

Why Major in Criminology at CCSU? - FAQs

What makes the Criminology program at CCSU different from Criminology programs at other universities?

At CCSU, the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice focuses on preparing students for a successful transition to the workforce. This is accomplished through the application of knowledge and theory to real world issues. The program begins with a strong foundation in the social sciences and evolves into a broader perspective in the field of criminal justice. Students will become equipped with the skills to explore specializations through various extracurricular activities. Some of these activities include, but are not limited to the Criminal Justice Club, Alpha Phi Sigma, and the College Police Academy (Behind the Badge).

What do Criminology courses focus on?

Criminology majors focus their studies on the three branches of the criminal justice system; law enforcement, courts, and corrections. Within each branch, there are a variety of courses that address issues including, but not limited to; gender differences, crime specializations (white-collar crime, hate crime, violent crime), offender characteristics, victims of crime, and community crime prevention. Special topics courses are added each semester to help students gain specific and relevant insight into the most current issues in the field.

What other courses am I required to take other than those in the major?

Students are required to take two courses in their general education. A Philosophy course (PHIL 144: Moral Issues) and a Statistics course (STAT 104 or 200 or 215).

Can I minor in Criminology?

The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice has a minor in Criminal Justice. This minor is intended to give an overview of the criminal justice system and the study of crime. There are 5 required courses and 1 elective for a total of 18 credit hours.

Is there an advisor to help me select my courses in the major and minor?

The Department has an advising process to aid students in course selection during the registration periods and assigns advisors for discussion about education, special interests, goal setting and career opportunities.

Is there an internship offered in the program where I can obtain experience in the field?

The Department offers CRM 435: Supervised Field Studies on Criminal Justice. Please visit the course description for more details.

Does CCSU offer a Forensic Science Program?

The Department's focus is on the study of crime, the characteristics of victims and offenders, and the role of the criminal justice system. Forensic Science is a specialization in examining, analyzing, and processing physical evidence. Criminology focuses on criminal behavior, the causes and consequences of that behavior and how it relates to the criminal justice system and society.

Is this the right major for a career in the FBI?

The FBI employs a wide variety of professionals in the field. An applicable four-year degree is required, preferably with specialization in one of their "critical skill areas." FBI agents work on matters including but not limited to terrorism, foreign counterintelligence, cyber crime, organized crime, white-collar crime, public corruption, civil rights violations, financial crime, bribery, bank robbery, extortion, kidnapping, air piracy, interstate criminal activity, fugitive and drug-trafficking matters, and other violations of federal statutes.