Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies

Criminology is the sociology-based study of crime and the criminal justice system. Through the criminology and criminal justice studies major, students learn about the dimensions of the crime problem, explanations of the prevalence of various types of crime, and the various agencies and programs designed to prevent and control crime and delinquency. These agencies and programs include the police, courts, probation and parole systems, and correctional institutions. Attention also is given to such issues as youth and crime, women and crime, and the place of control agencies in the larger societal context. As a social science/liberal arts field, criminology provides majors with a variety of techniques for examining and responding to important questions about the causes and consequences of crime and the workings of the criminal justice system.

Pursuing Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies at Ohio State
All freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process; find admissions criteria at go.osu.edu/admissions. Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in criminology and criminal justice studies.

For students interested in majoring in criminology and criminal justice studies, the first step is to see an undergraduate advisor in the Department of Sociology to plan course work for the major and the completion of the General Education requirements.

Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies Requirements

Core requirements
As a prerequisite to declaring a major in criminology and criminal justice studies, all students should complete Sociology 1101, Introduction to Sociology. This three-hour course may be taken concurrently with other lower-level criminology (and sociology) courses.

Criminology majors must complete the following core requirements: Sociology 3410, Criminology; Sociology 3487, Research Methods of Sociology; Sociology 3488, Introduction to Sociological Theory; and Sociology 3549, Statistics in Sociology.

Criminology majors must complete a minimum of 24 additional credit hours of course work in criminology/sociology, including a minimum of 12 hours of 4000- or 5000-level criminology courses. Students should consult with the sociology/criminology undergraduate advisor to develop a plan of study that is appropriate for meeting their academic and career interests and goals.

Elective
In an effort to best prepare students for life after college, students are also required to complete either a research or internship experience. Students will enroll in either Sociology 3191, Internship Program; Sociology 4998, Undergraduate Research; Sociology 4000S, Proseminar in Sociology; or Sociology H4999, Senior Honors Thesis.

Co-Curricular Opportunities
The Department of Sociology has a strong internship program for its undergraduate majors in criminology. Students may augment their course work with career-related internship and volunteer experiences. Students may participate in community-based experiences at settings such as the Columbus City Prosecutor's Office, Columbus Division of Police, and the Office of the Inspector General. Students can receive credit for their internship experience. Learn more at sociology.osu.edu/undergraduate-program.

World Renowned Faculty
Faculty within the Department of Sociology are nationally and internationally recognized for their contributions to research, scholarship and teaching. Students have the opportunity to study with some of the leading scholars in the world in their respective fields. The contacts and references provided by these faculty members can be invaluable when applying to graduate school or for landing a great job after graduation.

The Department of Sociology has an active chapter of the national Alpha Kappa Delta sociology honorary society, which hosts annual recognition events and is a forum for intellectual exchange.

The Sociology department also hosts a Sociology and Criminology Club, with which students may do service work, attend speaking events, discuss movies and participate in a variety of social activities.

For more information, check these websites:
Sociology: sociology.osu.edu
College of Arts and Sciences: artsandsciences.osu.edu
Ohio State: osu.edu
Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu
Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu
First Year Experience Program: fye.osu.edu
Honors & Scholars Programs
Honors students who pursue a major in criminology and criminal justice studies have the opportunity to enroll in Honors-specific courses, conduct research with faculty, attend departmental forums, and engage in intellectual discussions as a member of our Honors community. The following courses all have Honors sections offered at least once a year:

- Sociology H1101: Introduction to Sociology
- Sociology H2345: American Society
- Sociology H2367.03: Work and Family in the United States
- Sociology H3410: Criminology
- Sociology H3463: Social Stratification: Race, Class and Gender
- Sociology H3487: Research Methods in Sociology

Honors students are exposed to research in several ways. Most courses at the 4000 level and above require students to read and critique research articles. Relationships developed in class lead many students to become involved in faculty-led research projects or conduct their own independent research (Senior Honors Thesis) under the supervision of a faculty advisor.

Career Prospects in Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies
An undergraduate major in criminology and criminal justice studies provides an excellent liberal arts foundation, and graduates are able to apply their skills and knowledge across a wide variety of occupations and professions and for graduate or professional education. Some graduates enter directly into the labor force in law enforcement, delinquency prevention and control services, crime prevention, corrections, probation or parole, criminal justice administration, and research. Like other social science majors, undergraduate criminology majors also are employed in non-crime related sectors: health and social services (e.g., in substance abuse and rehabilitation counseling); community work (e.g., in child welfare agencies); and federal, state and local government (e.g., in urban planning and housing).

The criminology major provides a foundation for post-baccalaureate work in law, public policy, social work, business, theology and urban planning. Many students also will use the undergraduate major as preparation for graduate work in criminology or in a related field, such as sociology. Graduate degrees lead to teaching and/or research positions in universities or colleges, governmental agencies, business and industrial firms, research institutes in the nonprofit sector, or self-employment and consulting.

Curriculum Sample
This is a sample list of classes a student may take to pursue a degree in criminology and criminal justice studies. Since university students need more than specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete General Education (GE) requirements. Because GE courses come from a variety of academic areas of study, this course work helps students develop fundamental skills essential to collegiate success and allows them to tailor these courses toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in criminology. Consult sociology.osu.edu for details.

Freshman Year:
- Introduction to Sociology 3
- Survey course 1
- GE courses 19
- Electives 8
- **Total hours** 31

Sophomore Year:
- Criminology electives 9
- GE courses 21
- **Total hours** 30

Junior Year:
- Research Methods in Sociology 3
- Criminology 3
- Introduction to Sociological Theory 3
- Internship Program 3
- Statistics in Sociology 3
- Criminology elective 3
- Minor courses 6
- GE courses 6
- **Total hours** 30

Senior Year:
- Criminology electives 12
- Minor courses 12
- GE courses 6
- **Total hours** 30

Revised September 2015. Information subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on the criminology and criminal justice studies program, please visit sociology.osu.edu/undergraduate-program.

Contact information:
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