

CRIMINAL JUSTICE, B.A.

Program Description

The Criminal Justice Program seeks to provide students with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking capabilities necessary for successful careers in the criminal justice field.

Criminal Justice is an inter-disciplinary social science that is concerned with issues of crime and punishment and the processes and agencies involved in addressing crime. It includes scholarship related to a variety of fields. For example, sociology aids in understanding what social factors underlie criminal behavior, political science lends perspectives on the processes of criminalization and punishment, psychology helps to clarify the roots of certain types of deviant behavior, and legal studies presents foundations for appreciating what can be criminalized and the rationales for various responses to crime.

Why Take This Major?

At La Salle, Criminal Justice is a demanding, high-quality program built on theory and a serious grounding in the liberal arts as a pathway to a variety of professional careers.

- Small class size
- Faculty accessible to students, in accord with La Salle's goal of "touching the hearts of our students"
- Challenging curriculum
- Emphasis on theoretical insights and practical applications
- A multi-disciplinary approach, with an emphasis on social justice and social service
- Solid preparation for graduate or professional school

Degree Earned

B.A.

Required for Graduation

- Courses
 - Major: 12
 - Total: 38
- Credits
 - Major: 36
 - Total: 120
- GPA
 - Major: 2.0
 - Cumulative: 2.0

Student Learning Outcomes

- Awareness how various social factors (race, poverty, discrimination, gender) shape the criminal justice system.
- Students will have a theoretical grounding in the theories that explain criminal justice outcomes.
- Students will understand how qualitative and quantitative types of research are used in the study of criminal justice and students will develop writing proficiency.

Progress Chart

Level One - Core Courses

12 courses and 2 modules required.

Major Requirements

Major requirements include 4 Level Two ILO requirements, *fulfilled through the major*.

Students in this major must complete **38** courses in total in order to graduate. **12** courses will be from this major program.

Code	Title	Credits
Level One - Core Courses		
<i>Universal Required Courses</i>		
Students must complete the following 4 courses.		
ILO 8.1: Written Communication (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
ENG 110	College Writing I: Persuasion	3
ILO 5.1: Information Literacy (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
ENG 210	College Writing II: Research	3
ILO 1.1: Understanding Diverse Perspectives (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
FYS 130	First-Year Academic Seminar ¹	3
ILO 2.1: Reflective Thinking and Valuing (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
REL 100	Religion Matters	3
<i>Elective Core Courses</i>		
Students must complete 1 course in each of the following 4 ILOs.		
ILO 3.1a: Scientific Reasoning (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
Choose course within ILO (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		4
ILO 3.1b: Quantitative Reasoning (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
SOC 301	Principles of Statistics	3
ILO 6.1: Technological Competency (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
Choose course within ILO (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		3
ILO 8.1a/12.1: Oral Communication/Collaborative Engagement (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
Choose course within ILO (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		3
<i>Distinct Discipline Core Courses</i>		
Students must complete 1 course in each of the following 4 ILOs. Each course must be from a different discipline. (A "discipline" is represented by the 3- or 4-letter prefix attached to each course.)		
ILO 4.1: Critical Analysis and Reasoning (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
CRJ 161	Introduction to Criminal Justice	3
ILO 9.1: Creative and Artistic Expression (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		
Choose course within ILO (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)		3

ILO 10.1: Ethical Understanding and Reasoning (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)	
Choose course within ILO (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)	3
ILO 11.1: Cultural and Global Awareness and Sensitivity (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)	
SOC 262 Dynamics of Race and Ethnicity in Contemporary Societies	3
<i>Universal Required Modules</i>	
Students must complete the following 2 non-credit modules. ²	
ILO 7.1a (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)	
Health Literacy Module	
ILO 7.1b (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)	
Financial Literacy Module	
Major Requirements	
<i>Level Two</i>	
Students must complete 1 course/learning experience in each of the 4 commitments.	
ILO 2.2: Broader Identity (Capstone Course/Experience) (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)	
CRJ 495 Senior Seminar: Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice (ILO 2.2)	3
Select one ILO from 3.2a, 3.2b, 4.2, 5.2, 6.2, 7.2a, or 7.2b: Expanded Literacies (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)	
Select one of the following: (ILO 4.2)	
CRJ 324 Policing: Theory & Dynamics	
CRJ 325 Criminal Courts	
CRJ 326 Institutional and Community Corrections	
ILO 8.2b: Effective Expression (Writing-Intensive Course) (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)	
CRJ 261 Criminology (ILO 8.2b)	3
Select one ILO from 10.2, 11.2, or 12.2: Active Responsibility (https://catalog.lasalle.edu/undergraduate/ilo/)	
CRJ 480 Research Methods (ILO 12.2)	3
<i>All Other Required Courses</i>	
CRJ 161 Introduction to Criminal Justice	3
CRJ 261 Criminology	3
CRJ/SOC 480 Research Methods	3
CRJ 495 Senior Seminar: Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice	3
SOC 262 Dynamics of Race and Ethnicity in Contemporary Societies	3
SOC 301 Principles of Statistics	3
SOC 302 Statistical Analysis and Data Base Design	3
Select one of the following: ³	3
CRJ 324 Policing: Theory & Dynamics	
CRJ 325 Criminal Courts	
CRJ 326 Institutional and Community Corrections	
Select at least four of the following: ⁴	4
CRJ 201 Social Problems & Policy	
CRJ 280 Criminal Law	
CRJ 320 Delinquency and Juvenile Justice	
CRJ 324 Policing: Theory & Dynamics	
CRJ 325 Criminal Courts	
CRJ 326 Institutional and Community Corrections	

CRJ 340 Crimes of The Powerful	
CRJ 350 Violence in Society	
CRJ 370 Special Topics in Criminal Justice	
CRJ 387 Gender, Crime, And Justice	
CRJ 483/ SOC 481 Criminal Justice Research	
SOC 265 Sociology of Law	
ENG 308 Legal Writing	
CRJ 481 Criminal Justice Internship ⁵	
CRJ 482 Criminal Justice Internship ⁵	

Free Electives

In addition to the requirements listed above, students must take enough courses to the fulfill graduation credit requirements for their School and major.

Total Credits **74**

1

NOTE. The following students use Level 2 Capstone Experience in Major instead of FYS 130 First-Year Academic Seminar: Honors, BUSCA, Core-to-Core, Transfer, and Non-Traditional/Evening.

2

The Modules are **not** required for Transfer Students, Core-to-Core Students, or BUSCA Students. BUSCA students are required to take modules if/when they pursue a bachelor's degree.

3

The other two courses may be taken as an elective.

4

THREE of which must be CRJ.

5

Students who meet the 2.75 GPA requirements, have junior standing, and can be recommended by a faculty member and the department chair are strongly encouraged to take an Internship (CRJ 481 Criminal Justice Internship-CRJ 482 Criminal Justice Internship).

Recommended Course Sequence

Course	Title	Credits
First Year		
CRJ 161	Introduction to Criminal Justice	3
CRJ 261	Criminology	3
		Credits
		6
Third Year		
First Semester		
SOC 301	Principles of Statistics	3
		Credits
		3
Second Semester		
SOC 302	Statistical Analysis and Data Base Design	3
		Credits
		3
Fourth Year		
First Semester		
CRJ 480	Research Methods	3
		Credits
		3
Second Semester		
CRJ 495	Senior Seminar: Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice	3
		Credits
		3
		Total Credits
		18

Requirements and electives should be taken every semester.

Dual Major Requirements

REQUIRED FOR DUAL SOCIOLOGY/CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEGREE:

Code	Title	Credits
Core Courses		
CRJ 161	Introduction to Criminal Justice	3
CRJ 261	Criminology	3
CRJ/SOC 480	Research Methods	3
CRJ 495	Senior Seminar: Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice ¹	3
or SOC 481	Research Seminar	
SOC 150	Principles of Sociology	3
SOC 151	Social Problems and Social Policy ²	3
SOC 262	Dynamics of Race and Ethnicity in Contemporary Societies	3
SOC 231	Love, Interpersonal Relationships, And Family	3
or SOC 260	Men and Women in Contemporary Society	
SOC 301	Principles of Statistics	3
SOC 302	Statistical Analysis and Data Base Design	3
SOC 310	Sociological Theory	3
Sociology		
Select at least four of the following:		12
SOC 238	Environment and Society	
SOC 265	Sociology of Law (CRJ Elective)	
SOC 270	Special Topics in Sociology	
SOC 306	Complex Organizations in Contemporary Society	
SOC 308	Social Inequality in Contemporary Society	
SOC 312	Social Movements in Contemporary Society	
Criminal Justice		
Select at least four of the following:		12
CRJ 161	Introduction to Criminal Justice	
CRJ 340	Crimes of The Powerful	
CRJ 350	Violence in Society	
CRJ 387	Gender, Crime, And Justice	
CRJ 201	Social Problems & Policy ³	
CRJ 280	Criminal Law	
CRJ/SOC 320	Delinquency and Juvenile Justice	
CRJ 324	Policing: Theory & Dynamics	
CRJ 325	Criminal Courts	
CRJ 326	Institutional and Community Corrections	
CRJ 483	Criminal Justice Research	
SOC 265	Sociology of Law	
CRJ 340	Crimes of The Powerful	
ENG 308	Legal Writing	
SOC 340	Sociological Internship and Practice ⁴	
or CRJ 481	Criminal Justice Internship	
or CRJ 482	Criminal Justice Internship	
Total Credits		57

1

Counts as CRJ 483 Criminal Justice Research

2

Counts as CRJ 201 Social Problems & Policy

3

Counts as SOC 151 Social Problems and Social Policy

4

Students who meet the 2.75 GPA requirements, have junior standing, and can be recommended by faculty and the department chair are strongly encouraged to take a Sociology (SOC 340 Sociological Internship and Practice) or CRJ Internship (CRJ 481 Criminal Justice Internship-CRJ 482 Criminal Justice Internship)

Minors

- Criminal Justice, Minor (<https://catalog.lasalle.edu/archives/2023-2024/undergraduate/arts-sciences/sociology-criminal-justice/criminal-justice-ba/criminal-justice-minor/>)

Course Descriptions

Criminal Justice

CRJ 151 Social Problems and Social Policy (Cross-listed with SOC 151) This course is an exploration of how social conflict and social organization affect human and societal well-being. Topics: mental health, personal safety, economic well-being, and intergroup relations in an industrial society and a developing nation.

CRJ 161 Introduction to Criminal Justice This course is a survey of the discipline, including its use of social sciences and law in understanding the phenomena of crime and justice and how the two relate. Explores criminal justice theory and processes, as well as the roles of ideology, politics, and mass media in shaping crime policy. Seeks to foster deeper perspectives on how justice—for individuals as well as for society—relates to intensely human experiences like freedom and suffering.

CRJ 201 Social Problems & Policy This course is an exploration of how social conflict and social organization affect human and societal well-being. Topics: mental health, personal safety, economic well-being, and intergroup relations in an industrial society and a developing nation.

CRJ 231 Love, Marriage, & Parenting

CRJ 237 City:Conflict/Change

CRJ 261 Criminology

This course explores major theories of deviance as they apply to behavior viewed as criminal or delinquent. Draws on a variety of academic perspectives to help understand and explain varied manifestations of crime and criminal behavior. Focus is on classical, positivist, and critical approaches, as well as the social policy implications of various theoretical frames of reference.

CRJ 265 Sociology of Law

This course analyzes the law as a social process in historical and comparative perspectives, in particular historical legal traditions such as the British common law, the Napoleonic code, and some other legal systems.

CRJ 270 Special Topics

CRJ 271 Special Topics

CRJ 272 Special Topics

CRJ 273 Special Topics

CRJ 274 Special Topics

CRJ 275 Special Topics

CRJ 276 Special Topics

CRJ 277 Special Topics

CRJ 278 Special Topics

CRJ 280 Criminal Law

This course provides a journey into the legal principles that underlie substantive criminal law in the United States, including limits on the power of government to define crimes. Consideration of general principles of criminal liability and criminal defenses and legal requirements for specific crimes, including homicide. Appellate court decisions are a major part of the expedition to facilitate understanding of how criminal law is applied in particular fact situations, how it evolves, and how it is influenced by sociopolitical factors.

CRJ 315 Inside-Out: Exploring Crime & Justice

The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program is an opportunity for a small group of students from La Salle University ("outside students") and a group of people currently incarcerated ("inside students") to exchange ideas and perceptions about crime and justice, corrections, and imprisonment. It is a chance for all participants to gain a deeper understanding of the criminal justice system through the marriage of theoretical knowledge and practical experience. The course is structured around several key questions: What are prisons for? Why do people commit crime? What does the criminal legal system do well and what does it not do well? What are the needs of victims? What are some of the myths and realities of prison life? What are the unintended consequences of mass incarceration? What happens if we abolish prisons?

CRJ 320 Delinquency and Juvenile Justice

This elective course involves a study of why youth become delinquent and the social responses to such behavior, both historically and currently. Includes consideration of definitions, measurement, and theories of delinquency. Also examines the role of socio-demographic factors and juvenile court processing and juvenile corrections. Implications for policy and practice are emphasized.

CRJ 324 Policing: Theory & Dynamics

This course offers an analysis of police roles, including evolution, public perceptions, administration, culture, and police deviance. Social and political contexts are emphasized through incorporation of social science research related to policing and organizations. Encourages integration of concepts of police on a micro level (the police occupation) with a macro level (the context in which social action occurs), facilitating understanding of the complex relationships between a society and its police.

CRJ 325 Criminal Courts

This course addresses the state and federal criminal courts in the United States. Consideration of social science and legal scholarship with regard to major court actors (especially judges, prosecutors, and defenders) and processes (including bail, plea bargaining, and trials). Also examines non-traditional approaches, such as treatment courts. An important theme is the degree to which the courts effectuate the noble goal of "justice."

CRJ 326 Institutional and Community Corrections

This course examines the philosophy and history underlying attempts to deal with persons who commit crime. Emphasizes social science scholarship in corrections, including implications related to social justice. Topics include: philosophies of punishment, prisons, jails, probation, parole, intermediate punishments, capital punishment, and transformative approaches. The social worlds of prisoners are a major focus of the course. Attendance at multiple sessions at one or more corrections sites may be required.

CRJ 329 Gender and the Law

Gender and the Law examines how Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act led to decades of litigation "because of sex," starting with the first key cases in the early 1970s and tracing many precedent setting cases through the present day. These cases will have three broad themes: sex stereotyping, sexual harassment/retaliation and motherhood/pregnancy. The cases center on the workplace and were ultimately decided by the U.S. Supreme Court. A sociological lens will be used to put these cases in context of U.S. culture.

CRJ 330 Constitutional Procedures in Policing

This course provides exposure to the legal rules that are supposed to be followed by law enforcement actors when they investigate crime (conduct searches, make arrests, interrogate suspects). Also, the social contexts of those rules are examined, including issues such as breadth of police powers, individual privacy, unequal enforcement, and political influences. State and federal appellate court decisions are the major means through which legal principles are examined.

CRJ 335 Mass Incarceration: Causes, Consequences, and Alternatives

This course first explores and critically assesses the main explanations proposed for the rise and perpetuation of mass incarceration in the United States, including an increasingly punitive and retributive shift, the war on drugs, white supremacy and racial control, and privatization/profit motives. The course then examines the main consequences of mass incarceration for individuals, families, neighborhoods, and broader society. Understanding the causes and consequences of mass incarceration, the course concludes with an evaluation of various alternatives and reforms to mass incarceration.

CRJ 340 Crimes of The Powerful

This course offers a study of social harms perpetrated by persons of power and influence. Theoretical approaches for understanding elite deviance and legal issues in definition, investigation, prosecution, and sentencing will be considered. Specific crimes of the powerful will be explored, including through case studies.

CRJ 345 Restorative Justice

Restorative justice is a strategy that seeks to repair the harms done to those affected by a crime or conflict, including harmed parties (aka "victims"), responsible parties (aka "offenders"), and other community members. The course begins with a critical examination of how restorative theory and practice address the limitations of conventional justice system processing in the United States. The use of restorative justice in various contexts, including the criminal justice system as well as within correctional and educational settings, is also explored. Restorative justice's role in advancing racial, social, and gendered justice is evaluated, including an examination of how restorative models fit within other reform and abolitionist strategies.

CRJ 350 Violence in Society

This course provides a study of traditional "street" violence as well as "intimate" violence. A variety of theoretical approaches to understanding violence are explored. A parallel theme is the role of the mass media in shaping how we think about violence.

CRJ 355 Drugs, Crime, and Justice

(Cross-listed with SOC 355) This course is designed to provide students with an in-depth understanding of a variety of issues related to drug use, abuse, addiction, drug-related crime and drug control. The course begins with an examination of the effects of drugs on individuals and society, including prevalence rates, theories of addiction and the harms and benefits of use and abuse. The next unit assesses the relationship between criminal activity and drug use, abuse and criminalization. The final unit critically evaluates various drug control strategies, including supply reduction, demand reduction and possible alternatives.

CRJ 358 Crime Mapping

This course will provide an overview of crime theories that emphasize the spatial variation of crime and techniques used in the study of crime and justice. Students will explore why crime occurs where it does as well as briefly explore techniques that can be used to map crime (using ArcGIS, a popular mapping system used by local and federal law enforcement agencies in the United States). No prior crime mapping/ ArcGIS experience is necessary. Special attention will be given to urban crime patterns, specifically the spatial variation of crime in and around Philadelphia.

CRJ 370 Special Topics in Criminal Justice

This is a course that addresses intensively a particular area of criminal justice. Topics vary from semester to semester.

CRJ 371 Special Topics**CRJ 372 Special Topics****CRJ 373 Special Topics****CRJ 374 Special Topics****CRJ 375 Special Topics****CRJ 376 Special Topics****CRJ 377 Special Topics****CRJ 378 Special Topics****CRJ 379 Special Topics****CRJ 385 Theories of Deviance**

This course focuses on an intensive analysis of contemporary theories of deviant behavior. Theories examined through seminar discussions of primary materials and critiqued by consideration of research findings. Social policy implications discussed and specific criminal justice programs considered in the light of these theories.

CRJ 387 Gender, Crime, And Justice

This course is a study of the gendered nature of criminal justice theory, policy, and practice. Among the major themes are: gender differences in criminal behavior, criminal victimization, and criminal processing. Includes consideration of the contributions of feminist criminologies.

CRJ 395 Ethical Issues-Policing & CRJ**CRJ 444 Research in CRJ I**

This course provides the student with an opportunity to do research with a faculty member. The student and the faculty member agree on the research project before the student registers for the course.

CRJ 445 Research in CRJ II

This course is a continuation of the 444 research course. It provides the student with an opportunity to continue to conduct research with a faculty member.

CRJ 450 Co-op Education**CRJ 451 Co-op Education II****CRJ 470 Special Topics in Criminal Justice**

This is a course that addresses intensively a particular area of criminal justice. Topics vary from semester to semester.

CRJ 472 Special Topics**CRJ 480 Research Methods**

This course examines the methodology of social research is performed, including through studying examples of criminal justice research. Focus is on becoming a more informed consumer of research information.

Topics include: research ethics, sampling, field research, experimental designs, survey research, research using available data, and evaluative research. Prerequisite(s): CRJ 161, 261, and junior or senior status

CRJ 481 Criminal Justice Internship

This elective course requires 15 hours per week (for three credits) of a supervised internship in an approved criminal justice setting. Students may take an internship in place of a criminal justice elective, after completion of the sophomore year. The department recommends doing two internships (during different semesters) during the last two years of your college career. To receive 3 credits, the internship must be approved in advance by the internship director for the department. The department recommends that you take 4 regular classes and the internship (done during that same semester) will count as your 5th class. Your grade is determined from a midterm question and answer, a final paper and your on-site supervisor's evaluation of your internship performance. Prerequisite(s): Rising junior or senior status and minimum overall GPA of 2.7

CRJ 482 Criminal Justice Internship

This elective course requires 15 hours per week (for three credits) of a supervised internship in an approved criminal justice setting. Students may take an internship in place of a criminal justice elective, after completion of the sophomore year. The department recommends doing two internships (during different semesters) during the last two years of your college career. To receive 3 credits, the internship must be approved in advance by the internship director for the department. The department recommends that you take 4 regular classes and the internship (done during that same semester) will count as your 5th class. Your grade is determined from a midterm question and answer, a final paper and your on-site supervisor's evaluation of your internship performance. Prerequisite(s): Rising junior or senior status and minimum overall GPA of 2.7

CRJ 483 Criminal Justice Research

Each student works on a particular research project in conjunction with a faculty member. Includes preparation of literature review, collection and analysis of data, and preparation of findings in a paper of publishable quality. Faculty authorization required for registration. Prerequisite(s): CRJ 161, 261, 480, senior status, and minimum overall G.P.A. of 3.0

CRJ 486 Crim Justice Internship**CRJ 495 Senior Seminar: Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice**

This course is an exploration of the interaction between ethics and criminal justice practice, including application of ethical theory to criminal justice issues. Focus is primarily on normative ethics (both deontological and teleological views), including major theorists. The course helps to integrate knowledge gained from previous courses through the overarching theme of the pursuit of justice as an ethical ideal. Prerequisites: CRJ 161 and 261; at least one of the following: CRJ 324, 325, and 326; and senior status.

Program Contact Information

Brian Wyant, Ph.D.
Chair, Sociology and Criminal Justice
351 Hayman Hall
wyant@lasalle.edu
215-991-3554