

Criminology & Criminal Justice Studies

for students starting at Ohio State AU22 and after (and following the New GE)

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.

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:

Completion of Sociology 1101 or 1102 is a required program prerequisite.

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 any of the 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 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:

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

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.

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• 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-advise! *****

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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.



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