

Criminal Justice

The criminal justice major is designed to educate students to be critical thinkers, ethical problem solvers, and effective communicators. The program offers a comprehensive study of the criminal justice system, including law enforcement, criminal law and the judiciary, and corrections. Moreover, students will understand how these complex and interrelated systems relate to the total society.

Students graduating from the program pursue diverse paths. Students have advanced to graduate and law schools. Other graduates have pursued careers in law enforcement, judicial administration, corrections, juvenile justice, and private security. Regardless of a student's orientation to the study of criminal justice, the program provides a unique blend of required and elective courses taught by experienced faculty. Students will be provided with a balanced and broad program of study, rooted in the liberal arts and social sciences. In addition, the curriculum offers opportunity for learning about practical applications in criminal justice, particularly through field trips and internships.

Criminal Justice majors are also encouraged to supplement their education with studies in others areas. The major is structured to facilitate a student's ability to pursue a double-major or minor, which allows students to extend their knowledge as well as their flexibility with future career options. Students have pursued additional studies in business, psychology, political science, and social work, for instance. Students interested in forensic work may want to consider a double-major or minor in biology or chemistry. Courses in computer science or accounting may be particularly relevant for students interested in careers combating white-collar crime. The legal studies minor is also available for pre-law students and/or those interested in learning more about the U.S. legal system

The criminal justice major consists of 10 required and 3 elective courses, which provide students with a comprehensive understanding of criminal justice. All majors, including transfers, must complete CJ 299 Criminal Justice Information, Communication and Ethics (with a grade of C- or higher) as a prerequisite for 300 and 400 criminal justice courses.

Upon graduating, Criminal Justice majors should be able, for example, to: integrate and synthesize various content areas of criminal justice; critically analyze ethical dilemmas and make principled choices; and recall and demonstrate knowledge of the scientific approach.

Career Opportunities

Law enforcement, legal and judicial administration, corrections, juvenile justice, private security.

Major

CJ 101	Introduction To Criminal Justice	3
CJ 154	Criminal Justice Theory	3
CJ 203	Policing	3
CJ 244	Corrections	3
CJ 297	Criminal Law	3
CJ 299	Criminal Justice Information, Communication and Ethics	3

CJ 302	Criminal Justice Research Methods	3
CJ 305	White Collar Crime	3
CJ 365	Diversity and the Criminal Justice System	3
CJ 410	Senior Seminar	3
Select three of the following:		9
CJ 228	Juvenile Justice	
CJ 246	Criminal Investigation	
CJ 350	Trial Evidence	
CJ 355	Criminal Procedure	
CJ 372	Drugs and Crime	
CJ 390	Special Topics in Criminal Justice	
CJ 420	Victims of Crime	
CJ 422	Women and Crime	
CJ 426	Media and Crime	
CJ 428	Internship	
Total Hours		39

Academic Requirements

Transfer students must take a minimum of 15 semester hours in their criminal justice major or minor at Mount Mercy. A grade of C- or better is required for each course in the major and minor. A student may enroll in and complete a maximum of 6 semester hours for CJ 428 Internship, although only 3 semester hours may be counted toward the major. Majors should follow a sequence of completion in order:

CJ 101	Introduction To Criminal Justice	3
CJ 299	Criminal Justice Information, Communication and Ethics	3
CJ 302	Criminal Justice Research Methods	3
CJ 410	Senior Seminar	3

In addition, criminal justice majors and minors must complete CJ 101 Introduction To Criminal Justice before enrolling in other criminal justice courses.

Criminal Justice Minor

CJ 101	Introduction To Criminal Justice	3
CJ 203	Policing	3
CJ 244	Corrections	3
CJ 297	Criminal Law	3
CJ 299	Criminal Justice Information, Communication and Ethics	3
One additional course from the criminal justice major curriculum		3
Total Hours		18

(Students still must meet semester hour requirements and course prerequisites).