

## **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES**

### **THE BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE (CRIJ)**

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 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 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; the types of crimes and the 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.

#### **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

**The following class is also required:**

ENGL 3393 Introduction to Technical Writing

**Requirements for a Minor in Criminal Justice**

Students must complete 18 credit hours.

*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

FALL		YEAR 1		SPRING	
ENGL 1301	Intro. to College Comp.	3	ENGL 1302	College Comp. and Res.	3
MATH 1314	College Algebra	3	COMM 1315	Public Speaking	3
CRIJ 1301	Intro. to Criminal Justice	3	KINE 1304	Dimensions of Health & Wellness	3
KINE	Personal Fitness/Sports	1	Fine Arts Core		3
Language I		3	Language II		3
COSC 1300	Introduction to Computers	3			
Total Hours		16	Total Hours		15

FALL		YEAR 2		SPRING	
Science I		4	Science II		4
ENGL	Literature	3	CRIJ 1312	Community Policing	3
ENGL 2326	American Literature		PSCI 1301/1302	U.S. or Texas Govt.	3
HIST 1301/1302	U.S. History I or II	3	Supporting Course Behavioral Science		3
RELI 2302	Comparative Religion	3			
PHIL 2301	Philosophy and Ethics	3			
Total Hours		16	Total Hours		16

SUMMER	
Behavioral Science	3
Total	3

FALL		YEAR 3		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	Elective for CJP		3
Total Hours		15	Total Hours		15

FALL		YEAR 4		SPRING	
CRIJ 4310	Corrections & Rights	3	Quantitative Course		3
CRIJ 4311	Ethics & Criminal Justice	3	CRIJ 4313	Senior Seminar	3
CRIJ	Supporting Course	3	ENGL 3353	Advanced Composition	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 will also address: 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 will be 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; collections and preservation of evidence, scientific aids and other sources of information; court perpetration and case follow-up. Students will gain basic knowledge of forensic evidence developments in crime scene techniques with some practical experience 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 including the American court system including their legal basis, structure, jurisdiction and operation. It will also involve 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**  
**and PSCI 2305**

**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 will also be 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;**

**Offered: Yearly**

**May be repeated. 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 will 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 will also address 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 will include differentiation between probation and parole, the processes involved in the consideration for granting probation and parole and the related conditions; This course will also look closely at how probation and parole are impacted by recidivism (or the effectiveness of probation and parole).

**Prerequisites: CRIJ 1301**

**Offered: Yearly**