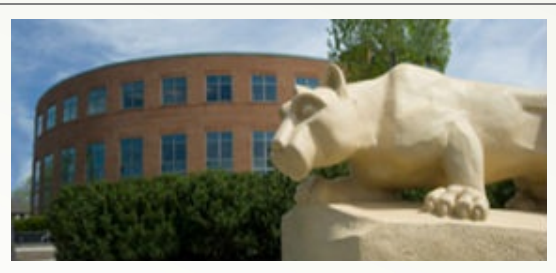


## Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice

The Bachelor of Science degree program in Criminal Justice helps provide its graduates with the communications and analytical skills critical to succeed in criminal justice and related careers. Through an interdisciplinary approach to the problems of crime and society, the program also equips students to pursue graduate study in Criminal Justice or related disciplines, and educates students to become effective problem-solvers as professionals in the field of criminal justice.

- Make the change you want to see in your community
- Design your individualized program in Criminal Justice
- Improve the skills employers want
- Secure a job in this fast-growing field
- Prepare for graduate study
- Already in the field? Earn credit for the Police Academy!



### Contact

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Content reviewed and approved Monday, March 3, 2023 10:21:28 am



**PennState**  
Harrisburg

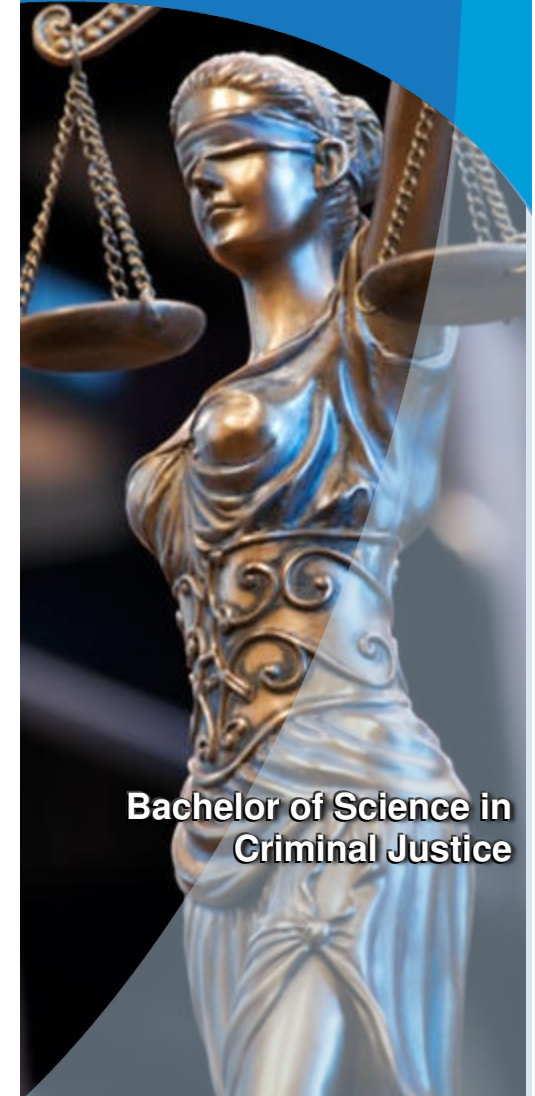
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Program Website:  
<https://harrisburg.psu.edu/public-affairs/criminal-justice-bs>



**PennState**  
Harrisburg

**School of Public Affairs**



**Bachelor of Science in  
Criminal Justice**

## Curriculum

Entry to the Criminal Justice major requires a 2.00 or higher cumulative grade-point average and an average of C (2.00) or better in any course already taken in the major.

### Deputy Sheriff's Training and Act 120 Program

Students with ACT 120, Act 2, Pennsylvania State Police, or Municipal Police Training transcripts may receive up to 16.5 credits for the following courses:

- CRIMJ 100: Introduction to Criminal Justice (3 credits)
- CRIMJ 210: Policing in America (3 credits)
- CRIMJ 220: Courts and the Prosecution Process (3 credits)
- CAS 203: Interpersonal Communication (3 credits)
- KINES 067: Physical Conditioning (1.5 credits)
- NURS 203: First Aid and CPR (3 credits)

## Courses

The bachelor of science degree program in Criminal Justice educates students to become effective problem-solvers as professionals in the field of criminal justice. The study of criminal justice is approached as an applied interdisciplinary science, teaching students the theoretical and the practical aspects of public safety and the administration of justice, along with incorporating other related fields. The criminal justice curriculum provides students with the opportunity and assistance to learn about the roles of police, courts, laws, and corrections as they relate to the adult and juvenile justice system. CRIMJ 012 introduces theories of human behavior, particularly criminal or deviant behavior – why do people commit crime? CRIMJ 210 covers the historical development in our American policing, while CRIMJ 220 explains what happens once a defendant is brought to the court of law and CRIMJ 230 explains the role of prison – what do we do about criminals?

Pursuant to the national trend of data-driven informatics, the program requires students to learn quantitative methodology and statistical analysis. Students also learn the history, fundamental concepts, and critical issues related to the role of gender and race/ethnicity in the criminal justice system, victimology, and ethics in criminal justice. Further, students have the freedom to tailor their studies to their career of choice through the required fifteen credits, chosen in consultation with their adviser.

Students are encouraged to complete an internship in the field to build their network and their knowledge about a potential career. Students also can participate in a research project or conduct their own independent research studies, some of which have been published in academic journals. Interested students have the option to complete the integrated undergraduate-graduate (IUG) program to earn both bachelor's and master's degrees in five years.

## Undergraduate Admissions Requirements

Minimum high school course requirements for admission to baccalaureate (four-year) degree programs are listed below. Keep in mind that specific programs may have additional requirements or recommendations.

### English

Four units, including one unit each in composition and literature, are required.

### Social Studies/Art/Humanities

Three units in any combination of social studies, arts, and humanities are required.

### World Language

Two units in a single world language other than English are required. However, a student may be admitted with fewer than two units in a world language other than English, but must correct this deficiency by the time s/he earns 60 credits or graduates from Penn State, whichever comes first. This deficiency may be corrected by passing one three- or four-credit college level world language course or by demonstrating proficiency equivalent to two units of high school world language study.

Either a third unit in the same language or an additional unit in a second world language other than English is recommended.

### Science

Three units of science are required  
Preparation in chemistry and physics is recommended but not required for our Science and Engineering/Engineering Technology programs

### Math

Three units of mathematics are required (four are recommended), selected from any combination of algebra, geometry, and trigonometry  
Some programs have additional mathematics requirements. Our Business, Engineering/Engineering Technology, and Science programs require one-half unit of trigonometry or higher level math within the required three units

Penn State requires proof of graduation or a GED for admission to four-year degree programs.

\*In most high school curricula, one unit = one year.

Visit Undergraduate Admissions: Admissions Requirements for more information (<http://goo.gl/eVGAMB>)