

CRIMINAL JUSTICE, A.S. (ALTOONA)

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Altoona

End Campus: Altoona

Program Learning Objectives

- **Knowledge Base in Criminal Justice:** Students will develop knowledge and understanding of the major components of the criminal justice system and juvenile justice system as well as how these components interact. Student understanding of the criminal justice process will be enhanced through targeted courses in courts, corrections, and policing that highlight the unique needs, challenges, and operation of these components. Across the curriculum, students will be exposed to criminological theories that help to explain the role of gender, race/ ethnicity, and other background characteristics on offending, victimization, and criminal justice processing.
 - Describe key concepts, principles, and overarching themes in criminal justice
 - Develop a working knowledge of criminal justice content domains
 - Describe applications of criminological theory
- **Research Methods:** Students will understand the importance and practical use of social science research methods and the role these play in criminal justice policy.
 - Use scientific reasoning to interpret criminal justice policy
 - Demonstrate criminal justice information literacy
 - Engage in innovative and integrative thinking and problem solving
 - Interpret, design, and conduct basic criminological research
- **Professional Writing and Critical Thinking:** Students will practice writing and critical thinking skills through writing assignments across the curriculum and the completion of at least one writing intensive course.
 - Demonstrate effective writing for different purposes
 - Exhibit effective presentation skills for different purposes
 - Interact effectively with others
 - Demonstrate critical thinking skills concerning issues in criminal justice
- **Ethics:** Students will understand the role of ethics in criminal justice.
 - Apply ethical standards to evaluate criminal justice research and policy
 - Build and enhance interpersonal relationships
 - Adopt values that build community at local, national, and global levels
- **Placement:** Students will be prepared for placement in the criminal justice field through an internship experience.
 - Apply criminal justice content and skills to career goals
 - Exhibit self-efficacy and self-regulation
 - Refine project and time-management skills
 - Enhance teamwork capacity
 - Develop meaningful professional direction for life after graduation