Department Overview

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 UWL. 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.

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 Sociology, Political Science/Public Administration, Psychology, Philosophy, Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and Geography Departments. 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 U.S. Recently we have had interns work with the U.S. Marshals Service, La Crosse Police Department, The Public Defender, Justice Sanctions, and Probation and Parole.

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