CRIMINAL JUSTICE, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.S.) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN FORENSIC CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION

Amy Cook, Ph.D.
Associate professor and program chair

The major objective of this degree program is to prepare students for effective professional careers in criminal justice, forensic crime scene investigation, public service and other helping professions, and/or prepare them to pursue studies in law and other related graduate programs. Career opportunities are available in federal, state, local and private justice-related endeavors. These careers include law enforcement, crime scene investigation, juvenile justice, corrections and the courts.

This program also prepares students to enter law school or to pursue graduate studies in criminal justice or in several of the human services fields, usually related to justice. This program offers and encourages in-service justice employees and others to enhance their professional career development through higher education.

Students majoring in criminal justice receive a broad educational background, professionally oriented courses in their special area of interest and various skills courses designed to enhance their career opportunities. Through core courses and electives in the major, students have the opportunity to orient their course work to fit their educational objectives and career plans.

It is essential that students seek and follow the advice of an adviser in the progression of the core courses, the selection of criminal justice electives and in the identification of complementary courses in other disciplines that can benefit the student and assist in the accomplishment of career goals. Whether the student is interested in general criminal justice, policing, crime scene investigation, legal studies, juvenile justice or corrections, faculty and advisers can assist in identifying the appropriate curriculum.

This concentration is offered for those students who are interested in careers in crime scene investigation at the local, state or federal levels.

Student learning outcomes
Upon completing this program, students will know and know how to do the following:

- Identify concepts and issues that are relevant and/or appropriate (research/content)
- Demonstrate logical connections in concepts, facts and information identified in the literature
- Gather and synthesize knowledge pertaining to a criminal justice or criminological issue

Special requirements
The Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice requires a minimum of 120 credits, including 39 credits in criminal justice courses, a minimum of 75 credits in courses outside of VCU-offered criminal justice courses, and a minimum cumulative and major GPA of a 2.0. No more than half of the criminal justice courses applied to the major can be transferred from another college. Students must earn a total of 45 credits in classes at the 300-level and above, including upper-level criminal justice course work. The criminal justice curriculum includes the core and concentration requirements.

Degree requirements for Criminal Justice, Bachelor of Science (B.S.) with a concentration in forensic crime scene investigation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select 12-13 credits from general education foundations and 17-18 credits from areas of inquiry.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Major requirements

- Major core requirements
  - CRJS 181 Introduction to Criminal Justice 3
  - CRJS 253 Introduction to Corrections 3
  - CRJS 254 Introduction to Policing 3
  - CRJS 355 Criminological Theory 3
  - CRJS 380 Research Methods in Criminal Justice 3
  - CRJS 475 Criminal Procedure 3
  - CRJS 480 Senior Seminar 3
- Concentration requirements
  - CRJS 320 Principles of Criminal Investigation 3
  - CRJS 370 Criminalistics and Crime Analysis 3
  - CRJS 373 Crime Scene Evidence: Law and Trial Procedure 3
  - CRJS 425 Violent Crime Scene Investigation 3
- Major electives
  - CRJS electives (must be upper-level) 1 6

Ancillary requirements

- GVPA 100 Making Policy Real: Social Problems and Policy Solutions 3
- STAT 208 Statistical Thinking (satisfies general education quantitative foundations) 3

Open electives

Select any courses. 48
Total Hours 120 1

May include six credits selected from HSEP 301, HSEP 302, HSEP 320 and HSEP 330

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.

What follows is a sample plan that meets the prescribed requirements within a four-year course of study at VCU. Please contact your adviser before beginning course work toward a degree.

Freshman year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall semester</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRJS 181 Introduction to Criminal Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GVPA 100 Making Policy Real: Social Problems and Policy Solutions</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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1
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall semester</td>
<td>16</td>
<td><strong>Sophomore year</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall semester</td>
<td>15</td>
<td><strong>Junior year</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall semester</td>
<td>15</td>
<td><strong>Senior year</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring semester</td>
<td>14</td>
<td><strong>Accelerated B.S. and M.S.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring semester</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>Minimum qualifications for admittance to the program include completion of 90 undergraduate credit hours including CRJS 355 and CRJS 380, an overall minimum GPA of 3.5 and a minimum GPA of 3.5 in criminal justice course work. Successful applicants would enter the program in the semester following completion of their 90th credit hour. Candidates should submit applications for admission during the semester they would be completing their 90th credit, but no later than April 1 of that year. One of the required reference letters must be from a criminal justice faculty member. Undergraduate students who are interested in the accelerated program should consult with the Wilder School Graduate Student Services and Advising Office to determine their eligibility for the graduate-level courses available to them. Once admitted into the accelerated program, students must meet the standards of performance applicable to graduate students as described in the “Satisfactory academic progress (<a href="http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/satisfactory-academic-progress/)%E2%80%9D">http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/satisfactory-academic-progress/)”</a> section of the Graduate Bulletin, including maintaining a 3.0 GPA. Students who do not maintain a 3.0 GPA in the graduate-level classes will no longer be eligible for the accelerated program and may not take any additional graduate-level classes while pursuing the bachelor's degree. Students will not begin their first semester of only graduate courses until the bachelor's degree has been conferred. Guidance to students admitted to the accelerated program is provided by both the Wilder School undergraduate academic advisor and the senior academic adviser from Graduate Student Services and Advising. The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Degree requirements

The Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice degree will be awarded upon completion of a minimum of 120 credits and the satisfactory completion of all undergraduate degree requirements as stated in the Undergraduate Bulletin.

A maximum of six graduate credits may be taken prior to completion of the baccalaureate degree. These graduate credits substitute for the upper-level electives for the undergraduate degree. These courses are shared credits with the graduate program, meaning that they will be applied to both undergraduate and graduate degree requirements.

The graduate criminal justice courses that may be taken as an undergraduate, once a student is admitted to the program, are a choice of two of the following:

Course | Title | Hours
--- | --- | ---
CRJS 501 | Principles of Criminal Justice | 3
CRJS 550 | Professional Ethics and Liability | 3
CRJS 620 | Seminar in Criminology | 3

Recommended course sequence/plan of study

What follows is the recommended plan of study for students interested in the accelerated program beginning in the fall of the junior year prior to admission to the accelerated program in the senior year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Junior year</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRJS 380</td>
<td>Research Methods in Criminal Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal justice elective (upper-level)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring semester</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CRJS 475</td>
<td>Criminal Procedure</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Criminal justice elective (upper-level)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Senior year</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall semester</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CRJS 480</td>
<td>Senior Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRJS 501 or CRJS 550 or CRJS 620</td>
<td>Principles of Criminal Justice or Professional Ethics and Liability or Seminar in Criminology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring semester</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRJS 501 or CRJS 550 or CRJS 620</td>
<td>Principles of Criminal Justice or Professional Ethics and Liability or Seminar in Criminology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fifth year</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRJS 617</td>
<td>Law and Criminal Justice Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CRJS 623 | Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs | 3 |
Graduate criminal justice electives |  | 6 |
Term Hours: |  | 12 |
Spring semester |  |  |
CRJS 690 | Criminal Justice Policy Analysis | 3 |
Graduate criminal justice electives |  | 9 |
Term Hours: |  | 12 |

CRJS 181. Introduction to Criminal Justice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Comprehensive overview of criminal justice; assesses the extent of crime; reviews law enforcement, judicial and correctional processes at all levels of government; discusses history and philosophy of public safety; evaluates career opportunities.

CRJS 253. Introduction to Corrections. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CRJS 181. A survey of societal responses to the offender; traces the evolution of practices based on philosophies of retribution, punishment and rehabilitation; reviews contemporary correctional activities and their relationships to other aspects of the criminal justice system; introduces the emerging area of correctional programming within the community.

CRJS 254. Introduction to Policing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CRJS 181. A survey of different facets of law enforcement including the activities of public police agencies and private security organizations. Assesses changes in law enforcement philosophy and practices, police relationships with the public and the political arena and anticipated future trends in policing.

CRJS 300. Forensic Criminology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CRJS 181. The intersection of law, predictions of dangerousness, mental disorder and crime. Behavioral prediction, classification and the development of typologies of offenses and offending will be considered. Issues in the use of clinical and statistical prediction methods in criminal justice will be presented.

CRJS 302. Legal Writing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: UNIV 200 or HONR 200. Intensive practice in writing on subjects related to law or legal problems. Emphasis on organization, development, logical flow and clarity of style. May not be used to satisfy the literature requirement of the College of Humanities and Sciences. Crosslisted as: ENGL 302.

CRJS 305. Policing Theories and Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: CRJS 181 and 254. An overview of the nature and application of law enforcement theory. Examines the theoretical underpinnings of a variety of law enforcement practices, with emphasis on evolving trends.

CRJS 316. Victimology and Victimization. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CRJS 181. Enrollment is restricted to criminal justice majors and minors. Introduces the concepts of victimology and various forms of criminal victimization. Evaluates historical and contemporary policy responses to addressing victimization in the United States. Particular attention is given to measuring the nature and extent of victimization, victims' roles in the criminal justice system, the impact of victimization on individuals, and laws and policies designed to prevent victimization.
CRJS 320. Principles of Criminal Investigation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CRJS 181.
Surveys the fundamentals of criminal investigation procedures and
techniques. Examines crime scene management, searching, collecting,
handling and preserving of evidence as applied to forensic crime scene
investigation.

CRJS 324. Courts and the Judicial Process. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CRJS 181.
Examines the systems that adjudicate criminal and civil law; includes
constitutional authority, jurisdictions and trial processes, with particular
emphasis on reform in court administration, disposition without trial and
sentencing.

CRJS 335. Ethics and Decision-making in Criminal Justice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CRJS 181.
Enrollment is restricted to criminal justice majors and minors.
Understanding the ethical basis for decision-making in criminal justice,
which involves the liberty interests of others. Important decision points
are examined to apply ethical perspectives to decisions for criminalizing
behaviors, methods of enforcing the law, charging suspects, convicting
and sentencing offenders. These decisions include those made by
citizens, legislators, police, prosecutors, defense counsel, judges and
corrections officials.

CRJS 350. Evaluation and Treatment of the Offender. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: CRJS 181 and
253. An analysis of the issues and procedures involved in evaluating
individual differences in offenders and among classes of offenders;
current diagnostic and treatment methods are discussed; introduces
the student to case analysis and correctional counseling techniques.
Includes analysis of evaluation and treatment resources external to
corrections.

CRJS 351. Community Corrections. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: CRJS 181 and
253. A comprehensive review of various community-based rehabilitation
and treatment efforts; includes analysis of probation, parole, work
release, halfway houses and other methods of re-integrating the offender
into society.

CRJS 352. Crime and Delinquency Prevention. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CRJS 181.
Review and analysis of the problems associated with prevention of
crime and delinquency, viewed in a total systems context. Programs and
activities involving citizen, community and agency interrelationships
will be developed and examined. Students are responsible for preparing and
evaluating projects with crime preventive goals.

CRJS 355. Criminological Theory. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CRJS 181 or
permission of instructor. Examines the intellectual underpinnings of the
criminal justice system. Includes analysis of evolving values and ideas
regarding social control, individual and collective responsibilities and
rights, the role of punishment, politics and the law, practitioners as public
servants, and criminological and other foundations of the criminal justice
system.

CRJS 358. Lawyer's Role in the Justice System. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CRJS 181.
Examines the multiple responsibilities of lawyers from an historical and
contemporary perspective. The basic techniques of the lawyer's craft will
be studied with emphasis placed on case advocacy, negotiation skills and
legal reasoning, and problem-solving.

CRJS 360. Foundations of Criminal Law. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CRJS 181.
Clarifies both the content and role of criminal law within criminal justice
and its administration in America. Explores the moral, theoretical and
historical foundations of American criminal law and jurisprudence;
elements and classification of criminal conduct; burdens of proof;
defenses to criminal culpability; and a variety of crime types focusing in
particular on crimes against person and property.

CRJS 370. Criminalistics and Crime Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CRJS 181.
A comprehensive evaluation of current developments in research,
instrumentation and laboratory technology utilized to detect, identify,
analyze and compare evidence.

CRJS 373. Crime Scene Evidence: Law and Trial Procedure. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CRJS 181.
Provides a fundamental understanding of evidence law. Examines the
nature and admissibility of various forms of evidence. Provides an
understanding of the investigator's role in the judicial process including
the presentation of testimony and adversarial proceedings.

CRJS 376. Sex Crime and Society. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: CRJS 181;
and STAT 208 or STAT 210. Designed to familiarize the student with
current and applied research methods in criminal justice, including
the application of data and information processing techniques
and procedures; analyzes research in criminal justice journals
and government reports; and enhances the capability to evaluate
contemporary research.

CRJS 382. Gender, Crime and Justice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CRJS 181
or permission of instructor. Examines the role of gender as it relates
to crime and justice. Special attention will focus on the gendered
experiences of practitioners, offenders and victims within the criminal
justice system in terms of processing, adjudication and institutional
responses. Crosslisted as: GSWS 382.

CRJS 400. Current Issues in Juvenile Justice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CRJS 181.
Restricted to criminal justice majors. Examines key issues facing the
modern American juvenile justice system. Integrates social science
research, juvenile justice policy and legal scholarship pertaining to
current law and policy controversies in juvenile justice.

CRJS 401. Sex Crime and Society. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CRJS 181.
Restricted to criminal justice majors. Examines the nature and extent
of sex offending, societal responses to sex crime, and the laws and
policies enacted to reduce sexual offending. Explores the etiology of sex
offending as well as methods to evaluate the efficacy of sex crime laws.

CRJS 407. Urban Jails. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: CRJS 181
and CRJS 253. Restricted to criminal justice majors. Examines issues
encountered by corrections officers who work in urban short-term
detention facilities. Explores the complexities of jails in urban settings as
well as the diverse and dynamic offender population in urban jails.
also be discussed. Problems of cultural relativity, statistics that tell us what we think we know about crime around the world in place to combat it. Traditional criminal justice prohibition-based policies, such as the "war on drugs," are examined and compared and contrasted with the principles of harm reduction. A review of harm-reduction partnerships with law enforcement, courts and correctional agencies will be discussed.

CRJS 421. Race, Crime and Criminal Justice. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CRJS 181. This course is an examination of race in the context of the criminal justice system. Emphasis on the various observations of racial minorities as victims and offenders by law enforcement, courts and corrections. In addition, the course will explore the theoretical approaches on how race and ethnicity are connected to the criminal justice system and its myriad processes. In addressing these connections, emphasis is placed on social forces and other related factors as applicable to the criminal justice system.

CRJS 425. Violent Crime Scene Investigation. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CRJS 181. Introduces students to specialized tools and scientific aids used in the criminal investigation of homicide and rape cases. Applies investigative techniques and preparation of trial evidence used in homicides and rape cases.

CRJS 432. Criminal Justice: Organizations. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CRJS 181. Considers the behavioral dimensions of administrations in criminal justice and public safety agencies. Examines the concepts of leadership and decision-making and the effect of environmental dynamics in the management of the criminal justice system.

CRJS 434. Police Administration. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: CRJS 181 and 254. Examines major management concepts and principles with special emphasis on consideration of law enforcement. Policies and procedures formulated and followed by managers in law enforcement settings will be evaluated from a structural as well as a functional perspective. Contemporary and anticipated future problems, challenges and trends facing police managers will be addressed.

CRJS 450. Cyber Crime and Computer Forensics. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CRJS 181. Study of computer-related crime and related laws and policies. Focus on the investigation and processes of securing evidence for computer-related crimes.

CRJS 463. Crime and Justice in Global Perspective. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CRJS 181. This course is designed to move students beyond an "American-centric" view of criminal justice in an introduction to crime, law, criminal justice systems and crime control in cross-national perspective. Crime is a global problem that has been part of the human experience through both time and space; as such we will discuss crime trends around the world, the statistics that tell us what we think we know about crime around the world, and the different systems of law, policing, courts and corrections around the world in place to combat it. Problems of cultural relativity, international crime, transnational organized crime and policy transfer will also be discussed.