



UNIVERSITY of
DUBUQUE
THE DIAMOND UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A major in Criminal Justice prepares graduates for effective participation in a variety of public and private sector careers in areas such as law enforcement, courts, and corrections. They will also be prepared for jobs in community service, mental health services, and human services. Students may also seek careers as researchers and/or university teachers by continuing study at a graduate level. The study of Criminal Justice provides an excellent background for graduate programs in law, criminal justice, social work, and other related disciplines.

OBJECTIVES FOR THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE MAJOR ENABLE STUDENTS TO:

- identify the various components of the criminal justice system inclusive of law enforcement, courts, and corrections;
- demonstrate professional writing and oral communication skills;
- apply analytical and critical thinking skills to the theoretical perspectives of sociology and/or criminal justice;
- apply criminological and/or sociological theory to practical experience;
- evaluate the society in which they will perform their duties and the societal issues that contribute to and influence the work they perform;
- assess ethical implications of decision making relevant to their discipline as well as to the distribution of justice in society and;
- model a professional code of conduct consistent with the standards of their discipline.

PROGRAM PREREQUISITES:

- SOC 111 (3) or 112 (3) – Grade of C or higher

CORE REQUIREMENTS (27 CREDITS):

- SCJ 110 Introduction to Criminal Justice (3)
- SCJ 210 Introduction to Law Enforcement (3)
- SCJ 211 Criminal Law (3)
- SCJ 212 Criminal Procedures (3)
- SCJ 215 Court Systems and Judicial Process (3)
- SCJ 225 Corrections (3)
- SCJ 231 Criminology (3)
- SCJ 313 Introduction to Constitutional Law (3)
- SCJ 495 Senior Seminar: Ethical & Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice (3)

ELECTIVES & SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE (12 CREDITS, MAXIMUM OF 6 SOCIOLOGY (SOC) CREDITS):

- SCJ 233 Juvenile Justice (3)
- SCJ 303 Criminal Investigation (3)
- SOC 311 Inequalities of Race, Class, and Gender (3)
- SOC 331 Social Stratification (3)

PRACTICUM (3 CREDITS): One of the following

- SCJ 485 Internship
- SCJ 491 Independent Research

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Course#	Course Title	Course Description	Credits
SOC 111	Introduction to Sociology	An introduction to the social, political and economic aspects of human societies. Basic concepts and principles are developed through the study of several societies with emphasis on American culture and its institutions. A prerequisite for most other Sociology and Criminal Justice courses.	3
SCJ 110	Introduction to Criminal Justice	This course provides an overview of the American criminal justice system with an emphasis on three core areas: police, courts and corrections. Students will study the history, structure, and the primary mission of the core areas of the criminal justice system and how they are interrelated. Students will discuss various constitutional requirements and their impact, as well as theories and concepts related to the criminal justice system. Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to describe core components of the American criminal justice system, identify various constitutional requirements, and be able to recognize learned theories in the context of real-world situations.	3
SCJ 210	Introduction to Law Enforcement	This introductory course to law enforcement provides students with the historical overview of policing in America, covering such topics as police organization, structure, and operations. Upon completion of the course the student will be able to describe police history and organization, discuss the personal side of policing, identify and examine various police operations, and identify and examine critical issues in contemporary policing. Prerequisite: SCJ 110.	3
SCJ 211	Criminal Law	This course is a study of substantive criminal law, including its origins, elements, foundational principles and supporting rationales. Students will review state criminal code provisions, the model penal code, federal criminal statutes, and supporting case law. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to define various criminal offenses and concepts. Prerequisite: SCJ 110 and SOC 111 or SOC 112.	3
SCJ 212	Criminal Procedure	This course provides an overview of constitutional regulations outlining procedures used by police and courts. Students will learn to identify police constraints of citizens during casual encounters, detentions, and arrests. From first contact with police through the appeals process, students will have an interpretive exposure to criminal justice procedures. Upon completion of the course students will be able to define terminology, define roles of various participants in the system, demonstrate vocational skills, recognize criminal procedures from arrest through trial, and interpret information when making valid procedural appraisals. Prerequisite: SCJ 110.	3
SCJ 215	Court Systems and Judicial Process	In this course, students will examine the state and federal court systems, with special attention to the adjudication of criminal offenses and the political and social impact of court decisions. Upon completion, students will be able to name key actors and concepts, as well as assess broader forces that impact judicial processes. Prerequisite: SCJ 110 or departmental approval.	3

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Course#	Course Title	Course Description	Credits
SCJ 225	Corrections	This course examines the history and nature of the correctional system, from its beginning through current times, with a primary focus on corrections in the United States. Course topics will include goals of the correctional system, prison and jail management, special populations, inmate behaviors, current trends in contemporary corrections, and the ethical and sociological impact of policy and management decisions. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to compare and contrast the various goals of the correctional system, discuss the distinctions between jails, prisons and their respective populations, identify the challenges involved in dealing with various inmate populations and correctional management, and identify the factors influencing trends and population growth in the United States correctional facilities. Prerequisite: SCJ 110 or departmental approval.	3
SCJ 231	Criminology	This course presents a biological, psychological and sociological analysis of crime and criminals. Fundamental factors related to criminal behavior will be explored as well as the impact criminal behavior has on society. Students will be able to articulate various theories of crime and apply these theories to individual and societal situations involving crime. Prerequisite: SOC 111 or SOC 112 or departmental approval.	3
SCJ 233	Juvenile Justice	This course examines the origins of the juvenile justice system, its function in current American society, and compares it to the adult criminal justice system. This course will explore theories of delinquency, including risk factors, intervention, and treatment strategies. Upon successful completion, the student will be able to identify the components of the juvenile justice system, differentiate between juvenile and adult criminal justice systems and analyze delinquency from the perspective of various theories. The student will be able to identify risk factors and analyze ethical and critical issues facing the juvenile justice system. Prerequisite: SCJ 110 or departmental approval.	3
SCJ 303	Criminal Investigation	Students will learn about the purpose of criminal investigations. Topics will include duties and responsibilities of the criminal investigator, crime scene analysis, collection and preservation of evidence, investigation techniques, and laws and regulations relevant to criminal investigations. Current issues related to criminal investigations will also be addressed. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to describe and discuss roles, responsibilities, and laws related to the function of criminal investigations. Students will also have a knowledge of investigative skills and their application, as well as apply interview and investigative techniques in scenario exercises. Prerequisite: SCJ 211 or SCJ 212 or departmental approval.	3
SCJ 313	Introduction to Constitutional Law	This course is a survey of constitutional law with a focus on civil rights and civil liberties. Students will learn about constitutional issues and principles by reading key Supreme Court opinions and engaging in regular discussion. At the end of this course, students will gain an understanding of how constitutional doctrines affect people's lives. Prerequisite: SCJ 110 and SCJ 215 or departmental approval.	3

Course#	Course Title	Course Description	Credits
SCJ 485	Internship	This course provides an experiential learning opportunity designed to integrate academic learning with community-based experience through field observation and work involvement with a governmental, public or private organization affiliated with the field of criminal justice. The student is required to complete a minimum of 50 hours per credit of field experience (150 total for a 3 credit internship). In addition, the student will complete various written assignments and an oral presentation. Upon successful completion of the internship, the student will be able to explain and apply department/agency policies and procedures in field work. Prerequisite: PRF 201, junior or senior standing in the criminal justice program, or Department Head approval.	3-9
SCJ 491	Independent Research	This course enables students to examine a select topic in the criminal justice field through intensive study in literature review and research under the guidance of a supervising faculty member. Upon completion of the research students will be able to identify and reflect critically on connections between discipline-specific theory and practice and their research topic. Prerequisites: UDMA 230 Statistics and approval of a learning contract by the sponsoring faculty member and Associate Dean. Open to Junior and Senior Criminal Justice majors with consent of department chairperson.	3
SCJ 495	Senior Seminar: Ethical and Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice	In this course, students will examine criminal justice issues through various ethical frameworks (e.g., Consequentialism, Kantianism, and Socialism). Students will examine ethical codes of conduct and dilemmas specific to the three parts of the criminal justice system (policing, courts, and corrections). At the end of this course, students will gain an understanding of the ethical dilemmas faced by current criminal justice professionals and how these dilemmas are often addressed. Students will also show a mastery of the necessary written, oral, and critical thinking skills appropriate to their chosen profession. Senior Standing or instructor permission.	3
SOC 311	Inequalities of Race, Class, and Gender	Focuses on similarities and differences among forms of oppression and emphasizes the ways in which issues of race, class, and gender intersect. The course examines the social construction of difference, analyzes how differences become translated into inequalities, and adopts a critical stance in the exploration of how inequalities based on difference are maintained and changed.	3
SOC 331	Social Stratification	A critical and historical examination of contrasting theories and the thoughts of those who are justifying or attacking social inequality. Various aspects of social injustice such as socioeconomic and political, sexual, racial, and international inequalities are explored. Class relations within the United States are compared with class and caste relations in other societies. Inequalities between societies are also examined.	3