

CRIMINAL JUSTICE (BS)

Justice and Security

The Department of Criminal Justice at Plymouth State University aims to serve students interested in a variety of careers spanning law enforcement, investigations, court administration, corrections, juvenile services, loss prevention, as well as graduate or law school. Consistent with the general mission of Plymouth State University, the department seeks to produce well-rounded graduates who are equipped to both continue their education and enter the work force. In addition, the department serves the surrounding community, not only by producing high quality graduates well prepared to enter their field, but also by partnering with local and regional agencies to provide academic and research support.

Students in the BS in criminal justice program focus on career preparation. The program includes a heavy emphasis on the criminal justice system itself, and how the branches of the system operate together and independently. Students develop skills in a variety of areas including, but not limited to, problem solving techniques, communication skills, data analysis skills, and technical writing skills, along with an appreciation for ethical and professional behavior in the field. Upon completion of the program, students will be well prepared for a variety of criminal justice careers. Students will also have developed an independent sense of self, with a tolerance toward others and the ability to work in diverse cultures.

Degree Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
Major Requirements		
CJ 1020	Criminal Justice in Action	4
CJ 2025	Police and society	4
CJ 2045	Criminal Procedure	4
CJ 2075	Corrections	4
CJ/SO 2080	Crime and Criminals	4
CJ 2090	Criminal Law	4
CJ/PY 3157	Society, Ethics, and the Law (DICO)	4
CJ 3225	Research Methods in Criminal Justice (WRCO)	4
CJ 3260	Data Analysis for Criminal Justice (QRCO,TECO)	4
CJ 3450	Technology in criminal justice (TECO,WRCO)	4
Capstone		
Choose one of the following:		4
CJ 4580	Internship in Criminal Justice	Four credits of CJ 4580 cannot double count as Major Elective credits; eight credits of CJ 4580 will satisfy Major Elective and Capstone requirements
CJ 4805	Criminal Justice Seminar (WRCO)	
Major Electives		
Complete four credits from the following: ¹		4
AN 3605	Forensic Anthropology	
CJ 3005	Criminal Investigation	
CJ 3015	Cybercrime	
CJ 3025	Forensic Science	
CJ 3075	Race, Class, Crime and Justice (DICO)	
CJ 3110	Youth and Crime	
CJ 3270	Explaining Crime	

CJ 3350	Criminal Justice and Mental Health	
CJ 3405	Homeland Security	
CJ 3475	Communication for Law Enforcement	
CJ 3515	Women and Crime (DICO,GACO)	
CJ 3600	Restorative Justice Practice with Youth	
CJ 3720	Topics in Criminal Justice	
CJ 3800	Career Prep for Criminal Justice	
CJ 3810	Physical Fitness for Law Enforcement	
PO 3635	Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties	
SO 3085	Juvenile Delinquency	
SO 3185	Sociology of Deviance (DICO)	
SO 3375	Sociology of Race and Ethnicity (DICO)	
General Education (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/)		
EN 1400	Composition	4
IS 1115	Tackling a Wicked Problem	4
MA (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#MATH)	Mathematics Foundations	3-4
CTDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#CTDI)	Creative Thought Direction	3-4
PPDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#PPDI)	Past and Present Direction	3-4
SIDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SIDI)	Scientific Inquiry Direction	3-4
SSDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SSDI)	Self and Society Direction	3-4
Directions (choose from CTDI, PPDI, SIDI, SSDI) (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/) ²		4-8
GACO (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#GACO)	Global Awareness Connection	3-4
WECO (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#WECO)	Wellness Connection	3-4
INCP (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#INCP)	Integrated Capstone	3-4

Electives	37-39
Total Credits	120

¹ Several of the Major Electives have prerequisites; see their course description for details.

² Directions should total 20 credits (unless the major has a waiver for a specific Direction).

Recommended Course Sequence

Check all course descriptions for prerequisites before planning course schedule. Course sequence is suggested but not required.

To complete the bachelor's degree in 4 years, you must successfully complete a minimum of 15 credits each semester or have a plan to make up credits over the course of the 4 years. For example, if you take 14 credits one semester, you need to take 16 credits in another semester. Credits completed must count toward your program requirements (major, option, minor, certificate, general education or free electives).

Course	Title	Credits
Year One		
EN 1400	Composition	4
IS 1115	Tackling a Wicked Problem	4
MA (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#MATH)	Mathematics Foundation	3-4
CJ 1020	Criminal Justice in Action	4
CJ 2025	Police and society	4
CJ 2080	Crime and Criminals	4
CTDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#CTDI)	Creative Thought Direction	3-4
PPDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#PPDI)	Past and Present Direction	3-4
Electives		0-4
Credits		29-36
Year Two		
CJ 2045	Criminal Procedure	4
CJ 2075	Corrections	4
CJ 2090	Criminal Law	4
SIDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SIDI)	Scientific Inquiry Direction	3-4
SSDI (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#SSDI)	Self and Society Direction	3-4
Directions (choose from CTDI, PPDI, SIDI, SSDI) (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/) ¹		4-8
Elective		2-8
Credits		24-36

Year Three		
CJ 3225	Research Methods in Criminal Justice (WRCO)	4
CJ 3260	Data Analysis for Criminal Justice (QRCO,TECO)	4
CJ 3450	Technology in criminal justice (TECO,WRCO)	4
Complete one Major Elective from the following:		4
AN 3605	Forensic Anthropology	
CJ 3005	Criminal Investigation	
CJ 3015	Cybercrime	
CJ 3025	Forensic Science	
CJ 3075	Race, Class, Crime and Justice (DICO)	
CJ 3110	Youth and Crime	
CJ 3270	Explaining Crime	
CJ 3350	Criminal Justice and Mental Health	
CJ 3405	Homeland Security	
CJ 3515	Women and Crime (DICO,GACO)	
CJ 3600	Restorative Justice Practice with Youth	
CJ 3720	Topics in Criminal Justice	
PO 3635	Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties	
SO 3085	Juvenile Delinquency	
SO 3185	Sociology of Deviance (DICO)	
SO 3375	Sociology of Race and Ethnicity (DICO)	
GACO (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#GACO)	Global Awareness Connection	3-4
Electives		10-13
INCP (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#INCP)	Integrated Capstone 3-4	0-4
Credits		29-37
Year Four		
CJ/PY 3157	Society, Ethics, and the Law (DICO)	4
Complete one Capstone Course from the following:		4
CJ 4580 or CJ 4805	Internship in Criminal Justice or Criminal Justice Seminar (WRCO)	
WECO (https://coursecatalog.plymouth.edu/general-education/#WECO)	Wellness Connection	3-4
Electives		18-21
Credits		29-33
Total Credits		120

¹ Directions should total 20 credits (unless the major has a waiver for a specific Direction).

Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate an understanding of criminal law, justice system processes, terminology, and history,

- Apply criminological theory and research methodology to the practice of criminal justice
- Analyze and evaluate moral and ethical perspectives as related to the field of criminal justice,
- Demonstrate technical competencies, and verbal and written communication skills,
- Describe and evaluate the principles of scientific methodology to become informed consumers of criminal justice research, and
- Identify and appraise the presence of biases and prejudices and the role of diversity (racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, gender, socioeconomic, age, disabilities) in the application of justice

Career Pathways

- Airport Security
- ATF Agent
- Border Patrol Agent
- Child Support Agency Worker
- Correctional Officer
- Correctional Treatment Specialist
- Crime Scene Investigator
- Criminal Investigator
- DEA Agent
- FBI Agent
- Homeland Security Officer
- Juvenile Probation/Parole Officer
- Loss Prevention Specialist
- Parole Officer
- Police Officer
- Postal Inspector
- Prison Warden
- Private Investigator
- Private Security Officer
- Probation Officer
- Secret Service Special Agent
- Security Services Specialist
- U.S. Marshall
- Victim Advocate
- Youth Service Worker/Coordinator