

CRIMINAL JUSTICE, MINOR

Requirements for a minor may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. Students may not change from a campus that offers their major to a campus that does not offer their major for the purpose of completing a minor.

Program Description

The Criminal Justice minor provides an overview of the criminal justice system and a thorough grounding in criminological theory. Students receive an in-depth look at the three main system components: policing, courts, and corrections, as well as the opportunity to delve into two or more specialized topics relating to criminal justice. The minor is designed not only for students who have a professional interest in criminal justice, but also for those who want to be informed members of the voting citizenry. A functional understanding of crime and the criminal justice system is useful in many careers, including law, social work, education, and journalism.

What is Criminal Justice?

Criminal justice is the study of the adult and juvenile justice systems, including law enforcement, the courts, and corrections. It is interdisciplinary and includes understanding the intersections of law, public policy, and behavioral science, in an effort to understand crime as a social problem and improve these systems for the good of society.

You Might Like This Program If...

You want to be informed members of the voting citizenry. A functional understanding of crime and the criminal justice system is useful in many careers, including law, social work, education, and journalism.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CRIMINAL JUSTICE (<https://altoona.psu.edu/academics/minor-programs/criminal-justice/>)

Program Requirements

| Requirement | Credits |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Requirements for the Minor | 18 |

Requirements for the Minor

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the minor, as specified by Senate Policy 59-10 (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/59-00-minors-and-certificates/#59-10>). In addition, at least six credits of the minor must be unique from the prescribed courses required by a student's major(s).

| Code | Title | Credits |
|---|------------------------------------|---------|
| Prescribed Courses | | |
| <i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i> | | |
| CRIMJ 100 | Introduction to Criminal Justice | 3 |
| CRIMJ 210 | Policing in America | 3 |
| CRIMJ 220 | Courts and the Prosecution Process | 3 |
| CRIMJ 230 | Corrections in America | 3 |
| Supporting Courses and Related Areas | | |
| <i>Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better</i> | | |
| Select 6 credits of 400-level CRIMJ courses (excluding CRIMJ 495) | | 6 |

Academic Advising

The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee's unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/>)

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Career Paths

The minor is designed not only for students who have a professional interest in criminal justice, but also for those who want to be informed members of the voting citizenry. A functional understanding of crime and the criminal justice system is useful in many careers, including law, social work, education, and journalism.

Careers

Career Services supports and serves students and alumni, faculty and staff, families, and employers in all areas related to career development and preparation. We can assist in any of the following: Major and Career Exploration Career Decision-Making Preparation of Employment Documents Internship and Job Search Strategies Interview Preparation Preparing for Graduate School Developing your Professional Online Brand Presentations and Workshops

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES WITH A MINOR IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE (<https://altoona.psu.edu/offices-divisions/center-workforce-career-development/career-services/>)

Contact

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<https://altoona.psu.edu/academics/bachelors-degrees/criminal-justice>
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<https://www.abington.psu.edu/academics/majors-at-abington/criminal-justice> (<https://www.abington.psu.edu/academics/majors-at-abington/criminal-justice/>)

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<https://harrisburg.psu.edu/public-affairs/criminal-justice-minor> (<https://harrisburg.psu.edu/public-affairs/criminal-justice-minor/>)

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<https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/penn-state-online-criminal-justice-minor> (<https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/penn-state-online-criminal-justice-minor/>)