



Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice

The Criminal Justice program focuses on the study of crime and the administration of the justice system. Students study law enforcement, courts, and corrections with the applicable city, county, state, and federal laws and procedures. **Graduates of this program will be ready to apply their knowledge to real-world opportunities within the Criminal Justice discipline.**

Total BACJ Credit Hours Requirement: 120 Credits

BACJ Curriculum: 51 Credits/85 weeks

General Education Curriculum: 40 Credits

Elective/Transfer Curriculum: 30 Credits

Admission Requirements

To be considered for enrollment into the Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice program, an applicant must apply with the following:

General Admission Requirements

- 50 transferable semester hours completed at an accredited college or university, or institutions that are on track to become accredited.
 - Applicants with less than 50 transferable semester hours must meet additional requirements, including submitting any transcripts and exam scores.
 - No more than two identical program courses can be transferred in from another school.
 - There is no age limit to the transfer credits. All relevant coursework will be transferred within the guidelines of the program.
- Overall college transfer grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- One year of full-time work experience

General Admission Requirements (continued)

- Students who speak English as a second language (ESL) must take one of the following exams to show proficiency in the English language:
 - Paper-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
 - Must earn a score of 500 or higher
 - Internet-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
 - Must earn a score of 61 or higher
 - Applicants who graduated from a U.S. high school or earned at least 6 credits at a U.S. college with a passing grade point average may be exempt from these exams.

Applicants may be considered for admission as further defined in the Admission Policies and Transfer of Credit Agreement.

Graduation Requirements

- Complete all courses in the Criminal Justice major with a grade of “C” or better.
- Fulfill all required general education credits.
- Earn a minimum of 120 credits with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.
- Payment of all tuition and fees.

See the courses you will take 

Courses in BACJ

CRIJ 3313

Professional Development (3 credits/5 weeks)

This course is designed to facilitate team-building, as well as the process of adapting to the academic environment. Emphasis will be placed on group interaction, understanding and appreciating the views of others, and personal growth. In addition, students will be introduced to available resources such as the library and Internet tools that will be critical to their success in the academic setting.

CRIJ 1301

Introduction to Criminal Justice (3 credits/5 weeks)

This is an introductory course designed to familiarize students with the history, philosophy, and progress of the criminal justice system in the United States. Included is an overview of ethical considerations, crime defined, law enforcement, the courts system, prosecution and defense, trial processes, and corrections. The responsibilities of various agencies of the criminal justice system will also be delineated.

CRIJ 1312

Community Policing (3 credits/5 weeks)

This is a basic introductory course treating the broad field of police and community relations, focusing particularly on police and community response. Included in this course will be discussion of the philosophy of community policing, its impact on police administration and personnel, and implementation and evaluation issues.

CRIJ 2328

Police Practices and Procedures (3 credits/5 weeks)

This course is an overview of the history and philosophy of law enforcement in a democratic society in accordance with the Constitution. Emphasis is given to the police profession: organization of law enforcement systems, the police role, police discretion, ethics, police-community interaction, and current and future issues.

Courses in BACJ

CRIJ 2304

Criminal Law and Procedures (3 credits/5 weeks)

This course is a study of the nature of criminal law: philosophy and historical developments, major definitions and concepts, classification of crime, elements of crimes and penalties using Texas Statutes as illustrations, and justifications of and defenses to criminal responsibility. Criminal procedure also addresses prosecution, right to counsel, pre-trial release, grand juries, the adjudication process, types and rules of evidence, and sentencing.

CRIJ 2336

Criminology (3 credits/5 weeks)

This course is a study of the nature and causation of crime, crime typologies, and the extent of criminality. Specific topics to be addressed may include crime as a form of deviant behavior; nature and extent of crime; past and present theories; evaluation and prevention, control, and treatment programs.

CRIJ 3306

Juvenile Justice (3 credits/5 weeks)

This course is designed to review the nature and extent of delinquency; explanatory theories; the juvenile justice system; history, philosophy, and evaluation of the juvenile court; juvenile courts and procedures; and the roles of a police officer and a correctional officer.

CRIJ 3308

American Court System (3 credits/5 weeks)

This course is a study of the judiciary in the criminal justice system of the American court system including its legal basis, structure, jurisdiction and operation. It also involves an analysis of the legal transactions involved in the accusation, arrest, adjudication, and disposition of criminal offenders.

CRIJ 3329

Methods in Social Research (3 credits/5 weeks)

This course presents the application of scientific methods of investigation in the social and behavioral sciences.

CRIJ 4310

Corrections and Rights (3 credits/5 weeks)

This course is a systematic study of the official ways in which society reacts to persons who have been convicted of committing criminal acts, including persons handled by the juvenile courts. The rights of the accused are also addressed.

Courses in BACJ

CRIJ 3316

Blacks in Criminal Justice (3 credits/5 weeks)

This course addresses issues that have culminated in African Americans warranting closer examination/study on issues of social change, economics, education, and possible biases of the criminal justice system that serve to disenfranchise blacks (e.g., disparities in adjudication outcomes both at the criminal and juvenile justice levels, as well as other phases of criminal justice processing). This course also examines the contributions made by blacks to the field of criminal justice.

CRIJ 4311

Ethics and Criminal Justice (3 credits/5 weeks)

This course is designed to explore moral decision-making. Basic moral or ethical frameworks are applied to ethical decisions which often need to be made in the Criminal Justice System by police officers, judges, prosecutors, and correctional officers.

CRIJ 4318

Probation and Parole (3 credits/5 weeks)

This course is designed to explore moral decision-making. Basic moral or ethical frameworks are applied to ethical decisions that often need to be made in the criminal justice system by police officers, judges, prosecutors, and correctional officers.

CRIJ 3307

Criminal Investigation (3 credits/5 weeks)

This course is a study of the fundamentals of investigation; duties and responsibilities of the investigator; interrogation techniques of protecting the crime scene; collection and preservation of evidence, scientific aids, and other sources of information; court preparation; and case follow-up. Students gain basic knowledge of forensic evidence development in crime scene techniques including some practical experience concerning various types of evidence including fingerprint impressions, hair, fiber, trace, firearms, biological, accelerants, explosives, and drugs.

PSCI 2313

Social Science Statistics I (3 credits/5 weeks)

This course introduces concepts and methods used in social science statistics and helps students learn how to use statistical tools wisely.

Courses in BACJ

CRIJ 4317

Crime Prevention
(3 credits/5 weeks)

This course is designed to review the nature, causation, and extent of personal, business, and property crimes, as well as proven methods and techniques along with experimental means of dealing with criminal activity. This course also addresses the human and civil resources necessary to engage in an effective and comprehensive crime prevention program.

CRIJ 4313

Senior Seminar
(3 credits/5 weeks)

This capstone course synthesizes the key factors of the major courses taken during the students' previous years of study. Students prove knowledge of research methods, theory, and policy through a term project. This course includes a lecture series, allowing students to hear criminal justice professionals address important career related issues. Other seminar components include interviewing, résumé construction, financial security, recognition of job security, and professionalism. An exit exam covering undergraduate study in the major will be given.



Our Enrollment Team Can Help

Have questions? We can talk you through your specific situation one-on-one so you don't have to figure it all out alone.

Give us a call today so we can help you get started:

888.918.3415