



INDIANA UNIVERSITY NORTHWEST

COLLEGE OF HEALTH OF HUMAN SERVICES
School of Public and Environmental Affairs

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

B.S. IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice (BSCJ) degree program provides students with the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary for a variety of career opportunities in social services. Areas of study include law enforcement, courts and law, corrections, and criminology. The program requirements focus on four main areas: general education; public affairs and policy; criminal justice; and general electives. A major in criminal justice also provides an excellent background for graduate study. Many BSCJ graduates find employment in local, state and federal agencies, and in the private sector, in such social service fields as policing, corrections, criminal law, offender intervention and re-entry, policy analysis, public management, and research. A variety of criminal justice electives further enhances the students' educational experience, preparing them for a broad spectrum of career opportunities as well as postsecondary education.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Completion of the BSCJ requires 120 credit hours and a minimum of a 2.0 GPA, as well as a minimum 2.3 GPA in public affairs and concentration courses specific to the major.

COURSEWORK

- Special Issues in Criminal Justice
- American Policing
- Corrections
- Criminal Courts
- Substantive Criminal Law

In addition to the listed courses, the student is responsible for fulfilling the general education requirements, other criminal justice courses, public affairs courses, and general electives.

Students should consult with the department for additional information concerning prerequisites, course content and academic counseling.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Students of the Criminal Justice Program have many opportunities to learn about the broad spectrum of criminal justice through a combination of traditional classroom instruction, internship placement, service learning experiences, guest presentations, and career advisement. The School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) is dedicated to assisting students in establishing networks while still at the university that will enhance their abilities to find employment or continued education admission.

The variety of criminal justice electives offered assists students interested in specializing in content-specific areas that can increase their marketability. These courses augment the traditional required courses in the areas of policing, courts and corrections by broadening students' knowledge, skills and abilities in advanced education on various topics.

The program requirements not only prepare students for employment upon completion of the BSCJ but also prepare students for successful transitions to graduate-education programs in a variety of areas, including law, public management and research.

The extensive practitioner experience combined with the academic credentials of the SPEA faculty provide students with a unique opportunity to broaden their understanding of criminal justice while at the same time providing them many opportunities for guidance in course planning, career development and exploration of advance education.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A B.S. IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE?

A degree in criminal justice prepares graduates for careers in some of the following areas:

- Courts
- Corrections
- Probation and Parole
- Law Enforcement (City, State, County, Federal)
- Community Programs (i.e. Halfway House, Pre-Trial Diversion Programs, Victim Assistance Centers)
- Education and Research

HANDS-ON LEARNING

The diverse criminal justice faculty is dedicated to helping students to become involved in all aspects of the criminal justice system through our internship program, service learning projects and volunteer opportunities. These programs are designed to increase student academic achievement and social responsibility.

The Public Service Internship Program involves participation by undergraduate students through enrollment in Public Affairs and Criminal Justice internship courses. Internship possibilities are developed in collaboration with public and private agencies willing to involve students in meaningful professional activities.

SPEA offers service learning projects through classes such as Family Violence, in which students work at shelters and other agencies that serve the population. To underscore our commitment to hands-on learning and the communities we serve, in 2012 SPEA will begin an initiative focusing on community engagement and service learning projects - Student Cooperative Outreach and Responsive Education.

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

SPEA offers criminal justice majors an opportunity to join the Criminal Justice Student Association.

RELATED DEGREE OPTION

B.S. in Public Affairs (with a concentration in Criminal Justice)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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