

CRIMINOLOGY, B.A.

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: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminology, a minimum of 121 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	16
Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements	24
Requirements for the Major	40

4 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes 4 credits of General Education GQ courses.

Per Senate Policy 83-80.5, the college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Requirements for the Major

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>).

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
CRIM/CRIMJ/ SOC 12	Criminology	3
CRIM/CRIMJ 100	Introduction to Criminal Justice	3
CRIM 249	Criminology Theory and Evidence	3
CRIM 250W	Research Methods in Criminology	3
STAT 200	Elementary Statistics	4
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select one of the following:		3
CAS 283	Communication and Information Technology I	
CMPSC 100	Computer Fundamentals and Applications	
CMPSC 101	Introduction to Programming	
Select one of the following:		3
SOC 1	Introductory Sociology	
SOC 3	Introductory Social Psychology	
SOC 5	Society's Problems: Causes, Consequences, and Solutions	

Select two of the following core courses: 6

CRIM 430	American Correctional System
CRIM/CRIMJ 432	Crime and the American Court System
CRIM 435	Policing in America
CRIM/CRIMJ 451	Race, Crime, and Justice
CRIM/CRIMJ/ WMNST 453	Women and the Criminal Justice System
CRIM/CRIMJ/ SOC 467	Law and Society
CRIM 490	Crime Policy

Select 6 credits from non-core CRIM/CRIMJ courses at the 400 level (including no more than 3 credits of LA 496, CRIM 494, or CRIM 499) 6

Select 6 credits in race, ethnicity and gender: 6

AA 100	Introduction to International Arts
AMST 105	American Popular Culture and Folklore
AMST 432	Ethnicity and the American Experience
ANTH 146	Indigenous North America
CAS 271N	Intercultural Communication
CAS 455	Topics in Gender and Communication
CAS 471	Intercultural Communication Theory and Research
CMLIT 101	Race, Gender, and Identity in World Literature
CRIM 451	Race, Crime, and Justice
CRIM 453	Women and the Criminal Justice System
ENGL 135	Alternative Voices in American Literature
ENGL 139	African American Literature
ENGL 462	Reading Black, Reading Feminist
HIST 154	History of Welfare and Poverty in the United States
PHIL 9	Race, Racism, and Diversity
PSYCH 432	Multicultural Psychology in America
SOC 103	Racism and Sexism
SOC 119N	Race, Ethnicity and Culture
SOC 409	Racial and Ethnic Inequality in America
SOC 419	Race and Public Policy
SOC 429	Social Stratification
WMNST 1	Introduction to Women's Studies
WMNST 104	Women and the American Experience
WMNST 136	Race, Gender, and Employment

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Arts (GA):** 3 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 3 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 3 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 3 credits

Integrative Studies

- **Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain):** 6 credits

Exploration

- **GN**, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- **GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses.** This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- **United States Cultures:** 3 credits
- **International Cultures:** 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

B.A. Degree Requirements

World Language (0-12 credits): Student must attain 12th credit level of proficiency in one world language in addition to English. This proficiency must be demonstrated by either examination or course work. See the Placement Policy for Penn State World Language Courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/advising-planning-degree-program/course-placements/placement-policy-world-language-courses/>).

B.A. Fields (9 credits): Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts, World Languages, Natural Sciences, Quantification (may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major; world language credits in this category must be in a second world language in addition to English or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the first language). Credits must be selected from the list of approved courses.

World Cultures (0-3 credits): Select 3 credits from approved list. Students may count courses in this category in order to meet other major, minor, elective, or General Education requirements, except for the University Cultural Diversity (US/IL) requirement.