

# Criminal Justice

The Criminal Justice major is a four-year program that lets students choose between two tracks: general criminal justice and law enforcement. Our criminal justice instructors are former or current practitioners, so opportunities are provided for students to build professional contacts and to explore areas of interest throughout the criminal justice network. The law enforcement track has been granted provisional certification to provide the academic component of the Professional Peace Officer Education (PPOE). Students in both tracks are required to participate in internships, which collaborate with federal, state, county, and local agencies.

### What Type of Work are Related to this Degree?

- Corrections, probation, parole
- Juvenile justice
- Program Development
- Victim's assistance or advocacy
- Casework
- Prevention services
- Court appointed guardian or advocate
- Private security and investigations
- Surveillance or intelligence
- Loss prevention
- Offender monitoring
- Police work (often requires additional training)

### Who Employs People with this Degree?

- Federal, state and local government agencies
- Military branches
- Defense agencies
- Security companies
- Private investigative services
- Retail stores
- Mid to large size corporations
- Colleges and universities
- Residential treatment facilities
- Law firms
- Private probation
- Social and human services organizations
- Offender Monitoring Companies

**More information at [ONETonline.org](http://ONETonline.org)**

### General Strategies for Success:

- 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.
- 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.
- Be prepared to complete physical and psychological testing, fitness evaluations, and other evaluative tools for entry into law enforcement and related careers.

### Professional Associations

American Criminal Justice Association  
National Criminal Justice Association  
The American Parole and Probation Association  
American Correctional Association  
National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition  
Academy of Criminal Justice Services  
National Association of Legal Assistants

This information represents possible occupations and strategies for careers with this major. As with any job or career, there may be additional qualifications or experience needed. For more information and options, make an appointment with Career & Leadership Development or check out our online resources on our website or on myUNW, Career & Leadership Development tab.