

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The Criminal Justice program in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences offers a Bachelor of Arts degree and a minor in Criminal Justice.

Your adventure begins with your academic advisor. Please contact cjsocadvising@iastate.edu for more information.

Students in this major will learn about the components of the juvenile and criminal justice systems, become acquainted with the issues affecting these systems, apply theoretical concepts to real-world phenomena, interface with criminal justice and social service providers, and plan an academic and/or applied career in criminal justice.

Student Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will:

- Understand theories of crime, victimization, and criminal justice (i.e., theories about social bonds, learning, social control, conflict, labeling, rehabilitation, alternatives to incarceration).
- Think critically about crime, victimization, and criminal justice (i.e., be able to apply, critique, compare, and integrate knowledge in the area).
- Understand how race/ethnicity, gender, wealth, and power are related to crime, victimization, and criminal justice.
- Understand and be able to use basic social science research methods, as well as those most relevant to the study of crime, victimization, and criminal justice.
- Be familiar with career paths in the criminal justice system, and make career choices that best fit their career interests.
- Make appropriate decisions, think creatively and be able to express themselves in written and oral communication to supervisors and clients.

Degree Requirements

University Requirements

International Perspectives	3
US Diversity	3
Total Credits	6

Communication Proficiency

According to the university-wide Communication Proficiency Grade Requirement, students must demonstrate their communication proficiency by earning a grade of C or better in ENGL 150 and ENGL 250. In addition, majors must also take an advanced course in ENGL 302 or ENGL 309 or ENGL 314 with a grade of C or better.

ENGL 150	Critical Thinking and Communication	3
ENGL 250	Written, Oral, Visual, and Electronic Composition	3
LIB 160	Introduction to College Level Research	1
ENGL 302	Business Communication	3

or ENGL 309	Proposal and Report Writing
or ENGL 314	Technical Communication

Total Credits 10

World Languages and Cultures

3 years of High School

SPAN 097	Accelerated Spanish Review	0
2 semesters at the college level		8

Total Credits 8

General Education Coursework

Students must select from a variety of LAS approved general education courses in each area listed below. A full list of approved courses can be found at <https://las.iastate.edu/students/academics/general-education/>.

Arts and Humanities	12
Math	3
Natural Sciences	8
Social Sciences	9
Total Credits	32

Program of Study

A program of study that meets the needs and interests of the student and departmental requirements will be developed in consultation with the major advisor. Students must maintain a GPA of 2.0 or higher in their core courses.

SOC 115	Orientation to Sociology	1
or C J 120	The Criminal Justice League Learning Community Seminar	
C J 240	Introduction to the U.S. Criminal Justice System	3
C J 241	Youth and Crime	3
C J 242	Criminology	3
C J 340	Deviant and Criminal Behavior	3
C J 402	White-Collar Crime	3
or C J 403	Criminal Offenders	
or C J 406	Gender and Crime	
C J 460	Criminal and Juvenile Justice Internship	3
Select one of the following courses		3
C J 320	American Judicial Process	
C J 332	Philosophy of Law	
C J 339	Liberty and Law in America	
C J 404	Criminal Justice Policies	
PSYCH 383	Psychology and Law	
Select 5 of the following courses		15
C J 320	American Judicial Process	

C J 332	Philosophy of Law
C J 335	Race, Ethnicity, and the US Criminal Justice System
C J 339	Liberty and Law in America
C J 351	Police and Society
C J 352	Punishment, Corrections, and Society
C J 354	Prevention of Crime and Delinquency
C J 360	Latinas and Victimization
C J 402	White-Collar Crime
C J 404	Criminal Justice Policies
C J 405	Drugs and Crime
C J 406	Gender and Crime
C J 410	Capital Punishment
C J 451	Contemporary Issues in Policing
C J 470	Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice
C J 484	Topical Studies in Criminal and Juvenile Justice
PSYCH 383	Psychology and Law

Total Credits 37

LAS majors require a minimum of 120 credits, including a minimum of 45 credits at the 300/400 level.

Criminal Justice, B.A.

Freshman

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
SOC 115 or C J 120	1 C J 121	1
C J 240	3 C J 241	3
ENGL 150	3 ENGL 250	3
LIB 160	1 Arts and Humanities Choice	3
Social Science Choice	3 Social Science Choice	3
Arts and Humanities Choice	3 Natural Science Choice	3
	14	16

Sophomore

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
C J 340	3 C J 242	3
World Languages/Elective	3-4 World Languages/Elective	3-4
Arts and Humanities Choice	3 Math Choice	3
Natural Science Choice	3 International Perspectives	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
	15-16	15-16

Junior

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
C J 402, 403, or 406	3 Criminal Justice Special Topics	3

Criminal Justice Special Topics	3 Criminal Justice Special Topics	3
ENGL 302, 309, or 314	3 Arts and Humanities Choice	3
Social Science Choice	3 Natural Science Choice	2
Elective	3 Elective	3
	15	14

Senior

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
C J 320, 332, 339, or PSYCH 383	3 C J 460	3
Criminal Justice Special Topics	3 Criminal Justice Special Topics	3
U.S. Diversity	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
	15	15

Total Credits: 119-121

Special Topics choices: C J/POL S 320; C J/PHIL 332, 339; C J 335, 351, 352, 354, 360, 402, 404, 405, 406, 410, 451, 470, 484*; and PSYCH 383.

*May take up to 9 credits of C J 484 special topics.

Note: This is an example four-year plan. Your actual semester schedules may vary.

Criminal Justice Minor

The Criminal Justice minor offers an opportunity for students to learn about the components of the criminal and juvenile justice systems, to become acquainted with the issues and problems affecting these systems, to apply theoretical concepts to real world problems, and to plan a career in the criminal justice field.

Students who declare a minor in Criminal Justice are required to complete 18 total credits. Students may do up to nine credits of SOC 460 but only three of those credits may be applied to the minor. Nine credits must be at the 300 or 400 level. The minor must include at least 9 credits that are not used to meet any other department, college, or university requirement. Students must have a minimum grade point average of 2.0 in courses for the minor.

C J 240	Introduction to the U.S. Criminal Justice System	3
C J 460	Criminal and Juvenile Justice Internship	3
	Four additional C J courses	12
	Total Credits	18