WHAT CAN I DO WITH A CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEGREE?

If you want to help people and assist with protecting the public, Criminology and Criminal Justice is the perfect major. Criminology and Criminal Justice is a broad-based field that seeks to understand, treat and respond to criminal behavior. Students can work for nonprofit, private, state and federal agencies in the areas of security, law enforcement, probation, parole, victim's rights, investigations, substance abuse treatment and counseling. Career opportunities include police officer, court administrator, correctional officer, treatment specialist and many more. The program also prepares students for law school and other graduate programs.

CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE AT SRU

The Criminology and Criminal Justice curriculum includes classes in criminological theory, policing, courts and adjudication, corrections, research methodology and justice administration. The broad array of elective courses allows students to explore their specific areas of interest, including: crime and the media, the death penalty, white collar crime, criminal investigations and criminal justice policy.

WHY CHOOSE CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE AT SRU?

1. Small class sizes: The average class size is between 25 and 38, providing students with the opportunity to get to know their professors, receive individualized instruction and participate in small group exercises.

2. Experienced faculty: Students are taught by full-time faculty members, not graduate assistants. Our faculty have received the highest degrees in their disciplines and bring real-life examples and research and/or practitioner knowledge to enhance the learning experience.

3. Faculty-student research: Students have the opportunity to work on various research projects with faculty members as well as presenting their research at local, state and national conferences.

4. Support and guidance: Each student is assigned a faculty member as their academic adviser who will mentor and guide them through the program and assist with career planning.

5. Activities: Students can actively participate in the student-run CRIM Club, take part in prison tours and other field trips, hear guest speakers and network with practitioners and professionals in the field.

6. Hands-on experience: Students use our crime lab to apply their knowledge in the areas of criminal investigations, police response to crime scenes, and role-playing scenarios. Students can also take a CRIM elective course inside of a prison with inmates and participate in the study-abroad program.
INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Criminology and criminal justice students have completed internships at various locations including:

- U.S. Marshals Service
- U.S. Secret Service
- Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers
- Pennsylvania Board of Probation & Parole
- U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services
- Police Departments (city and township) and Sheriff’s Offices
- State and County Prisons
- Juvenile and Adult Probation Offices
- Alcohol and Drug Treatment Centers
- Department of Homeland Security

CAREER OUTCOMES

While many criminology and criminal justice majors will continue their education after earning their bachelor’s degrees, graduates of the department have secured careers in the following areas:

- Pittsburgh Bureau of Police (police officer)
- Allegheny County Juvenile Courts (probation officer)
- U.S. Secret Service (agent)
- Renewal Inc. (community corrections monitor)
- PA State Correctional Institute – Mercer (correctional officer)
- New Horizons Treatment Center (outpatient addictions counselor)
- Lawrence County Children and Youth Services (intake supervisor)
- Pennsylvania State Police (police officer)
- TSA (agent)
- U.S. Army Military Police (officer)

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- CRIM Club
- Alpha Phi Sigma

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Seth Armstrong, ’17
Transportation security officer, Department of Homeland Security, Franklin, PA
“The program was just the right fit for me and all the professors in the department knew the information inside and out. They made class enjoyable and added current events to the curriculum to make for strong and positive class discussion and to reinforce the class material.”

Keenan Barrett, ’17
Protective service investigator at Catholic Charities, New Castle, PA
“My experience with the criminal justice program was a great one. I loved the professors and miss them deeply. One of the biggest things that had helped me with landing the job I have now was Dr. Champion’s investigation class. Each class that I had has helped me, one way or another, in the real world.”

Alexa Webster, B.A. ’14 and M.A. ’16
Outpatient addictions counselor, New Horizons Treatment Center, New Castle, PA
“The program prepares students for the challenges they may face while employed within the criminal justice system, such as utilizing critical thinking and applying specific methods to enhance communication with the criminal justice population. You couldn’t put together a more caring, supportive and knowledgeable group of faculty if you tried. After graduation, I felt prepared to enter the workforce with a well-rounded education in a difficult field. I will always be very proud to share that I’ve received my degrees from SRU.”

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