

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

THE BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE (CRIJ)

Mission

The University strives to endow students with the skills necessary for critical knowledge, communication, personal growth, and real-world application opportunities within the Criminal Justice discipline.

The Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice is a four-year interdisciplinary program in the study of crime and the administration of the justice system. The “criminal justice system” study consists of law enforcement, courts, and corrections as a system for the administration of city, county, state, and federal laws and procedures. The curriculum includes a historical overview of the stages of development through which the criminal justice system has evolved and the current state of the system. A broad range of analyses will be offered to meet the academic needs of both professional students who plan future careers in the criminal justice field and those already employed in the criminal justice system.

The primary focus of the program is on the interrelationship of the criminal justice system with other social institutions: crime prevention; types of crimes and classification of offenders; causes and remediation of deviant behavior; policing and crime control; crime scene reconstruction and evidence gathering; the court; probation and parole; rehabilitation; treatment and group counseling programs; and statistical methods in the measurement and analysis of crime.

Degree Requirements for a Major in Criminal Justice

The major requires 45 credit hours of courses in Criminal Justice of which 39 hours are required core classes and (6) hours are electives. In addition, there are two tracks of supporting coursework to choose from to be determined by professional career path. A grade of “C” or higher is required in all major courses.

Required Criminal Justice classes (39 hours) include:

CRIJ 1301 Introduction to Criminal Justice
CRIJ 1312 Community Policing
CRIJ 2328 Police Practices and Procedures
CRIJ 2304 Criminal Law / Procedures
CRIJ 2336 Criminology
CRIJ 3306 Juvenile Justice
CRIJ 3308 American Court System
CRIJ 3329 Methods in Social Research
CRIJ 3308 American Court System
CRIJ 4310 Corrections / Rights

- CRIJ 4311 Ethics and Criminal Justice
- CRIJ 4312 Internship I and II in Criminal Justice
- CRIJ 4313 Senior Seminar

Six credits hours of electives are chosen from the following:

- CRIJ 2314 Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice
- CRIJ 3315 Comparative Criminal Justice
- CRIJ 3316 Blacks in Criminal Justice
- CRIJ 3317 Special Topics
- CRIJ 4317 Crime Prevention
- CRIJ 4318 Probation and Parole

Supporting Course Work Track I – Twenty-four hours – social science emphasis.

Eighteen hours drawing from at least two disciplines. Course options include but are not limited to:

Political Science:

- PSCI 2304 Information Management
- PSCI 2305 Social Science Statistics
- PSCI 2316 Comparative Government
- PSCI 3310 Constitutional Law
- PSCI 3329 Urban Politics
- PSCI 3328 Ancient Political Theory
- PSCI 3317 Public Policy
- PSCI 3316 Public Administration
- PSCI 3315 Social Welfare Policy
- PSCI 4308 Modern Political Theory

Sociology:

- SOCI 2329 Human Sexuality
- SOCI 2320 Conflict Resolution
- SOCI 2319 Addictions
- SOCI 3310 Social Psychology
- SOCI 3319 Minority Group Relations
- SOCI 3320 Victimology
- SOCI 3312 Social Theory
- SOCI 3318 Marriage and the Family
- SOCI 3316 Interventive Methods of Social Work
- SOCI 4300 Social Change
- SOCI 4309 Community
- SOCI 4308 Special Topics

Psychology:

- PSYC 2302 Human Growth and Development
- PSYC 2308 Special Topics: AIDS/HIV
- PSYC 3328 Adolescent Psychology
- PSYC 3308 Psychology and the African American Experience

PSYC 4316 Abnormal Psychology
PSYC 4308 Counseling Theory and Application

Students will select supporting courses with their major advisor with consideration for needs for professional preparation.

Quantitative: One of the following quantitative courses is also required

ACCT 2301 Principles of Financial Accounting
ACCT 4367 Special Topics: Forensic Accounting
PSCI/PSYC/SOCI 2313 Social Science Statistics
PSCI/SOCI 3314 Social Science Statistics II

One of the following courses is also required:

ENGL 3353 Advanced Composition
ENGL 3363 Advance Rhetoric and Argumentation
ENGL 3393 Introduction to Technical Writing

Supporting Course Work Track II - Twenty-two hours - computer forensics emphasis.

COSC 1312 Programming Foundations 1
COSC 1323 Programming Foundations 2
COSC 3325 Computer Forensics
COSC 3321 Computer Organization
COSC 3315 Operating Systems and Theoretical Foundations
COSC 3427 Computer Networks and Distribution Systems

One of the following courses is also required:

ENGL 3353 Advanced Composition
ENGL 3363 Advance Rhetoric and Argumentation
ENGL 3393 Introduction to Technical Writing

Requirements for a Minor in Criminal Justice

Students must complete 18 credit hours. A grade of “C” or higher is required in all minor courses.

Required:

CRIJ 1301 Introduction to Criminal Justice
CRIJ 2336 Criminology

Of the twelve additional CRIJ credit hours,

six hours (two classes) must be upper division courses;
three hours (one class) must be senior level.

A SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCE FOR THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE MAJOR

YEAR 1							
FALL					SPRING		
UNIV	1201 or	Freshman Orientation	2	ENGL	1302	College Rhetoric and Composition	3
RAMS	1201						
ENGL	1301	Introduction to College Composition	3	COMM	1315	Public Speaking	3
MATH	1314	College Algebra	3	KINE	1304	Dimensions of Health and Wellness	3
CRIJ	1301	Introduction to Criminal Justice	3			Fine Arts Core	3
KINE		Personal Fitness/Sports	1			Language II	3
Language I			3				
Total Hours			15	Total Hours			15
SUMMER 1							
COSC	1300	Introduction to Computers	3				
YEAR 2							
FALL				SPRING			
Science I			4	Science II			4
ENGL	2326	American Literature	3	CRIJ	1312	Community Policing	3
HIST	1301/1302	U.S. History I or II	3	PSCI	1301/1302	U.S. <i>or</i> Texas Government	3
RELI	2302	Comparative Religion <i>or</i>				Behavioral Science	3
PHIL	2301	Philosophy and Ethics	3			Supporting Class	3
		Supporting Class	3				
Total Hours			16	Total Hours			16
YEAR 3							
FALL				SPRING			
CRIJ		CJP Elective	3			Supporting Course	3
CRIJ	2328	Police Practice/Procedures	3	CRIJ	3306	Juvenile Justice	3
CRIJ	2304	Criminal Law/Procedures	3	CRIJ	3307	Criminal Investigation	3
CRIJ	2336	Criminology	3	CRIJ	3329	Research Methods	3
CRIJ	3308	American Court System	3	CRIJ		Elective for CJP	3
Total Hours			15	Total Hours			15
YEAR 4							
FALL				SPRING			
CRIJ	4310	Corrections and Rights	3			Quantitative Course	3
CRIJ	4311	Ethics and Criminal Justice	3	CRIJ	4313	Senior Seminar	3
CRIJ		Supporting Course	3	ENGL		Advanced Writing Class	3
CRIJ	4312	Internship in Criminal Justice	3			Elective	3
Supporting Course			3			Supporting Course	3
Total Hours			15	Total Hours			15

COURSES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE (CRIJ)

CRIJ 1301 Introduction to Criminal Justice

3 Credit Hours

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 the ethical considerations, crime defined, law enforcement, court system, prosecution and defense, trial process and corrections. The responsibilities of various agencies of the Criminal Justice System will also be delineated.

Prerequisite: None

Offered: Yearly

CRIJ 1312 Community Policing **3 Credit Hours**

This is a basic introductory course treating the broad field of police and 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.

Prerequisite: None

Offered: Yearly

CRIJ 2304 Criminal Law and Procedures **3 Credit Hours**

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.

Prerequisite: CRIJ 1301

Offered: Yearly

CRIJ 2314 Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice **3 Credit Hours**

This course will address current issues in the criminal justice system such as racial profiling, terrorism, safety, and community involvement related to safety issues.

Prerequisite: None

Offered: Every Other Year

CRIJ 2328 Police Practice and Procedures **3 Credit Hours**

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.

Prerequisite: CRIJ 1301

Offered: Yearly

CRIJ 2336 Criminology **3 Credit Hours**

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 theories; evaluation and prevention, control, and treatment programs. This course is the same as SOCI 2336.

Prerequisite: None

Offered: Fall/Every Other Year

CRIJ 3306 Juvenile Justice **3 Credit Hours**

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; the role of a police officer and the correctional officer.

Prerequisite: CRIJ 1301

Offered: Yearly

CRIJ 3307 Criminal Investigations and Forensics **3 Credit Hours**

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 with techniques concerning various types of evidence including fingerprint, impressions, hair, fiber, trace, firearms, biological, accelerant, explosives and drugs.

Prerequisites: CRIJ 1301

Offered: Yearly

CRIJ 3308 American Court System **3 Credit Hours**

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.

Prerequisite: None

Offered: Yearly

CRIJ 3315 Comparative Criminal Justice

3 Credit Hours

This course is a survey of the organizational, administrative, and philosophical principles of criminal justice systems around the world. This course meets a diversity requirement.

Prerequisite: None

Offered: Every Other Year

This course also meets a diversity requirement

CRIJ 3316 Blacks in Criminal Justice

3 Credit Hours

This course addresses issues that have culminated in African Americans warranting closer examination/study on issues of social change, economics, education and what may be biases of the criminal justice system that serve to disenfranchise blacks, i.e., 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.

Prerequisites: None

Offered: Every Other Year

CRIJ 3317 Special Topics

3 Credit Hours

Topics vary according to the current interests of the department and/or students. *May be repeated* once when topics vary.

Prerequisite: None

Offered: As Needed

CRIJ 3329 Methods in Social Research

3 Credit Hours

This course presents the application of scientific methods of investigation in the social and behavioral sciences. Same as SOCI 3329

Prerequisites: PSYC 1301 or SOCI 1301

Offered: Spring/Yearly

CRIJ 4310 Corrections and Rights

3 Credit Hours

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.

Prerequisite: CRIJ 1301

Offered: Yearly

CRIJ 4311 Ethics and Criminal Justice

3 Credit Hours

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.

Prerequisite: CRIJ 1301

Offered: Yearly

CRIJ 4312 Internship in Criminal Justice

3 Credit Hours

This course provides upper-level students the opportunity to perform as participants in established criminal justice agencies at the local, state, and federal levels. This is a writing intensive course.

Prerequisites: Approval by instructor or Chair; May be repeated

Offered: Yearly

This is a writing intensive course

CRIJ 4313 Senior Seminar

3 Credit Hours

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 providing and allowing students to hear criminal justice professionals address important career related issues. Other seminar

components include interviewing, resume construction, financial security, recognition of job security and professionalism. An exit exam covering undergraduate study in the major will be given.

Prerequisites: Approval by Instructor or Chair

Offered: Yearly

This is a writing intensive course

CRIJ 4317 Crime Prevention

3 Credit Hours

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

CRIJ 1301

Offered: Yearly

CRIJ 4318 Probation and Parole

3 Credit Hours

This course is a study of the philosophy, evaluation, and functions of probation and parole. Specific topics include differentiation between probation and parole, the processes involved in the consideration for granting probation and parole and the related conditions. This course also looks closely at how probation and parole are impacted by recidivism (or the effectiveness of probation and parole).

Prerequisites: CRIJ 1301

Offered: Yearly

THE BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE (PSCI)

Mission

The curriculum in Political Science is designed to provide knowledge and understanding of the basic concepts of political science, the fundamental theories of the state and its evolution, the national and international political forces and the constitutional system.

The major or minor sequence in Political Science may serve as basic undergraduate preparation for (1) entrance into graduate school, (2) entrance into law school, (3) a career in public service, or (4) the teaching of government, civics, or other related social studies in the public schools.

Requirements for a Major in Political Science

The major in Political Science consists of a minimum of 36 credit hours (in addition to the PSCI 1301 Core requirement) and a maximum of 39 credit hours.

1. The following courses are required: PSCI 1302, 1303, 2304, 2313, 2316, 3316, 3328, 4308, and 4329.
2. The balance of required semester hours must be selected from the list of Political Science electives: PSCI 1300, 2300, 2309, 3310, 3329, 3314, 3317, 3315, 4300, 4319, 4318, 4317, 4307, and ECON 2301 or ECON 2302.
3. A grade of "C" or higher is required in all major courses.