# CRIMINAL JUSTICE

## What can I do with this major?

### AREAS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOCIAL SERVICES</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
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</table>
| Corrections     | Government agencies including Child Protective Services  
| Probation       | State and federal correction facilities  
| Parole          | County jails  
| Juvenile Justice| Precinct station houses  
| Program Development | Prison camps  
| Outreach        | Youth correction facilities  
| Mentoring       | Voluntary correction facilities  
| Victim's Assistance | Halfway houses and pre-release programs  
| Counseling      | Reintegration programs  
| Casework        | Alternative schools  
| Prevention Services | Juvenile detention centers  
| Advocacy        | Juvenile group homes  
| Administration  | Women's and family shelters  
| Supervision     | Domestic violence agencies  
| Assessment      | Immigration and naturalization services  
| Reporting       | Medical centers  
| Grant Writing   | Other nonprofit organizations  
| Consulting      | Adult education providers  
|                 | Public and private high schools  |

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<tr>
<th>JUDICIARY AND LAW</th>
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<th>STRATEGIES</th>
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| Court Reporting/Transcription Services | Local, state, and federal courts  
| Court Clerkship   | Government agencies including Departments of:  
| Security          | Social Services  
| Legal Assistance  | Justice  
| Legal Research    | Treasury  
| Administration    | Defense  
| Legal Representation | Law firms  
|                   | Corporate legal departments  
|                   | Public interest law organizations  
|                   | Self-employed  |

|                 | Develop strong research, computer, and writing skills.  
|                 | Consider a double major or minor in the social sciences such as psychology, anthropology, sociology, or political science.  
|                 | Attend a postsecondary vocational or technical college that offers court reporting (CR) or paralegal (CLA) certification programs.  
|                 | Learn to use software packages for research positions.  
|                 | Seek opportunities to observe courtroom proceedings and become familiar with the legal system.  
|                 | Participate in mock trial groups.  |
STRATEGIES EMPLOYERS AREAS

JUDICIARY AND LAW CONTINUED

LAW ENFORCEMENT
Patrolling
Investigating
Probation
Parole
Security
Surveillance
Loss Prevention
Forensics

City/County Government Organizations including:
- Police departments
- Correction facilities
- County sheriff departments
- Liquor Control Commission
- Animal control offices

State Government Organizations including:
- State troopers
- Crime labs
- Penitentiaries

Federal Government Organizations including:
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI)
- Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
- Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)
- Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)
- Department of Homeland Security
- Postal Service
- Federal Marshals
- Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- National Parks Service
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, Explosives
- Armed services

Prisons
Detention centers
Youth correction facilities
Airports and other transportation facilities
Crime laboratories
Colleges and universities
Banks and retail organizations

Maintain a high grade point average to gain admission to law school. Research admissions requirements.
Obtain a law degree from a law school accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA).
Obtain related training or certifications such as CPR, first aid, or EMT. Seek training in firearms and self-defense.
Volunteer to work in a police department or campus safety department.
Complete a formal police academy program upon graduation.
Develop strong interviewing, researching, writing, and computer skills.
Maintain a healthy and physically fit lifestyle.
Learn to work well with people of diverse backgrounds and develop multicultural competency.
Learn a second language.
Become familiar with the government application process.
Some federal law enforcement agencies look to hire candidates with military backgrounds.
For a career in Forensics:
- Complete an internship in a crime laboratory to gain experience in the forensic application of science.
- Obtain a double major in criminal justice and a hard science such as biology, chemistry, or biochemistry.
- Consider earning a master's degree in Forensic Science or related discipline for increased opportunities.

*See also "What Can I Do With A Major in Forensics"
## AREAS

### BUSINESS
- Private Security
- Consulting
- Installation
- Investigating
- Systems Integration
- Global Intelligence
- Private Investigation
- Internet Security
- Surveillance
- Loss Prevention
- Property Loss Management
- Program Development
- Staffing and Training

### EDUCATION
- Teaching
- Research

## EMPLOYERS

- Insurers
- Banks
- Private security companies
- Software companies
- Retail organizations
- Hotels and resorts
- Health care facilities
- Transportation services
- Nuclear power plants
- Manufacturers
- Online companies
- Other large corporations
- Local, state, and federal agencies
- Private individuals
- Self-employed

## STRATEGIES

### BUSINESS
- Minor in business or computer science, and/or take related courses in computer science or computer systems.
- Gain experience in an area of interest through internships, jobs, or volunteer positions.
- Seek opportunities that include training in the hardware and software of security systems.
- Develop exceptional written and oral communication skills, along with the ability to present information to others.
- Pursue leadership opportunities in campus organizations to hone interpersonal skills.
- Attend firearm safety courses. Obtain first aid and CPR certification.
- Consider gaining military experience and training.
- Maintain current knowledge of computer languages and technology.
- Obtain a high GPA to ensure a greater number of graduate school opportunities.
- Earn a graduate degree in business or law for upper-level positions.

### EDUCATION
- Earn a graduate degree for post-secondary teaching opportunities.
- Serve as a tutor to other students.
- Develop strong written and oral communication skills and the ability to present materials well to others.
- Assist a professor with research.
- Take additional coursework related to research and statistics.
- Maintain a high GPA and secure strong recommendations from faculty.
- Network with others in your field through membership in professional associations and organizations.
GENERAL INFORMATION

- Many criminal justice professions require candidates to possess strong oral and written communication skills and good computer skills. The ability to speak a second language is also desirable.
- Obtain experience through volunteer, practicum, or internship opportunities.
- Supplement program of study with courses in business, psychology, anthropology, or sociology. Course work related to the hard sciences (biology, chemistry, or biochemistry) is necessary for career opportunities in forensics.
- Develop good listening skills and the ability to work well with a wide range of diverse populations.
- Most entry-level positions for criminal justice majors reside with law enforcement and social service organizations.
- Internet Security is a rapidly growing area with a wide variety of career opportunities. Supplement course work with computer science and technology courses to gain entry into this field.
- Depending upon one's career goals, earn a master's degree in disciplines such as criminal justice, forensic science, social work, counseling, or business to obtain positions involving therapy, higher levels of administration, forensics, or research. Earn a doctorat degree for university teaching positions.
- Conduct informational interviews with professionals in fields of interest to learn more about opportunities.
- Be prepared to complete physical and psychological testing, fitness evaluations, and other evaluative tools for entry into law enforcement and related careers.
- Stay up to date on advancements in your field by reading professional journals and related literature, as well as by joining professional organizations and networking with others.