Introduction

NAU’s program in criminal justice is designed to provide you with a social science education concerning the nature, purpose, operations, and consequences of the various components of the justice system in both the United States and other nations.

If you are interested in pursuing a career in one of the three major areas of the criminal justice system (the courts, corrections, or law enforcement) or if you wish to pursue further education in law school or graduate school, the B.S. in criminal justice will provide you with the knowledge and analytical skills to do so.

Whether you major in criminal justice or in some other field, our department can also contribute to your ability to make informed judgments about crime and justice issues through our liberal studies offerings.

Degree Offered — B.S. in Criminal Justice

To earn the degree, you must complete the four components described in the following paragraphs.

Major Requirements  
Liberal Studies Requirements  
Minor  
General Electives  
Total  

*Be aware that some courses required for your degree may have prerequisites that you must also take. Check all course descriptions to find out.

Major Requirements

You must complete the following 36 hours of coursework:

- 15 required hours: CJ 101, 250, 345, 355, 450
- 6 hours (two courses) from: CJ 210 and 220 and SOC 240
- 15 hours of criminal justice coursework appropriate for your career aspirations and educational interests, in consultation with your adviser

In addition, you must maintain a 2.0 cumulative grade point average in all courses taken in your major, and we will accept no more than two courses with grades of D for your major requirements.

Be aware that you may apply a maximum of 15 credit hours of criminal justice or administration of justice coursework taken at other institutions toward your degree in criminal justice at NAU.
Liberal Studies Requirements

See the General Academic Requirements chapter of this catalog for information about the 43 hours of liberal studies credit that we require.

Minor

For the B.S. in criminal justice, you must complete a minor of 18 to 21 hours in another discipline. Through consultation with your adviser, you should select a minor appropriate for your career aspirations and educational interests. After you have chosen a minor, contact that department to be assigned an adviser in your minor field.

General Electives

You must complete 25 to 28 credit hours in elective coursework (with the number depending on the number of hours required for your minor).

You may use these courses to pursue a specific area of emphasis or to meet career goals through courses outside your major or minor; consult with your adviser to select courses that will be most advantageous to you. You may also use transfer credits as electives if they were not used to meet major, minor, or liberal studies requirements.

Minor Offered - Criminal Justice

If you wish to earn a minor in criminal justice, you must take CJ 101 and 250 plus 15 additional hours of criminal justice coursework.

Be aware that some courses required for your minor may have prerequisites that you must also take. Check all course descriptions to find out.

Criminal Justice Courses (CJ)

Some courses may not be offered every semester. Check with the department and the current Class Schedule for information about when specific courses are offered.

CJ 101 Introduction to Criminal Justice (3). Introduces the American criminal justice system; structure, processes, decision points, and procedure among law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and corrections. All semesters.

CJ 210 American Courts and Criminal Justice (3). Survey of the structure, functions, and organization of criminal courts; judicial procedures; legal actors; and the operation of juries and special courts. Prerequisite: CJ 101.

CJ 215 Crime, Justice, and the Media (3). Introduces social science methods for media analysis and examines the interactions between media, crime, and public policy.

CJ 220 Law Enforcement Systems (3). Examines the structure, roles, and processes of American law enforcement at federal, state, and local levels and current issues affecting police. Prerequisite: CJ 101.


CJ 312 Environmental Crime (3). Examines laws and legal strategies designed to protect environmental quality: explores varieties of environmental crimes and associated problems of control.

CJ 315 Comparative Justice Systems (3). Compares Asian, African, and European cultures with respect to differences in their concepts of justice and mechanisms for achieving justice. Prerequisite: CJ 101 or equivalent.

CJ 325 Drug Issues and the Law (3). Examines theories and research regarding causes and consequences of illegal drug usage, and its effect on the justice system.

CJ 345 Human and Cultural Relations in Criminal Justice (3). Examines the relationship between the criminal justice system and ethnic, racial, and cultural minorities as offenders, victims, and employees. Prerequisite: 12 hours of criminal justice coursework.

CJ 355 Research Methods in Criminal Justice (3). Quantitative and qualitative research design, sampling, implementation, and interpretation of research related to the study of crime and criminal justice. Prerequisite: 12 hours of criminal justice coursework and MAT 110 or equivalent.

CJ 360 Women, Crime, and Justice (3). Analysis of women offenders, victims, and professionals in the criminal justice system, with emphasis on changing sex roles.

CJ 370 Criminal Law (3). Examines common law and statutory criminal offenses; general principles of criminal responsibility; and elements of crimes and powers of courts.

CJ 380 Law in America (3). Theoretical study of sources of law; issues in the implementation of law; assessment of effects of law in American society. Prerequisite: SOC 101.

CJ 390 Criminal Investigation (3). Examines use and analysis of evidence; legal aspects of investigative techniques; role of behavioral sciences in investigation. Prerequisite: CJ 370.

CJ 400 Computer Applications in Criminal Justice (3). Examines computer technology in law enforcement, judicial, and correctional agencies; issues in privacy and social control. Prerequisite: CIS 120.

CJ 408 Internship (3-12). Prerequisite: Junior standing; minimum 2.75 cumulative grade point average or a 3.0 grade point average for criminal justice courses; pass/fail grade; maximum of 6 credit hours may be applied to criminal justice elective requirements. All semesters.

CJ 410 Juvenile Justice Systems (3). Nature, extent, and causes of delinquency; history, philosophy, and operation
of juvenile justice, including police, courts, and corrections. 

Prerequisite: Junior standing or permission of instructor.

CJ 430 Loss Prevention and Security Management (3).
Examines loss prevention and corporate security management relating to physical security, employee relations, risk analysis, and legal liability. 

Prerequisite: CJ 330.

CJ 450 Values in Criminal Justice (3).
Examines value dilemmas encountered by criminal justice practitioners: discretion, deception, deadly force, punishment, and social justice. 

Prerequisite: Senior standing.

CJ 470 Criminal Procedure and Constitutional Rights (3).
Examines constitutional and statutory provisions covering arrest, investigation, search and seizure, and legal rights. 

Prerequisite: CJ 370.

CJ 480 Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice (3).
Examines current issues in crime and criminal justice. 

Prerequisite: Junior standing or permission of instructor.

CJ 485 Undergraduate Research (1-6). 
Original research under the supervision of a research adviser. May not exceed 6 hours of credit.

CJ 497 Independent Study (1-3). 
An individualized approach to selected topics by guided reading and critical evaluation. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 hours of credit.

Graduate Courses

CJ 608 Fieldwork Experience (1-12).

CJ 697 Independent Study (1-3).