

CRIMINOLOGY, B.S.

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 Science degree in Criminology, a minimum of 121 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	17-19
Requirements for the Major	61-63

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

Per Senate Policy 83-80.5, the college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of coursework 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 Recommended 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/>).

Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)

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 6 credits in race, ethnicity, and gender from the following:		6
AFAM 100N	Black Freedom Struggles	

AFAM 101N	African American Women
AFAM/SOC/ WMNST 103	Racism and Sexism
AMST/ WMNST 104	Women and the American Experience
AMST 105	American Popular Culture and Folklife
AMST 432	Ethnicity and the American Experience
ANTH 146	Indigenous North America
CAS 271N	Intercultural Communication
CAS 422	Contemporary African American 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
CRIMJ/ WMNST 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
LER/WMNST 136	
PHIL 9	Race, Racism, and Diversity
PSYCH 432	Multicultural Psychology in America
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

Select 6 credits from the core courses of the following: 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 495, CRIM 494, or CRIM 499) 6

Requirements for the Option

Requirements for the Option: Require a grade of C or better

Select an option 21-23

Requirements for the Option

Business/Public Administration Option (21 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
ECON 102	Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy	3
ECON 104	Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy	3

Additional Courses*Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better*

Select 15 credits with at least 3 credits each from groups A, B, C, and D: 15

Group A

ECON 302 Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis

BA 301 Finance

Group B

BA 303 Marketing

BA 304 Management and Organization

PSYCH 281 Introduction to Industrial-Organizational Psychology

PSYCH 482 Selection and Assessment in Organizations

PSYCH 484 Work Attitudes and Motivation

PSYCH 485 Leadership in Work Settings

Group C

BLAW 243 Legal Environment of Business

LER 401

LER 434

LER 435

LER 437

SOC 455 Work and Occupations

Group D

CAS 404 Conflict Resolution and Negotiation

CAS 450W Group Communication Theory and Research

CAS 452 Organizational Communication Theory and Research

CAS 471 Intercultural Communication Theory and Research

CAS 483 Communication and Information Technology II

ENGL 418 Advanced Technical Writing and Editing

ENGL 419 Advanced Business Writing

ENGL 421 Advanced Expository Writing

GER 408 Advanced German Business Communications

HIST 458Y History of Work in America

LER 400-level course(s)

PLSC 412 International Political Economy

PLSC 417

PLSC 419 The Bureaucratic State

PLSC 444 Government and the Economy

PLSC 490 Policy Making and Evaluation

PSYCH 482 Selection and Assessment in Organizations

PSYCH 484 Work Attitudes and Motivation

PSYCH 485 Leadership in Work Settings

SOC 455 Work and Occupations

SOC 456 Gender, Occupations, and Professions

SPAN 412 Translation

Computing and Statistics Option (21 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
SOC 470	Intermediate Social Statistics	4
STAT 480	Introduction to SAS	1

Prescribed Courses*Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better*

SOC 470 Intermediate Social Statistics 4

STAT 480 Introduction to SAS 1

Additional Courses*Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better*

Select 16 credits of the following: 16

CAS 483 Communication and Information Technology II

CMPSC 203 Introduction to Spreadsheets and Databases

MATH 110 Techniques of Calculus I

& MATH 111 and Techniques of Calculus II

or MATH 141 Calculus With Analytic Geometry I

and Calculus with Analytic Geometry II

& MATH 141

MIS 204 Introduction to Management Information Systems

STAT 460 Intermediate Applied Statistics

STAT 462 Applied Regression Analysis

STAT 464 Applied Nonparametric Statistics

Legal Studies Option (21 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
PHIL 12	Symbolic Logic	3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select one of the following: 3		
CAS 213	Persuasive Speaking	
CAS 215	Argumentation	
CAS 250	Small Group Communication	
CAS 321	Rhetoric and Law	
Select 12 credits of the following: 12		
BLAW 243	Legal Environment of Business	
COMM 403	Law of Mass Communications	
CRIM 432	Crime and the American Court System	
or CRIM/	Law and Society	
SOC 467		
CRIM 469	Seminar in the Law	
LST 370		
PHIL 105	Philosophy of Law	
PHIL 108	Social and Political Philosophy	
PHIL 408W	Seminar in Social and Political Philosophy	
PLSC 403	The Legislative Process	
PLSC 431	Ancient, Medieval, and Renaissance Political Theories	
PLSC 432	Modern and Contemporary Political Theories	
PLSC 471	American Constitutional Law	
PLSC 472	The American Legal Process	
SOC 405	Sociological Theory	
Select one of the following: 3		
HIST 449	Constitutional History of the United States to 1877	
HIST 450	Constitutional History of the United States since 1877	
PLSC 474	Civil Liberties and Due Process	

Prescribed Courses*Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better*

PHIL 12 Symbolic Logic 3

Additional Courses*Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better*

Select one of the following: 3

CAS 213 Persuasive Speaking

CAS 215 Argumentation

CAS 250 Small Group Communication

CAS 321 Rhetoric and Law

Select 12 credits of the following: 12

BLAW 243 Legal Environment of Business

COMM 403 Law of Mass Communications

CRIM 432 Crime and the American Court System

or CRIM/ Law and Society

SOC 467

CRIM 469 Seminar in the Law

LST 370

PHIL 105 Philosophy of Law

PHIL 108 Social and Political Philosophy

PHIL 408W Seminar in Social and Political Philosophy

PLSC 403 The Legislative Process

PLSC 431 Ancient, Medieval, and Renaissance Political Theories

PLSC 432 Modern and Contemporary Political Theories

PLSC 471 American Constitutional Law

PLSC 472 The American Legal Process

SOC 405 Sociological Theory

Select one of the following: 3

HIST 449 Constitutional History of the United States to 1877

HIST 450 Constitutional History of the United States since 1877

PLSC 474 Civil Liberties and Due Process

Social Science Research Option (22-23 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
SOC 470	Intermediate Social Statistics	4
STAT 480	Introduction to SAS	1
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 8-9 credits of the following:		8-9
MATH 110 & MATH 111	Techniques of Calculus I and Techniques of Calculus II	
or MATH 141	Calculus With Analytic Geometry I and Calculus with Analytic Geometry II	
STAT 460	Intermediate Applied Statistics	
STAT 462	Applied Regression Analysis	
STAT 464	Applied Nonparametric Statistics	
Select 9 credits of the following:		9
HDFS 401	Project Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation in the Human Services	
PLSC 490	Policy Making and Evaluation	
Any 400-level STAT course		

NOTE: Internships will be counted as elective credits (CRIM 395).

NOTE: The following themes should be incorporated into all CRIM classes, as appropriate: ethical issues, ethnicity and gender issues, and theory.

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.