

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE

## What can I do with this major?

### AREAS

### EMPLOYERS

### STRATEGIES

#### **SOCIAL SERVICES**

Corrections  
Probation  
Parole  
Juvenile Justice  
Program Development  
Outreach  
Mentoring  
Victim's Assistance  
Counseling  
Casework  
Prevention Services  
Advocacy  
Administration  
Supervision  
Assessment  
Reporting  
Grant Writing  
Consulting

Government agencies including Child Protective Services  
State and federal correction facilities  
County jails  
Precinct station houses  
Prison camps  
Youth correction facilities  
Voluntary correction facilities  
Halfway houses and pre-release programs  
Reintegration programs  
Alternative schools  
Juvenile detention centers  
Juvenile group homes  
Women's and family shelters  
Domestic violence agencies  
Immigration and naturalization services  
Medical centers  
Other nonprofit organizations  
Adult education providers  
Public and private high schools

Pursue classes or training in topics such as victimology, social problems, diversity issues, or grieving.  
Supplement curriculum with courses in psychology, sociology, or social work.  
To work with juveniles, gain experience working with youth through sports teams, as a summer camp counselor, in parks and recreation programs, or community/religious youth groups.  
Seek volunteer or internship positions in areas such as employment interviewing, social casework, substance abuse, and rehabilitation, etc.  
Learn to work well with people of diverse backgrounds. Consider learning a second language for increased marketability.  
Maintain a blemish-free driving and criminal record.  
Gain firearms and self-defense training for some areas.  
Earn a master's degree in social work or counseling for therapy positions.  
Obtain a master's degree in criminal justice or business for upper-level positions in facilities.

#### **JUDICIARY AND LAW**

Court Reporting/Transcription Services  
Court Clerkship  
Security  
Legal Assistance  
Legal Research  
Administration  
Legal Representation

Local, state, and federal courts  
Government agencies including Departments of:  
Social Services  
Justice  
Treasury  
Defense  
Law firms  
Corporate legal departments  
Public interest law organizations  
Self-employed

Develop strong research, computer, and writing skills.  
Consider a double major or minor in the social sciences such as psychology, anthropology, sociology, or political science.  
Attend a postsecondary vocational or technical college that offers court reporting (CR) or paralegal (CLA) certification programs.  
Learn to use software packages for research positions.  
Seek opportunities to observe courtroom proceedings and become familiar with the legal system.  
Participate in mock trial groups.

**AREAS**

**EMPLOYERS**

**STRATEGIES**

**JUDICIARY AND LAW CONTINUED**

Maintain a high grade point average to gain admittance to law school. Research admissions requirements.  
Obtain a law degree from a law school accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA).

**LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Patrolling  
Investigating  
Probation  
Parole  
Security  
Surveillance  
Loss Prevention  
Forensics

City/County Government Organizations including:  
Police departments  
Correction facilities  
County sheriff departments  
Liquor Control Commission  
Animal control offices  
State Government Organizations including:  
State troopers  
Crime labs  
Penitentiaries  
Federal Government Organizations including:  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI)  
Internal Revenue Service (IRS)  
Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)  
Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)  
Department of Homeland Security  
Postal Service  
Federal Marshals  
Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks  
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
National Parks Service  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, Explosives  
Armed services  
Prisons  
Detention centers  
Youth correction facilities  
Airports and other transportation facilities  
Crime laboratories  
Colleges and universities  
Banks and retail organizations

Obtain related training or certifications such as CPR, first aid, or EMT. Seek training in firearms and self-defense.  
Volunteer to work in a police department or campus safety department.  
Complete a formal police academy program upon graduation.  
Develop strong interviewing, researching, writing, and computer skills.  
Maintain a healthy and physically fit lifestyle.  
Learn to work well with people of diverse backgrounds and develop multicultural competency.  
Learn a second language.  
Become familiar with the government application process.  
Some federal law enforcement agencies look to hire candidates with military backgrounds.  
For a career in Forensics:  
Complete an internship in a crime laboratory to gain experience in the forensic application of science.  
Obtain a double major in criminal justice and a hard science such as biology, chemistry, or biochemistry.  
Consider earning a master's degree in Forensic Science or related discipline for increased opportunities.

\*See also "What Can I Do With A Major in Forensics"

**AREAS**

**EMPLOYERS**

**STRATEGIES**

**BUSINESS**

Private Security  
Consulting  
Installation  
Investigating  
Systems Integration  
Global Intelligence  
Private Investigation  
Internet Security  
Surveillance  
Loss Prevention  
Property Loss Management  
Program Development  
Staffing and Training

Insurance companies  
Banks  
Private security companies  
Software companies  
Retail organizations  
Hotels and resorts  
Health care facilities  
Transportation services  
Nuclear power plants  
Manufacturers  
Online companies  
Other large corporations  
Local, state, and federal agencies  
Private individuals  
Self-employed

Minor in business or computer science, and/or take related courses in computer science or computer systems.  
Gain experience in an area of interest through internships, jobs, or volunteer positions.  
Seek opportunities that include training in the hardware and software of security systems.  
Develop exceptional written and oral communication skills, along with the ability to present information to others.  
Pursue leadership opportunities in campus organizations to hone interpersonal skills.  
Attend firearm safety courses. Obtain first aid and CPR certification.  
Consider gaining military experience and training.  
Maintain current knowledge of computer languages and technology.  
Obtain a high GPA to ensure a greater number of graduate school opportunities.  
Earn a graduate degree in business or law for upper-level positions.

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**EDUCATION**

Teaching  
Research

Colleges and universities

Earn a graduate degree for post-secondary teaching opportunities.  
Serve as a tutor to other students.  
Develop strong written and oral communication skills and the ability to present materials well to others.  
Assist a professor with research.  
Take additional coursework related to research and statistics.  
Maintain a high GPA and secure strong recommendations from faculty.  
Network with others in your field through membership in professional associations and organizations.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- Many criminal justice professions require candidates to possess strong oral and written communication skills and good computer skills. The ability to speak a second language is also desirable.
- Obtain experience through volunteer, practicum, or internship opportunities.
- Supplement program of study with courses in business, psychology, anthropology, or sociology. Course work related to the hard sciences (biology, chemistry, or biochemistry) is necessary for career opportunities in forensics.
- Develop good listening skills and the ability to work well with a wide range of diverse populations.
- Most entry-level positions for criminal justice majors reside with law enforcement and social service organizations.
- Internet Security is a rapidly growing area with a wide variety of career opportunities. Supplement course work with computer science and technology courses to gain entry into this field.
- Depending upon one's career goals, earn a master's degree in disciplines such as criminal justice, forensic science, social work, counseling, or business to obtain positions involving therapy, higher levels of administration, forensics, or research. Earn a doctorate degree for university teaching positions.
- Conduct informational interviews with professionals in fields of interest to learn more about opportunities.
- Be prepared to complete physical and psychological testing, fitness evaluations, and other evaluative tools for entry into law enforcement and related careers.
- Stay up to date on advancements in your field by reading professional journals and related literature, as well as by joining professional organizations and networking with others.