



## **Why should I major in criminal justice at Cal State Fullerton?**

The degree plan in criminal justice provides a liberal arts background that investigates the causes, origins and effects of crime. At the same time, the degree plan provides students with a solid background for occupations that grapple with the problem of crime. Within the criminal justice major, courses are designed to analyze and study topics that deal with the prevention of crime, the effects of crime and measures to safeguard society from crime. Upon graduation, students will be versed in the wide spectrum of ideas established in criminal justice, which creates a quality foundation for our graduates' career endeavors. In addition, the major in criminal justice at Cal State Fullerton offers:

**A growing faculty** - As a large and rapidly growing major, the number of faculty in criminal justice continues to expand to meet the needs of our students.

**Diverse course offerings** - The perspectives of many professionals who represent law enforcement, criminal courts and corrections provide a first hand understanding of the many topics our students face.

**Outstanding faculty with professional credentials** - Our faculty members have an established history in the criminal justice field. Faculty members have experience as professionals with police departments, probation departments, and throughout the criminal court system.

**Expanded perspective of the field** - As expressed in our "Correlated Curriculum" portion of the major, students can choose from a list of recommended courses in political science, sociology, anthropology, public administration and other fields. Using these additional courses, students gain an expanded perspective and come to understand criminal justice in a broader context.

**Vibrant student groups** - Our student organizations provide an extracurricular method of gaining further exposure to the criminal justice field. Special activities designed by the student groups involve guest speakers, field trips and meetings to supplement learning from the classroom.

### **What are the career opportunities in criminal justice?**

Criminal justice students prepare for occupations that deal with the challenge of crime in a free society. Students typically enter rewarding careers in law enforcement or corrections, relying on their bachelor's degree for placement and/or as a gateway to career development. Others extend their education beyond the bachelor's degree. Criminal justice graduates often seek law degrees or masters degrees in public administration, criminal justice or other fields. Graduates of our criminal justice program succeed as lawyers, researchers, and as senior leaders within public organizations. Still others find their way to diverse and unexpected occupations with local, state or federal agencies, both public and private.

### **What are the requirements for the bachelor's degree?**

Every student must complete seven core courses (21 units), and a minimum of four courses (12 units) of electives. In addition, each student is required to complete 9 units in a correlated curriculum, and satisfy the university's upper-division writing requirement (3 units). Criminal Justice bulletin boards in University Hall, 5th floor, offer more information, and majors should pick up a copy of the Student Handbook produced each semester by the Division of Political Science and Criminal Justice. Information is also available on the Division Web site, at <http://hss.fullerton.edu/polisci/default2.htm>.

For a more personalized and detailed discussion of the curriculum, all new majors are urged to attend a New Major Orientation. Please check with the department office for dates and times of the orientation.

#### **The Core Curriculum (21 units)**

The seven required courses are as follows. Each offers three semester units of credit.

- Crim Just 300 Introduction to Criminal Justice
- Crim Just 310A Criminal Law: Substantive
- Crim Just 315 The Enforcement Function
- Crim Just 320 Introduction to Public Management and Policy
- Crim Just 330 Crime and Delinquency
- Crim Just 340 Criminal Justice Research Methodology
- Crim Just 345 Corrections

#### **The Concentration Curriculum**

Students choose a minimum of four electives (12 units) in criminal justice to satisfy this portion of the major. Many seniors include Crim Just 495, Internship, among their electives.

### **The Correlated Curriculum**

Students choose a minimum of three courses (9 units) from related fields, outside of criminal justice, to fulfill this portion of the major. The department maintains a list of approved courses, available in the Division Office, University Hall 511, or on the World Wide Web. The purpose of this requirement is to foster an awareness of the place of criminal justice within a wider world of ideas and action. Upper-division courses in such fields as political science, public administration, sociology, philosophy and others may be found on the approved list. Exceptions to the approved list may be approved in writing by an advisor. Students may double-count units in the correlated curriculum toward a minor in another field.

### **Writing Requirement (3 units)**

Choose one of the following courses:

- Crim Just 350 Principles and Concepts of Investigation and Reporting
- English 301 Advanced College Writing
- English 365 Legal Writing

Students who choose Crim Just 350 to meet this requirement may not also use it as an elective in the concentration curriculum for the major.

### **The Minor in Criminal Justice**

A minor certifies systematic learning in criminal justice to students whose majors are in another field. The minor consists of a total of 18 units, including three required and three elective courses in criminal justice. The required courses are:

- Crim Just 300 Introduction to Criminal Justice
- Crim Just 310A Criminal Law: Substantive
- Crim Just 330 Crime and Delinquency

### **Where can I get additional information?**

All students are strongly encouraged to attend a New Major Orientation session. Sessions are held approximately every five weeks, including summers and semester breaks. Additionally, a student handbook is published every semester by the Division of Political Science and Criminal Justice. It is available in the Division Office, University Hall 511. Also available are a wide variety of handouts and information sheets, including convenient major requirement listings and approved correlated curriculum courses.

You can also visit the Criminal Justice Department Web site, at: <http://hss.fullerton.edu/polisi/default2.htm>. Please see our listing of courses and requirements in the Cal State Fullerton university catalog, available on paper and on the Web at: <http://www.fullerton.edu/schedule/>.

Furthermore, students are advised to make regular contact with major advisers. Though not required, appointments may be made through the Division Office

at (714) 278-3521. Students interested in law school should consult with Professor Max Dery, the Prelaw Adviser for majors in the Division of Political Science and Criminal Justice. Appointments may be made through the Division Office. Professor Dery can offer criminal justice majors advice about their correlated curriculum choices, and about membership in the university's Prelaw Society.

Written inquiries are welcome at:

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