

Criminology, A.A.

Degree Offered

- Associate of Arts

Nature of the Program

Do you have a passion to study crime and its impact on communities? Go beyond the legal definitions of criminality with a major in criminology. The understanding of criminal activity changes as society continues to change, and the need to understand how and why such behavior occurs will continue to grow.

Criminology treats crime as the product of complex social forces, seeking to understand its nature and causes as well as the successes and failures/limitations of criminal justice approaches and processes. Students acquire knowledge of social structure and culture along with analytical tools that are highly valued in careers in criminal justice, social services, and business. The major also provides an excellent foundation for those who wish to pursue graduate or professional study, such as law.

Career Opportunities

The holistic societal perspective prepares graduates to pursue a broad range of careers such as policing, security, corrections, law, social services, and business. The major also prepares students for graduate studies in the social sciences in pursuit of academic or applied research careers or for professional training in law, public administration, social work, and related fields.

FACULTY

CHAIR

- Cassandra Pritts - M.A. History (Duquesne University)
Year @ PSC (2011)

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

- Catie Snider - M.A. Biological Anthropology (University of Montana)
Year @ PSC (2014)
- Kristin Smouse - MSW (West Virginia University)
Year @ PSC (2019)

Admissions

Entering freshmen are admitted directly into the major.

Benchmark Expectations

Students must maintain a GPA of 2.0 overall and a minimum GPA of 2.0 in all SOCA and CJ courses counting toward major requirements. All majors must meet with their adviser every semester. Students who do not meet these benchmarks may be removed from their 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.

Code	Title	Hours
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 Reasoning		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

Code	Title	Hours
A minimum GPA of 2.0 is required for all SOCA and CJ courses required in the major.		
GEF Elective Requirements (2, 5, 6, and 8)		18
ENGL 101 & ENGL 102	Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research (GEF 1)	6
MATH 124	Algebra with Applications (GEF 3)	3
ANTH 105	Introduction to Anthropology (GEF 7)	3
CJ 101	Introduction to Criminal Justice	3
CRIM 232	Criminology	3
SOC 101	Introduction to Sociology (GEF 4)	3
STAT 211	Elementary Statistical Inference (GEF 8)	3
WVUE 191	First Year Seminar	1
ANTH/SOC 200-level Elective		3
Foreign Language		6
Elective		8
Total Hours		60

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
SOC 101 (GEF 4)		3 ENGL 101 (GEF 1)	3
MATH 124 (GEF 3)		3 ANTH 105 (GEF 7)	3
WVUE 191		1 Foreign Language	3
GEF 6		3 GEF 2	3
Foreign Language		3 GEF 5	3
Elective		2	
		15	15

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
CRIM 232		3 ENGL 102 (GEF 1)	3
STAT 211 (GEF 8)		3 CJ 101	3
GEF 2		3 ANTH/SOC 200-level Elective	3
GEF 8		3 GEF 8	3
Elective		3 Elective	3
		15	15

Total credit hours: 60

Major Learning Outcomes

CRIMINOLOGY

Upon successful completion of the A.A. degree, **Criminology** majors will be able to:

1. Describe the social roots and implications of criminal behavior and the operation of the criminal justice system.
2. Apply the theoretical and methodological tools of sociology to make sense of crime and social control in modern society.

3. Distinguish between criminology's sociological approach to crime and the related field of criminal justice, which emphasizes the procedural activities of criminal justice agencies.