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**Criminal Justice & Legal Studies**

Prepare for the rigors of working in the challenging criminal justice system of today. Students will develop an understanding of the nature and consequences of crime in American society. By engaging in dynamic, real-world field experiences, students will be ready to pursue a fulfilling career in a criminal justice organization or advance professionally in their current career.

**Essential Skills**

Essential skills provide a framework to guide students’ progress toward their degree but also prepare students for a broad range of career paths. A recent survey from the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) shows employers “strongly agree” that “regardless of a student’s field of study” liberal arts skills best prepare students to enter the job market in their career of choice. Students develop a variety of skills that prepare them for any career in criminal justice.

1. **Critical Thinking:**

a. Make decisions and solve problems using sound, inclusive reasoning, and judgment.

b. Critically analyze criminological theory, criminal law, and criminal procedure to identify current issues in criminal justice.

2. **Written and Oral Communication:**

a. Communicate in a clear and organized manner to incorporate the most accurate, appropriate information for the intended purpose.

b. Learn to speak and write clearly, succinctly, and accurately to help uncover important information to address issues in the criminal justice field.

3. **Information Literacy**:

a. Gather and analyze information from diverse sources and individuals to fully understand a problem.

b. Explore investigative and crime prevention techniques.

4. **Leadership and Ethics**

a. Understanding the difference between right and wrong can help protect the community from wrongful actions that could cause harm.

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| FIRST YEAR | | | |
| **Fall Courses** | | **Spring Courses** | |
| FST 1010 | 1 credit | CRJ 2030 | 3 credits |
| CRJ 1010 | 3 credits | SOC 1010 | 3 credits |
| POL 1010 | 3 credits | PSY 1100 | 3 credits |
| ENG 1100 | 3 credits | TRS (Gen Ed) | 3 credits |
| ART/MUS/COM (Gen Ed) | 3 credits | ART/MUS/COM | 3 credits |
| PHI (Gen Ed) | 3 credits |  |  |
| Total Credits | 16 credits | Total Credits | 15 credits |

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| **SECOND YEAR** | | | |
| **Fall Courses** | | **Spring Courses** | |
| CRJ 2800 | 3 credits | CRJ 2810 | 3 credits |
| ETH 2500/2540 | 3 credits | PSY 3260/3370/3380/3390 | 3 credits |
| MAT 1140/1150 | 3 credits | POL 3020 | 3 credits |
| Modern Language | 3 credits | SOC 2350/2540/3310/3330 or PSY 2040/2050 | 3 credits |
| Elective | 3 credits | PED | 1 credit |
|  |  | Modern Language/ LIT (Gen Ed) | 3 credits |
| Total Credits | 15 credits | Total Credits | 16 credits |

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| **THIRD YEAR** | | | |
| **Fall Courses** | | **Spring Courses** | |
| CRJ 3500 | 3 credits | CRJ Major Elective | 3 credits |
| CORE | 4 credits | PSY 3100/3110 or  SOC 3000 | 3 credits |
| CRJ Major Elective | 3 credits | Electives | 9 credits |
| Elective | 3 credits |  |  |
| Science (Gen Ed) | 3 credits |  |  |
| Total Credits | 16 credits | Total Credits | 15 credits |

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| **FOURTH YEAR** | | | |
| **Fall Courses** | | **Spring Courses** | |
| Elective | 3 credits | CRJ 4900 | 3 credits |
| CRJ 4600 | 3 credits | CRJ Major Elective | 3 credits |
| CRJ Major Elective | 3 credits | Elective | 3 credits |
| Elective | 6 credits | Elective | 3 credits |
| Total Credits | 15 credits | Total Credits | 12 credits |
| **Total Credits to Graduate** | | | 120 credits |

**Honor Society/Clubs**

Alpha Phi Sigma & Lambda Epsilon Chi, Mock Trial Club, and the Criminal Justice Association

**Minors**

Criminal Justice, Legal Studies, Forensics, Cybersecurity

**Employment Information**

Representative Job Titles Related to this Major Include:

Crime Analyst

FBI Agent

Computer Forensics Analyst

Law enforcement

Community and institutional corrections

Youth services

Counseling

Legal services

Non-criminal investigations

Private and governmental research

Private security

Academia

Consulting

Representative Employers to the Major Include:

Local, state, and national governments. Government agencies. Education. NGOs, non-profit, and for-profit organizations, and private agencies.

Further Resources:

See the following resources: [National Association of Colleges & Employers: Career Readiness Defined](https://www.naceweb.org/career-readiness/competencies/career-readiness-defined), [AAC&U](https://www.aacu.org/trending-topics/essential-learning-outcomes), [What Can I Do with This Major?](https://www.molloy.edu/academics/resources/resources-for-students/student-solution-center/undeclared-advisement/career-options), [The Best Criminal Justice Careers and Jobs](https://thebestschools.org/careers/career-guide/criminal-justice/) and [Molloy Undergraduate Catalog.](https://molloy.smartcatalogiq.com/2023-2024/undergraduate-catalog/)

**Notice**

This 8-semester plan is not a contract, either expressed or implied, between the University and the student, but represents a flexible program of the current curriculum which may be altered periodically to carry out the academic objectives of the University. The University specifically reserves the right to change, delete or add to any 8-semester plan at any time within the student’s period of study at the University.