

Criminal Justice Studies, A.A.

Degree Awarded

- Associate of Arts

Nature of Program

The Associate of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice Studies Program provides students with the opportunity to complete the first two years of a criminal justice program and to transfer those credits into a four-year program. The program also allows students to earn a degree that will improve their employability in the law enforcement and corrections areas of criminal justice. The program can also be used by existing law enforcement and corrections personnel for the purpose of job enhancement.

Career Opportunities

Students with this degree often secure positions in municipal, county, or state law enforcement; and in institutional (jails and prisons) and community corrections. Entry-level federal law enforcement positions can be secured with completion of a bachelor's degree.

FACULTY

CHAIR

- Dr. Heidi B. Samuels - Ed.D.
West Virginia University

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

- Nicklaus H. Goff - Doctor of Jurisprudence
West Virginia University

Admissions Requirements

Entering freshmen are admitted directly into the major.

General Education Foundations

Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. (<http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef>)

NOTE: Some major requirements will fulfill specific GEF requirements. Please see the curriculum requirements listed below for details on which GEFs you will need to select.

General Education Foundations

F1 - Composition & Rhetoric		3-6
ENGL 101 & ENGL 102 or ENGL 103	Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research Accelerated Academic Writing	
F2A/F2B - Science & Technology		4-6
F3 - Math & Quantitative Skills		3-4
F4 - Society & Connections		3
F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past		3
F6 - The Arts & Creativity		3
F7 - Global Studies & Diversity		3
F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree)		9
Total Hours		31-37

Please note that not all of the GEF courses are offered at all campuses. Students should consult with their advisor or academic department regarding the GEF course offerings available at their campus.

Curriculum Requirements

GEF Elective Requirements (2 and 6)		6
ENGL 101 & ENGL 102	Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research (GEF 1)	6
Select one of the following (GEF 3):		3
MATH 121	Intro Concepts Of Mathematics	
MATH 123	Finite Mathematics 1	
MATH 124	Algebra with Applications	
MATH 126	College Algebra	
COMM 104	Public Communication (GEF 5)	3
CS 101	Intro to Computer Applications (GEF 2)	4
HIST 101 or HIST 152	Western Civilization: Antiquity to 1600 (GEF 8) Growth of the American Nation to 1865	3
HIST 102 or HIST 153	Western Civilization: 1600 to Present (GEF 8) Making of Modern America: 1865 to the Present	3
PSYC 101	Introduction to Psychology (GEF 8)	3
PSYC 281	Introduction to Abnormal Psychology (GEF 7)	3
SOCA 101	Introduction to Sociology (GEF 4)	3
WVUE 191	First Year Seminar	1
CJ 101	Introduction to Criminal Justice	3
CJ 245	Adjudication Process	3
Select one of the following:		3
CJ 111	Police Operations	
CJ 206	Introduction to Corrections	
Elective		13
Total Hours		60

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
ENGL 101 (GEF 1)	3 ENGL 102 (GEF 1)	3
CJ 101	3 COMM 104 (GEF 5)	3
Select one of the following (GEF 3):	3 CS 101 (GEF 2)	4
MATH 121	PSYC 101 (GEF 8)	3
MATH 123	Elective	3
MATH 124		
MATH 126		
SOCA 101 (GEF 4)	3	
Elective	3	
WVUE 191	1	
	16	16

Second Year

Fall	Hours Spring	Hours
CJ 111 or 206	3 HIST 102 or 153 (GEF 8)	3
CJ 245	3 GEF Elective (GEF 6)	3
HIST 101 or 152 (GEF 8)	3 Elective	3
PSYC 281 (GEF 7)	3 Elective	3
GEF Elective (GEF 2A)	3 Elective	1
	15	13

Total credit hours: 60

Major Learning Outcomes

CRIMINAL JUSTICE, A.A.

- The student will be able to identify the role and responsibilities of a criminal justice professional in all areas of criminal justice.
- The student will be able to identify the basic components of the criminal justice system.
- The student will be able to identify behaviors which violate the criminal code.
- The student will be able to communicate clearly and effectively in both written and verbal formats.
- The student will be able to perform individually and within groups
- The student will be able to identify and evaluate the theories of criminal behavior in both adult and juvenile criminal arenas.
- The student will be able to demonstrate the investigative techniques.
- The student will be able to work well with others and be understanding of personal differences.
- The student will be able to analyze and explain the adjudicatory process.
- The student will be able to evaluate issues of Constitutional law and identify individual rights.
- The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of criminal procedures.