



# Criminal Justice

## College of Liberal Studies

The criminal justice minor is an interdisciplinary minor designed to assist students planning to enter career related areas involving some aspect of the criminal or juvenile justice system. The minor provides students with the opportunity to gain an intellectual understanding of the U.S. criminal justice system. The minor is fully grounded in the liberal arts, and prepares students by providing a sound knowledge base and developing analytical and critical thinking skills necessary in criminal justice related occupations.

The criminal justice minor is complementary to a variety of majors offered at UW-La Crosse. Majors in Sociology, Political Science, Public Administration, Psychology, Philosophy, Spanish, Geography, Accountancy, Computer Science, Chemistry, Therapeutic Recreation, or the pre-law program (in conjunction with a major), will maximize student experiences and opportunities in criminal justice related fields.

### Undergraduate Program

#### Minor:

- Criminal Justice

### Program Features

The interdisciplinary minor in criminal justice requires a minimum of 21 credits. Courses used to meet the minor requirements must be taken from at least three different departments. A maximum of three credits may be counted toward the fulfillment of both the criminal justice minor and your major. Courses offered in the minor are taught in the departments of Sociology, Political Science/Public Administration, Psychology, Philosophy, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and Geography. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the many internship opportunities that are available for students in the minor. Students have completed internships in a wide variety of settings throughout Wisconsin and the United States.

### Sample Courses

- Criminal Justice
- Corrections
- Delinquency
- Criminology
- Social Psychology
- Sociopharmacology
- The American Legal System
- Constitutional Law
- Abnormal Psychology

### Career Opportunities

- Local, State, and Federal Law Enforcement
- Correctional Officer/Jailer
- Probation/Parole officer
- Prison Caseworker
- Youth Care Worker in a Juvenile Facility
- Private Security/Loss Prevention Specialist
- Private Investigator
- Investigator for an Insurance Company
- Domestic Violence Counselor
- Victim Services Worker
- Court Service Worker
- Halfway House Counselor
- Substance Abuse Counselor

### Occupational Outlook

The criminal justice minor will be advantageous to individuals seeking entry-level careers in criminal and juvenile justice, private security or corrections, or those who are considering graduate or professional school in criminology or criminal justice. The job market for criminal justice related career opportunities is very diverse. Jobs in the criminal justice related fields for someone with a Bachelors degree in a liberal arts or science related field and a minor in criminal justice include all entry-level law enforcement and corrections positions, social service related fields such as halfway house counselor or juvenile group home worker.

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