

Criminology, Law, and Justice, BA

The criminology, law, and justice major examines issues related to race and ethnic diversity, gender, and poverty, heightening awareness of these important topics. Students learn about sociological explanations for crime and criminal justice; the operation of law and the criminal justice system, including their complex interplay with other institutions, such as the economy and politics; and important data sources on crime in the United States and internationally.

The department has an active undergraduate organization, the Sociology and Criminology Club, which is open to all interested students. The student-run group sponsors speakers, films, and career days; conducts study groups; and facilitates group volunteerism.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- recognize the causes and consequences of crime at the micro and macro levels and match these with prominent criminological perspectives;
- describe the interrelated institutions and processes of the criminal justice system and legal systems;
- apply theories of crime, legal systems, and criminal justice systems to explain actual and hypothetical scenarios, behaviors, and trends;
- understand the role of formal law in advanced democracies;
- explain the various social science methods of inquiry and use these to test specific criminological research questions;
- recognize and explain social inequities in crime and criminal justice processes by race, social class, gender, region, and age; and
- evaluate the effectiveness of policy interventions for altering social behavior, including those deemed illegal or harmful.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in criminology, law, and justice requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 39 s.h. of work for the major. Students must maintain a grade-point average of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They must also complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core. Transfer students must earn at least 24 s.h. in criminology, law, and justice coursework at the University of Iowa; transfer courses must be approved by a sociology advisor.

Students who earn the major in criminology, law, and justice may earn the major in sociology. No more than 9 s.h. of major coursework can be applied to both of the majors. Students who earn both majors may not complete a minor in either area.

Students may count up to 56 s.h. of coursework from the Department of Sociology and Criminology toward credit required for the Bachelor of Arts degree. BA students who are graduating with a double major in the department (criminology, law, and justice and sociology) may apply more than 56 s.h. from the department toward their degree, but

they must earn at least 56 s.h. of credit in courses outside the department in order to graduate.

Students who earn the major in criminology, law, and justice may earn a minor in sociology. No more than 3 s.h. can count toward both the major and minor.

Students who earn the major in criminology, law, and justice may not earn the criminology, law, and justice minor.

Courses listed in more than one area may only be used toward one requirement.

The BA with a major in criminology, law, and justice requires the following coursework.

Requirements	Hours
Introductory Courses	6-7
Required Courses	6
Quantitative Courses	3-4
Electives	18
Upper-Level Sociology Requirement	3
Capstone Course	3
Graduation Portfolio Course	0

Introductory Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
Two of these:		
CRIM:1410	Introduction to Criminology	3
CRIM:1447	Introduction to the Criminal Justice System	3
SOC:1010 or SOC:1030	Introduction to Sociology Contemporary Social Problems	3-4

Required Courses

Students should complete SOC:2130, and either CRIM:2470 or SOC:2170 as soon as possible.

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
SOC:2130	Sociological Theory	3
One of these:		
CRIM:2470	Research Methods in Criminology and Criminal Justice	3
SOC:2170	Research Methods	3

Students with an additional major in psychology may be able to count PSY:2811 Research Methods and Data Analysis in Psychology I as the research methods course; consult an advisor for more information.

Quantitative Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
SOC:2160	Applied Statistics for Social Scientists	3
STAT:1020	Elementary Statistics and Inference	3
STAT:1030	Statistics for Business	4
STAT:2010	Statistical Methods and Computing	3
STAT:3510	Biostatistics	3

Electives

Students complete 18 s.h. of elective coursework in criminology, law, and justice (prefix CRIM) numbered 2000–4999. Four of the required electives must be advanced, chosen from criminology, law, and justice courses numbered 3000–4901 or CRIM:4998 Honors Research. Two of the four advanced electives must be taken after (and not concurrent with) the completion of SOC:2130 Sociological Theory, CRIM:2470 Research Methods in Criminology and Criminal Justice or SOC:2170 Research Methods, and an additional approved course from the "Quantitative Requirements" list. With permission, students may use graduate courses in sociology (prefix SOC) numbered 5000 or above to satisfy the electives requirement.

Either CRIM:4400 Internship in Criminal Justice and Corrections or CRIM:4410 Treatment Interventions in Corrections may count toward the elective requirement, but not both.

The following courses may not be used as major electives.

Course #	Title	Hours
CRIM:2440	Student Practicum in Policing	3
CRIM:2470	Research Methods in Criminology and Criminal Justice	3
CRIM:3400	Criminology Mentoring Program	1
CRIM:4800	Research Practicum in Criminology	3
CRIM:4930	Teaching Internship	1-3
CRIM:4950	Sociology Criminology Student Ambassador	1
CRIM:4990	Directed Individual Study	1-3

Upper-Level Sociology Requirement

Students complete one sociology course (prefix SOC) numbered 2000–4899, excluding the following courses.

Course #	Title	Hours
Not from these:		
SOC:2160	Applied Statistics for Social Scientists	3
SOC:2170	Research Methods	3
SOC:3170	Applied Research	3
SOC:4800	Research Practicum in Sociology	3

Capstone Course

All students complete a capstone course, which illustrates their accomplishments and includes assembling a portfolio. Students generally take the course during their last two semesters of coursework for the major, as long as they have completed an approved statistics course; CRIM:2470 Research Methods in Criminology and Criminal Justice or SOC:2170 Research Methods; one of the introductory courses in criminology, law, and justice; SOC:2130 Sociological Theory; and at least 6 s.h. of electives.

Course #	Title	Hours
One of these:		
CRIM:4400	Internship in Criminal Justice and Corrections	3
CRIM:4800	Research Practicum in Criminology	3
SOC:4910	Capstone Course in Sociology and Criminology	3

Graduation Portfolio Course

During their last semester, all students must enroll in the following course, in which they submit the portfolio they assembled in the capstone course.

Course #	Title	Hours
SOC:4909	Graduation Portfolio	0

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Departmental honors students must maintain a grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.33 in all University of Iowa courses and in all criminology, law, and justice courses. In order to graduate with honors, the following coursework must be completed.

Course #	Title	Hours
CRIM:4998	Honors Research	1-3
SOC:4997	Honors Seminar (taken spring of junior year)	1

The honors thesis is prepared under faculty supervision. It gives students the opportunity to conduct research in close consultation with a faculty member of the student's choice.

Honors students must also take at least one criminology, law, and justice course numbered 3000 or above with honors designation, including graduate courses (honors designation requires instructor approval). Learn more about honors courses on the University of Iowa Honors Program website.

National Honor Program Society

The department sponsors a chapter of Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honor Society. Students who have a cumulative GPA of 3.30, a criminology, law, and justice GPA of at least 3.00 (with four criminology courses), and have attained junior or higher standing are considered for membership. Consult the Alpha Phi Sigma faculty advisor for details.

University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the university's honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the criminology, law, and justice major.

Career Advancement

The major in criminology, law, and justice provides a foundation for graduate or professional study in criminology,

criminal justice, sociology, psychology, law, social work, urban planning, social policy, and similar areas. The major pairs well with majors in other disciplines, such as psychology and social work, and affords students a competitive edge when applying to graduate school in forensic psychology or social work with a corrections emphasis.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the university's Four-Year Graduation Plan. Courses in the major are those required to complete the major; they may be offered by departments other than the major department.

Sequencing of coursework is important in meeting the four-year plan.

Before the fifth semester begins: two introductory courses and a statistics course.

Before the seventh semester begins: both theory and methods courses, three additional introductory courses, two electives, and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree.

Before the eighth semester begins: a capstone course and two additional electives.

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining coursework in the major, including SOC:4909 Graduation Portfolio; all remaining GE CLAS Core courses; and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate.

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

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Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
GE CLAS Core: Sustainability ^a		
Hours		0
First Year		
Fall		
Major: introductory criminology, law, and justice course ^{b, c}		3
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030	Interpreting Literature or Rhetoric: Writing and Communication	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level Proficiency or elective course ^d		4 - 5
CSI:1600	Success at Iowa	1
Elective course ^e		3
Hours		14-16
Spring		
Major: introductory criminology, law, and justice course ^{b, c}		3

RHET:1030 or ENGL:1200	Rhetoric: Writing and Communication or Interpreting Literature	3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab ^f		4
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course ^d		4 - 5
Elective course ^e		2
Hours		16-18

Second Year

Fall

SOC:2130	Sociological Theory	3
Major: quantitative course (STAT:1020 Elementary Statistics and Inference recommended) ^{c, g}		3
GE CLAS Core: Understanding Cultural Perspectives ^{f, h}		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course ^d		4 - 5
Elective course ^e		3
Hours		16-17

Spring

CRIM:2470 or SOC:2170	Research Methods in Criminology and Criminal Justice or Research Methods	3
Major: criminology, law, and justice elective (prefix CRIM, numbered 2000-4999) ⁱ		3
GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences ^{f, j}		3
GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course ^d		4 - 5
Elective course ^e		1 - 3
Hours		14-17

Third Year

Fall

Major: criminology, law, and justice elective (prefix CRIM, numbered 2000-4999) ⁱ		3
Major: advanced criminology, law, and justice elective (prefix CRIM, numbered 3000-4901 or 4998)		3
GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives ^f		3
GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning ^{f, k}		3
Elective course ^e		3
Hours		15

Spring

CRIM:4400 or SOC:4910 or CRIM:4800	Internship in Criminal Justice and Corrections or Capstone Course in Sociology and Criminology or Research Practicum in Criminology	3
Major: advanced criminology, law, and justice elective (prefix CRIM, numbered 3000-4901 or 4998)		3
GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts ^f		3
Elective course ^e		3
Elective course ^e		3
Hours		15

Fourth Year

Fall

Major: advanced criminology, law, and justice elective (prefix CRIM, numbered 3000-4901 or 4998)		3
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GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab ^f	3
GE CLAS Core: Values and Society ^f	3
Elective course ^e	3
Elective course ^e	3
Hours	15
Spring	
SOC:4909 Graduation Portfolio	0
Major: advanced criminology, law, and justice elective (prefix CRIM, numbered 3000-4901 or 4998)	3
Major: upper-level sociology requirement course ^l	3
GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues ^f	3
Elective course ^e	3
Elective course ^e	3
Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall) ^m	
Hours	15
Total Hours	120-128

- a Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative or Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Society.
- b Take two courses from CRIM:1410, CRIM:1447, SOC:1010, SOC:1030. Note: CRIM:1410 and SOC:1010 satisfy the GE CLAS Core Social Sciences requirement and SOC:1030 satisfies the GE CLAS Core Understanding Cultural Perspectives requirement.
- c Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.
- d Students who have completed four levels of a single language or two levels of two different languages in high school or college have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Students who have completed three levels of a single language may complete a fourth-level course in the same language or may choose an approved World Language and Cultural Exploration course. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course. Contact your academic advisor or CLAS Undergraduate Programs Office with questions concerning the World Languages requirement.
- e Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.
- f GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.
- g See the General Catalog for list of approved courses.
- h Students who have previously completed SOC:1030 have already satisfied the GE CLAS Core Understanding Cultural Perspectives requirement.
- i Students complete 18 s.h. of elective coursework in criminology, law, and justice (prefix CRIM) numbered 2000-4999. Four of the required electives must be advanced, chosen from criminology, law, and justice courses numbered 3000-4901 or CRIM:4998. Two of the four advanced electives must be taken after (and not concurrent with) the completion of SOC:2130, CRIM:2470 or SOC:2170, and an approved quantitative course.

- j Students who have previously completed CRIM:1410 or SOC:1010 have already satisfied the GE CLAS Core Social Sciences requirement.
- k Students who have previously completed STAT:1020 or STAT:1030 or STAT:2010 have already satisfied the GE CLAS Core Quantitative or Formal Reasoning requirement.
- l Students complete one sociology course (prefix SOC) numbered 2000-4899, excluding SOC:2160, SOC:2170, SOC:3170, and SOC:4800.
- m Please see Academic Calendar, on Office of the Registrar website, for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Degree Services.