

CRIMINOLOGY AND JUSTICE STUDIES



Excellence in Action

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Kent State University's Department of Sociology offers a four-year program leading to the Bachelor of Arts in criminology and justice studies. A criminology and justice studies minor is also available. On the graduate level, the Department of Sociology offers the M.A. in justice studies, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in sociology (with the possibility of studying criminology and deviance).

The criminology and justice studies curriculum integrates knowledge and skills from disciplines such as sociology, psychology and political science with a range of justice subjects including crime and delinquency, law enforcement, courts, corrections and law. The program provides an opportunity to understand the foundations, structures and practices of the contemporary criminal and juvenile justice systems, as well as current challenges and controversies. The program prepares its graduates for professional roles in a wide variety of fields and can also prepare students for graduate study, for example in social science or law.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE B.A.

All students pursuing bachelor's degrees at Kent State University complete the Kent Core requirements. Students majoring in criminology and justice studies take courses in English composition, mathematics or logic, foreign language (basic Spanish is already relevant and will be increasingly relevant for employment in public service and public safety fields), humanities, fine arts, social sciences and basic sciences.

Each criminology and justice studies major completes 24 semester hours of core requirements and chooses 21 semester hours of major elective coursework (15 hours of which must be upper division).

The following courses are the core requirements for the criminology and justice studies major:

- Introduction to Justice Studies
- Police Role
- Corrections
- Criminology
- Issues in Law and Society
- Research Methods in Justice Studies
- Court Functions *and one diversity course, either*
- Minorities in Crime and Justice
- or
- Women in Crime and Justice

Of the remaining 21 semester hours of major elective coursework, 12 hours must be selected from among the wide range of remaining criminology and justice studies courses, and the other 9 hours can be selected from criminology and justice studies courses or specified courses in psychology, political science, sociology and philosophy.

FACULTY

The criminology and justice studies faculty has received national and international recognition. Members have received federal and state grants, written books, published in prestigious journals, served as editors of journals, and held offices in professional associations.

A number of the faculty have won or been nominated for teaching awards. And our faculty offers a wealth of knowledge and experience related to occupations including policing, criminal law, corrections and counseling.

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The criminology and justice studies program within the Department of Sociology offers a wide variety of professional opportunities through its internship program. Working with local, state or national agencies, students can gain invaluable on-the-job experience while earning academic credit and benefitting from faculty guidance. Some placements include financial compensation by the host agency and some placements can lead to full-time employment upon graduation. Internships also frequently lead to important contacts and references in a student's chosen field, and add a distinctive value to a student's credentials.

Career Opportunities

Career opportunities related to criminology and justice studies interests and credentials include positions in criminal and regulatory law enforcement affiliated with a wide variety of municipal/city, county, state, regional and national agencies; correctional positions including guards, counselors, probation and parole officers, and supervisors; homeland security; courthouse security; park/forest rangers; private security services, including businesses, transportation systems, hospitals and campuses; juvenile detention, counseling and supervision; investigative and criminal history research positions for courts or private businesses; victim services and victim advocacy. Many students take advantage of police academies conveniently located at Kent State and Kent State University at Trumbull.

In combination with relevant graduate degrees, students may also qualify for professional positions in legal practice; teaching; policy research including applied statistics and crime mapping; policy analysis; social work, clinical psychology, counseling or therapy; and forensics (with cross-training in fields such as psychology, biology, chemistry, physics, anthropology, accounting, computer science or linguistics).

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MINOR IN CRIMINOLOGY AND JUSTICE STUDIES

The criminology and justice studies minor requires 24 hours of coursework. A minor can be completed in conjunction with any other Kent State major.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES/ FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Many criminology and justice studies majors receive financial aid. Students seeking information on financial assistance or scholarships should consult the Admissions Office and the Student Financial Aid Office.

ADVISING

Students can meet with an assigned faculty advisor in their major or seek advising from the undergraduate coordinator for justice studies. Students can also speak informally with any faculty member, for example with respect to preparing for particular types of employment or graduate study. Students are expected to seek formal advising to help identify the resources and strategies which will best serve students' particular needs and interests. A range of current, published career guides are easily available in the department.

COMPUTER AND RESEARCH FACILITIES

Students can make use of computer labs in nearby White Hall or the Business Administration Building. Students also have access to University Libraries, with an extensive collection of more than two million volumes, and a variety of other resources including extensive online resources.

Criminology and Justice Studies
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For information on all of Kent State's degrees and majors, go online to www.kent.edu/gps.