
Criminal Justice

What is Criminal Justice?

The criminal justice program prepares four-year undergraduate, transfer students and professionals for careers and career advancement in policing and law enforcement, corrections, probation and parole, addiction/mental health counseling, and re-entry. The program systematically explores the full spectrum of conduct prohibited by criminal law, from street crime through white collar crime and terrorism, as well as the universe of criminal actors including the impoverished underclass, the rich and powerful, and large public and private organizations. CJ explores four dimensions of the phenomenon of crime: the conditions under which societal norms become embedded in law; the conditions under which criminal laws are violated; the conditions under which criminal laws are enforced; and the consequences of the enforcement for larger society.

Criminal Justice students investigate key issues in criminal justice, including: the links between mental health and substance abuse in crime, rehabilitation and recidivism; the growing use of technology in monitoring, surveillance, and geographical mapping of crime “hotspots;” and the reintegration of former offenders into mainstream society. The program focuses on core skills essential to professionals in Criminal Justice and many other fields. Students learn how to identify, interpret, evaluate, and write about relevant research; conceptualize and measure key concepts and variables in real-world settings; collect and analyze qualitative and quantitative data; identify and “translate” key ideas in written text, presenting them effectively and succinctly in both written and spoken form; think critically about theoretical concepts and practical issues, and communicate your ideas in a variety of formats.

Careers in Criminal Justice

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, New York State can expect a great deal of growth in employment opportunities in the criminal justice field. By 2014, the number of available jobs in probation, corrections, law enforcement, policing, criminal investigations, mental health, and addiction counseling is expected to increase by 12,160. When jobs in community service, counseling, social work, and social service specialists are included, the figure rises to 22,920. With the high number of criminal justice facilities in Central New York, the region should account for a substantial portion of this job growth. SUNYIT’s criminal justice degree program prepares students for positions in these criminal justice fields.

Specific employment opportunities in Central New York include:

Policing and law enforcement

- New York State Police
- Oneida County Sheriff’s Office
- Herkimer County Sheriff’s Office
- Madison County Sheriff’s Office
- Utica Police Department
- Rome Police Department
- Numerous smaller municipal police departments

Corrections

- Oneida Correctional Facility
- Marcy Correctional Facility
- Mohawk Correctional Facility
- Mid-State Correctional Facility

- Camp Pharsalia
- Camp Georgetown
- Oneida County Jail
- Madison County Jail
- Herkimer County Jail
- Marcy facility for sexual offenders

Probation and parole

- Oneida County Probation Department
- Herkimer County Probation Department
- Parole Division (Utica)

Addiction/mental health counseling

- Central New York Psychiatric Center
- Oneida County Psychiatric Facility
- Insight House
- McPyke Center for Addiction Recovery

Re-entry

- Workforce Investment Board
- JCTOD Outreach, Inc.
- Catholic Charities
- Working Solutions
- YMCA

Degree Requirements

Group 1: General Education Requirements (36-48 credits)

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| Mathematics/Statistics..... | 3-4 credits |
| Basic Communication..... | 3-4 credits |
| Upper Division Writing | 4 credits |
| Natural Sciences..... | 3-4 credits |
| Lab Science | 4 credits |
| Foreign Language | 3-4 credits |
| The Arts..... | 3-4 credits |
| Humanities | 3-4 credits |
| Social Sciences..... | 3-4 credits |
| American History | 3-4 credits |
| Western Civilization..... | 3-4 credits |
| Other World Civilization..... | 3-4 credits |

Group 2: Core Program Requirements

All CJ students must complete the following courses and receive a grade of “C” or better:

- CJ 101: Introduction to Criminal Justice
- CJ 204: Ethics in Criminal Justice
- CJ 310: Explaining Crime
- ANT 321: Distinctions
- CJ 332: Research Methods
- CJ 333: Data Analysis/ Writing
- CJ 493: Senior Seminar

Group 3: Criminal Justice Electives

Students must complete two classes (6-8 cr.) of general elective coursework (at the 100, 200, or 300-level), including CJ 100. Students must also have 12 credits (3 classes) of 400-level (senior-level) coursework in Criminal Justice or Sociology.

Group 4: General Electives

The remainder of 124 credits are electives. These classes should be used to round out skills and knowledge and to meet future goals. Additional foreign language, additional writing and public speaking, and computer science should be included. Students may use their general electives to pursue professional preparation, but at least 50% of total coursework must be within Arts & Sciences.