

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

Program Description

This major provides the opportunity to develop a stronger foundation in research methods, quantification, and the sciences. It prepares students with relevant aptitudes for pursuing further studies or finding employment where such knowledge is advantageous. Students contemplating futures in social science research, business, forensics, public service, and paralegal positions should consider this degree or some of its recommended courses.

Either the B.A. or B.S. degree is suitable for students seeking entry level positions in the criminal justice system and for students interested in graduate and law school. Students interested in acquiring strong quantitative skills should consider the B.S. degree.

What is Criminology?

Criminology is a broad and interdisciplinary field of study that promotes an understanding of crime and the criminal justice system and how they relate to human behavior, social environments, and government policy. Examples of topics studied in Criminology are: the causes and consequences of deviant and/or criminal behavior; the structure and functions of the criminal justice system; societal and individual reactions to crimes and criminal justice processing; the spatial and geographical elements associated with crime and poverty; and the dynamics of criminal justice policy making.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You are interested in studying human behavior through an interdisciplinary lens.
- You are fascinated with deviance and/or criminal behavior.
- You would like to study the functioning of the criminal justice system.
- You're passionate about issues of social justice.
- You would like to go to law school or graduate school.
- You want to pursue a career in policing, corrections or governmental.