevention

Insurance companies  
Banks  
Private security companies  
Software companies  
Hotels and resorts  
Health care facilities  
Transportation services  
Nuclear power plants  
Manufacturers  
Online companies  
Other large corporations

Minor in business or computer science.  
Seek practicum/internship experiences that include training in the hardware and software of security systems.  
Maintain good physical fitness.  
Develop exceptional written and oral communication skills.  
Seek leadership opportunities and develop strong interpersonal skills.  
Attend firearm safety courses. Obtain first aid and CPR certification.  
Gain military experience and training.  
Earn a graduate degree in business or law for upper-level positions.

## AREAS

## EMPLOYERS

## STRATEGIES

### EDUCATION

Teaching  
Research

Colleges and universities  
Adult education providers  
Public and private high schools

Earn a graduate degree for post-secondary teaching opportunities.  
Get a teaching certificate for elementary or secondary education. Gain a dual certification for increased opportunities  
Serve as a tutor to other students.  
Develop strong written and oral communication skills.  
Assist a professor with research.  
Take additional coursework related to research and statistics.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

- Many criminal justice professions require candidates to possess strong oral and written communication skills and good computer skills. The ability to speak a second language is also desirable.
- Develop good listening skills and the ability to work well with a wide range of diverse populations.
- Most entry-level positions for criminal justice majors reside with law enforcement and social service organizations.
- Be willing to start in an entry-level job in order to prepare for more advanced career opportunities.
- Obtain experience through volunteer, practicum, or internship opportunities.
- Supplement program of study with courses in business, psychology, anthropology, or sociology. Course work related to the hard sciences (biology, chemistry, or biochemistry) is preferred for career opportunities in forensics.
- Depending upon one's career goals, earn a master's degree in disciplines such as criminal justice, forensic science, social work, counseling, or business to obtain positions involving therapy, higher levels of administration, forensics, or research. Earn the doctorate degree for university teaching positions.
- Conduct informational interviews with professionals in fields of interest to learn more about opportunities.