Criminology & Criminal Justice Studies are the sociology-based study of crime and the criminal justice system.

Our major exposes students to the social dimensions of the crime problem, explanations of the prevalence of various types of crime, and the various agencies and programs designed to prevent and control crime and delinquency. The latter include the police, courts, probation and parole systems, and correctional institutions. Attention is also given to such issues as women and crime, youth and crime, and the place of control agencies in larger societal context. As a social science/liberal arts field, criminology provides majors with a variety of techniques for examining and responding to important questions about the causes and consequences of crime and the workings of the criminal justice system.

Graduate, Professional & Law School

As part of a liberal arts/social science degree, the criminology major provides an excellent background for post-baccalaureate studies. Our alums pursue graduate work in criminology or in related fields such as sociology, anthropology, political science, and psychology. In addition, the major provides a foundation for post-baccalaureate work in law, public policy, social work, business, and urban planning.

Criminology & Criminal Justice Studies

Careers

Our students are prepared for a variety of career options. Some graduates enter directly into the labor force in these fields:

- law enforcement
- delinquency prevention
- delinquency control services
- crime prevention
- corrections
- probation or parole
- criminal justice administration
- research
- fraud investigation
- loss prevention & asset protection

Undergraduate criminology majors are also employed in non-crime related sectors such as:

- health and social services (substance abuse and rehabilitation counseling)
- community work (child and social welfare agencies)
- federal, state, or local government (urban planning & housing)
Declaration of Major:

Sociology 1101 is a pre-requisite to declaring the major.
To officially declare Criminology & Criminal Justice Studies as your major, you must meet with an advisor in the Sociology Department.

Structure of the Major: 13 Courses / 39 Credit hours

**Required Courses:**

- SOC 3410 or H3410: Criminology
- SOC 3488: Introduction to Sociological Theory
- SOC 3487 or H3487: Research Methods in Sociology*
- SOC 3549: Statistics in Sociology*

The required courses provide the building blocks for the sociological understanding of crime. In these courses you will:
- understand and practice research methods (3487),
- analyze statistical data (3549),
- gain understanding of the nature and causes of crime (3410), and
- apply sociological theory to contemporary society (3488).

**Experiential Learning Requirement:**

Enrollment in some of these options requires permission of the department. Meet with an advisor to plan this portion of your major. Complete a minimum of 3 credit hours from the following:

- SOC 2211S: Corrections: An Ohio Prison Education Exchange Program Course
- SOC 3191: Internship Program in Sociology and Criminology (3 hrs minimum; Graded S/U)
- SOC 3798.03: Genocide and Its Aftermath in Rwanda (3 hrs; summer term education abroad)
- SOC 4000S: Social Science Business Collaborative: A Service Learning Approach
- SOC 4462: Advanced Social Stratification (4 hrs)
- SOC 4629: Health Disparities in Social Context (4 hrs)
- SOC 4998: Undergraduate Research in Sociology (3 hrs minimum; Graded S/U)
- SOC H4999.02/4999.02: Senior Honors/Non-Honors Thesis (4 hrs minimum; Graded S/U)

* **Embedded Literacies:**

There is an expectation that students will have experiences throughout their education in the major that develop their competencies in three key areas—data analysis, advanced writing, and technology.

- Data Analysis: fulfilled with SOC 3549 Statistics in Sociology
- Advanced Writing: fulfilled with SOC 3487 Research Methods in Sociology
- Technology: fulfilled with SOC 3302 Technology and Global Society (can be selected as an elective course in the major)
**Elective Courses:**
The eight remaining courses must be chosen from the list of Criminology courses on the next page. **At least four of the eight must be chosen from the 4000-5000 level.**

Course choices should be made in consultation with a departmental academic advisor. Courses that are listed for the major program cannot also be used to meet General Education Foundation requirements.

**Elective Course List:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOC 2202</td>
<td>Social Problems and Public Policy</td>
<td>SOC 4000S/E</td>
<td>Social Science Business Collaborative: A Service Learning Approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 2209</td>
<td>Introduction to Criminal Justice</td>
<td>SOC 4100</td>
<td>Criminal Investigations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 2210</td>
<td>Sociological Aspects of Deviance</td>
<td>SOC 4462</td>
<td>Advanced Social Stratification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 2211S</td>
<td>Corrections: An Ohio Prison Education Exchange Course (off campus location)</td>
<td>SOC 4505</td>
<td>Capital Punishment in the U.S.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 2290</td>
<td>Sociology of Death &amp; Dying</td>
<td>SOC 4506</td>
<td>Drugs and Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 2309</td>
<td>Introduction to Law and Society</td>
<td>SOC 4507</td>
<td>The Criminal Justice System</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 2310</td>
<td>Sociology of Gangs</td>
<td>SOC 4508</td>
<td>Violence</td>
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<td>SOC 2345</td>
<td>The Social Structure of American Society</td>
<td>SOC 4509</td>
<td>Sociology of Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 2367.02</td>
<td>Urban Social Problems</td>
<td>SOC 4510</td>
<td>Gender, Crime, and the Legal System</td>
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<td>SOC 2370</td>
<td>Social Psychology in Sociological Perspective</td>
<td>SOC 4511</td>
<td>Juvenile Delinquency</td>
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<td>SOC 2380</td>
<td>Intersectionalities and Crime</td>
<td>SOC 4591S</td>
<td>Building Community Capacity: A Service Learning Approach</td>
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<td>SOC 2463</td>
<td>Social Stratification: Race, Class, &amp; Gender</td>
<td>SOC 4610</td>
<td>Sociology of Deviant Behavior</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SOC 4611</td>
<td>Jails, Prisons, and Community Corrections</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 3200</td>
<td>Sociology of Immigration</td>
<td>SOC 4615</td>
<td>Control and Prevention of Crime and Delinquency</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 3302</td>
<td>Technology and Global Society*</td>
<td>SOC 4635</td>
<td>Gender and Society</td>
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<td>SOC 3306</td>
<td>Sociology of Poverty</td>
<td>SOC 4655</td>
<td>Sociology of Sport</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 3315</td>
<td>Sociology of Terrorism</td>
<td>SOC 5525</td>
<td>Global Criminology</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 3380</td>
<td>Race in Society</td>
<td>SOC 5605</td>
<td>Sociology of Sexuality</td>
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<td>SOC 3430</td>
<td>Sociology of the Family</td>
<td>SOC 5925</td>
<td>Offender Decision Making and Prisoner Reentry</td>
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<td>SOC 3434</td>
<td>Child and Society</td>
<td>SOC 5950</td>
<td>Evidence Based Practice in Criminal</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 3460</td>
<td>Environmental Justice</td>
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**Major Guidelines:**

* A grade of C- or above is required for all major courses.
* A Cumulative Major GPA of 2.00 is required.

Major courses cannot be taken Pass/Fail. Transfer students must complete at least half of their major course work at Ohio State.

If you are interested in completing a Double Major in Sociology and Criminology or a Major and Minor combination in the two disciplines, please consult with a Sociology Advisor.

*** Do not attempt to self-advice! ***
Criminology vs. Criminal Justice:

While there are a variety of disciplines which study crime, criminals, and criminal justice, three are especially visible and important. They are sociology, criminology, and criminal justice. While these three disciplines share a common substantive focus and at the undergraduate level could lead to similar career paths, they also differ in important ways. These differences are clearest on the graduate level but readily apparent on the undergraduate level as well.

**Sociology** treats crime, criminals, and criminal justice as one of many behavioral and institutional scholarly arenas of interest to sociologists. Along with education, health care, work and occupations, race and gender, to name a few, sociologists study crime, criminals, and criminal justice as one way of better understanding the institutions humans create and the recurrent patterns of behavior they nourish and sustain. Crime, criminals, and criminal justice are no more, or less, important than these other areas of sociological research and teaching and sociologists do not regularly consider the policy or administrative implications of their research.

**Criminology** treats crime, criminals, and criminal justice as central substantive concerns. Except as other scholarly areas illuminate crime, criminals, and criminal justice such as educational levels or linkages with the world of work, criminologists do not regularly teach or do research in areas other than crime, criminals, and criminal justice. In addition, criminologists also pay more attention to policy and administrative issues than do sociologists. On average, however, criminologists share an abiding interest with sociologists in understanding rather than direct action.

**Criminal justice** is the newest of the three disciplines and clearly the most focused. It evidences singular interests in crime, criminals, and criminal justice and it is rare indeed when professors and scholars trained in criminal justice teach or do research in other disciplines than crime, criminals, and criminal justice. Moreover, criminal justice scholars are far more likely to consider the policy and administrative implications of their teaching and research and far more likely to offer both undergraduate and graduate training to their students in policy and administration.

The Department of Sociology at The Ohio State University offers undergraduate majors in Sociology and in Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies. The latter training is very clearly sociological because the courses are professed by scholars trained in sociology. As such, the focus is understanding crime, criminals, and criminal justice and, except in passing, little attention is given to policy or administrative implications.