CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

DEGREE(S)

+ Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in criminology and criminal justice
+ Minor in criminology and criminal justice

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Criminology and criminal justice (CCJ) are fields of study that incorporate an interdisciplinary perspective to examine the causes and correlates of criminal behavior as well as the institutions that respond to such behavior. A degree in criminology and criminal justice provides a comprehensive academic foundation to the nature of criminal offending, victimization, law enforcement, court administration, the law, and both community and institutional corrections.

Consistent with Saint Louis University’s Jesuit tradition, the criminology and criminal justice program seeks to strengthen our criminal justice systems and, more importantly, our communities by focusing on the factors that cause crime and violence and on the humanity of victims, offenders and practitioners. This major is a good fit for students interested in legal studies, law enforcement at the local, state or federal levels and working with adults and/or juveniles in correctional settings as well as those pursuing graduate education or a law degree.

Additional degree options include:

+ Honors Courses:
The criminology and criminal justice program offers advanced coursework approved for Honors credit.

+ Minor:
For those pursuing other majors but who are also interested in criminology and criminal justice, the program offers a minor that provides students a foundation for understanding a variety of criminology and criminal justice professions and the core values of the field.

ABOUT THE FACULTY

SLU’s criminology and criminal justice faculty are nationally recognized as leaders in research and community engagement, many with years of professional experience in the field. Our faculty members have diverse research interests, including: communities and crime, correctional treatment of offenders, criminal justice decision-making, disparities in criminology and criminal justice, juvenile justice administration and outcomes, sentencing and punishment outcomes, and understanding the causes and correlates of crime.

CURRICULUM

The criminology and criminal justice curriculum covers a wide array of topics including theories of crime, criminal justice ethics, law enforcement, corrections, legal procedures and criminal justice research. In addition, students tailor the major to their individual needs and interests by selecting courses focused on criminal justice systems as well as the nature of crime.

Criminology and Criminal Justice Core Courses (21 credit hours):
+ Introduction to Criminal Justice
+ Research Methods in CCJ
+ Multiculturalism for the CJ Professional
+ Criminology: The Nature of Crime
+ Statistics in CCJ
+ Ethics in Criminal Justice
+ CCJ Capstone

Criminal Justice Systems Courses (nine credit hours, select three)
+ Law Enforcement; Institutional and Community Corrections; Juvenile Justice and Delinquency; Criminal Law and Procedure; Criminal Investigations; CCJ Internship

Nature of Crime Courses (nine credit hours, select three)
+ Contemporary Theories of Crime; Corporate and White-Collar Crime; Understanding Serial Killers; Victimology/Victimization; Race and Crime; The Science of Evil; Mental Health and Crime; CCJ Externship

Students are advised to take CCJ 2150 prior to CCJ 3150 and CCJ 2000 prior to CCJ 2500.

Contact
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Graduate Programs
+ Master of Science (M.S.) in criminology and professional practice
For a full listing of graduate programs, visit graduate.slu.edu.
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Freshman: All applications are thoroughly reviewed with the highest degree of individual care and consideration to all credentials that are submitted. Solid academic performance in college preparatory course work is a primary concern in reviewing a freshman applicant’s file. College admission test scores (ACT or SAT) are used as an additional indicator of the student’s ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University and are used as qualifiers for certain University scholarship programs. To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, the applicant must be graduating from an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the General Education Development (GED) test.

Transfer: Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED. An official high school transcript and official test scores are required only of those students who have attempted fewer than 24 transferable semester hours (or 30 quarter hours) of college credit. Those having completed 24 hours or more of college credit need only submit a transcript from previously attended college(s). In reviewing a transfer applicant’s file, the office of admission holistically examines the student’s academic performance in college-level coursework as an indicator of the student’s ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:
+ Scholarships: awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
+ Financial Aid: provided in the form of grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, applicants should apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For more information, visit the student financial services office online at finaid.slu.edu.

WHY CHOOSE THIS PROGRAM?

+ SLU’s CCJ program is innovative in its approach to improving our justice systems by focusing on the humanity of those involved in and impacted by crime and violence in our communities.
+ SLU is founded on the Jesuit tradition of "educating the whole person." Our program challenges and engages students intellectually with the latest in theory, research and practice.
+ SLU is the place you come to change the world. Our major offers students the opportunity to live what they learn through compassionate service.

Benefits of the CCJ program also include internship and job opportunities. CCJ students have the opportunity to complete an internship or externship, allowing them to gain valuable, hands-on experience and make professional contacts prior to pursuing employment. SLU partners with a wide variety of agencies and organizations all over St. Louis City and St. Louis County to provide CCJ students with diverse options for their internship and/or externship experiences. Placement options include working with juveniles or adults in private or public agencies at the local, state or federal level and a number of local community-based agencies working with at-risk individuals. A CCJ degree opens doors to employment in the criminal and juvenile justice systems and many nonprofit organizations. Graduates might also pursue further education in law or other social sciences in preparation for professional or research careers.

Career opportunities in criminology and criminal justice include:
+ Correctional officer
+ Criminal investigator
+ Detective
+ Federal agent
+ Juvenile justice staff/administrator
+ Lawyer
+ Police officer
+ Policy Analyst
+ Private security
+ Probation/parole officer
+ Researcher
+ Youth worker

SLU has a strong service-learning component. Students can embody SLU’s Jesuit mission by using the knowledge they gain in the classroom to serve others. Students can volunteer at organizations around St. Louis, and SLU collaborates with more than 250 social service agencies where students can explore all the areas of criminology and criminal justice with guidance from seasoned professionals.

For students interested in studying abroad, SLU has a wide variety of programs, including a campus located in Madrid, Spain, where students can study abroad while earning SLU credit.

OFFICE OF ADMISSION, ONE NORTH GRAND BLVD., ST. LOUIS, MO 63103
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