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
U.S. Cultures and Communities (formerly U.S. Diversity) 3
Total Credits 6

Communication Proficiency

According to the university-wide Communication Proficiency Grade Requirement (http://catalog.iastate.edu/academics/#communicationproficiencypolicytext), students must demonstrate their communication proficiency by earning a grade of C or better in ENGL 1500 and ENGL 2500. In addition, majors must also take an advanced course in ENGL 3020 or ENGL 3090 or ENGL 3140 with a grade of C or better.

ENGL 1500 Critical Thinking and Communication 3
ENGL 2500 Written, Oral, Visual, and Electronic Composition 3

World Language and career proficiency

3 years of High School

SPAN 0970 Accelerated Spanish Review 8
2 semesters at the college level 1
LAS 2030 Professional Career Preparation 1
Total Credits 9

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 1150 Orientation to Sociology 1
or CJ 1200 The Criminal Justice League Learning Community Seminar

CJ 2400 Introduction to the U.S. Criminal Justice System 3
CJ 2410 Youth and Crime 3
CJ 2420 Criminology 3
CJ 3400 Deviant and Criminal Behavior 3

CJ 4020 White-Collar Crime 3
or CJ 4030 Criminal Offenders
or CJ 4060 Gender and Crime

CJ 4600 Criminal and Juvenile Justice Internship 3
Select one of the following courses 3

CJ 3200 American Judicial Process
CJ 3320 Philosophy of Law
PHIL 3390 Liberty and Law in America
CJ 4040 Criminal Justice Policies
Criminal Justice

PSYCH 3830  Psychology and Law
Select 5 of the following courses  15
   CJ 3200  American Judicial Process
   CJ 3320  Philosophy of Law
   CJ 3350  Race, Ethnicity, and the US Criminal Justice System
   PHIL 3390  Liberty and Law in America
   CJ 3510  Police and Society
   CJ 3520  Punishment, Corrections, and Society
   CJ 3540  Prevention of Crime and Delinquency
   CJ 3600  Latinas and Victimization
   CJ 4020  White-Collar Crime
   CJ 4040  Criminal Justice Policies
   CJ 4050  Drugs and Crime
   CJ 4060  Gender and Crime
   CJ 4100  Capital Punishment
   CJ 4510  Contemporary Issues in Policing
   CJ 4540  Prevention of Crime and Delinquency
   CJ 4600  Latinas and Victimization
   CJ 4840  Topical Studies in Criminal and Juvenile Justice
PSYCH 3830  Psychology and Law

Total Credits  37

LAS majors require a minimum of 120 credits, including a minimum of 45 credits at the 3000/4000 level. You must also complete the LAS world language requirement and career proficiency requirement.

As majors in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Criminal Justice students must meet College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (http://catalog.iastate.edu/collegeofliberalartsandsciences/#lascollegerequirementstext) and University-wide requirements (http://catalog.iastate.edu/collegescurricula/) for graduation in addition to those stated above for the major.

Students in all ISU majors must complete a three-credit course in U.S. cultures and communities (formerly U.S. diversity) and a three-credit course in international perspectives. Check (http://www.registrar.iastate.edu/courses/div-ip-guide.html) for a list of approved courses. Discuss with your advisor how the two courses that you select can be applied to your graduation plan.

Criminal Justice, B.A.

Freshman

Fall Credits  Spring Credits
SOC 1150 or CJ 1200  1  CJ 1210  1
CJ 2400  3  CJ 2410  3
ENGL 1500  3  ENGL 2500  3

Total Credits: 37

Sophomore

Fall Credits  Spring Credits
CJ 3400  3  CJ 2420  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
LAS 2030  1

Total Credits: 16-17

Junior

Fall Credits  Spring Credits
CJ 4020, 4030, or 4060  3  Criminal Justice Special Topics  3
Criminal Justice Special Topics  3  Criminal Justice Special Topics  3
ENGL 3020, 3090, or 3140  3  Arts and Humanities Choice  3
Social Science Choice  3  Natural Science Choice  2
Elective  3  Elective  3

Total Credits: 15

Senior

Fall Credits  Spring Credits
CJ 3200, 3320, PHIL 3390, or PSYCH 3830  3  CJ 4600  3
Criminal Justice Special Topics  3  Criminal Justice Special Topics  3
U.S. Cultures and Communities (formerly U.S. Diversity)  3  Elective  3
Elective  3  Elective  3

Total Credits: 15


*May take up to 9 credits of CJ 4840 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 4600 but only three of those credits may be applied to the minor. Nine credits must be at the 3000 or 4000 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.

CJ 2400  Introduction to the U.S. Criminal Justice System  3
CJ 4600  Criminal and Juvenile Justice Internship  3
Four additional C J courses  12

Total Credits  18