Bachelor of Arts degree
with a major in Criminology & Justice Studies

Department Chair
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Affiliated Research Institutes
Altruistic Personality and Prosocial Behavior Institute
California Center for Rural Policy (CCRP)
Humboldt Institute for Interdisciplinary Marijuana Research (HIIMR)
Humboldt Journal of Social Relations (HJSR)

The Program

Students completing a BA in Criminology and Justice Studies will have demonstrated the following program learning outcomes:

- Effectively communicate orally about social science theory and methods [oral communication]
- Effectively communicate in writing about social science theory and methods [information literacy]
- Think theoretically about crime, justice, and the process and significance of criminalization [societal justice]
- Explain the historical evolution of law in relation to social, economic, and political forces [critical thinking – theory]
- Evaluate research designs and analytic techniques [critical thinking – methods]

Criminology & Justice Studies (CJS) students find an active and supportive department culture with a curriculum intentionally focused on a critical criminology perspective. Critical criminology challenges traditional understandings and seeks to unearth the social and historical processes that constitute ‘crime’. Coursework addresses law, policy, social justice and how systems of oppression are produced and reproduced by the criminal punishment system. Faculty members teaching in this major come from multiple disciplines including sociology, ethnic studies, political science, gender & sexuality studies, social work, and Native American studies. CJS core courses are primarily taught through a sociological perspective, which allows students to develop critical thinking about systems-structures and research skills.

The program prepares students to be transformative leaders in a variety of locations, from probation and legal advocacy to community activism and policy research. Above all, students will have a solid foundation to work and effect social change.

Students should know that law enforcement agencies usually have extensive training programs on the specifics of work in their organization [investigation procedures, safety protocols]. Our program does not provide that training. Our CJS program provides a liberal arts degree with breadth, adaptability and practical application. Graduates choose to work in many different sectors: non-profit, private business, social services, education, health services, public relations, government, as well as pursuing graduate studies.

Community engagement and social action are important values of the Department of Sociology. Internships and faculty supervised original research are encouraged for the capstone experience. The sociology/ CJS community advisory board assists with developing and maintaining internships and community action research opportunities.

Preparation

In high school take math, writing, and social science courses (history, psychology, sociology).

** REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR **

For a description of degree requirements to be fulfilled in addition to those listed below for the major, please see “The Bachelor’s Degree” section of the catalog, pp. 67-82.

Unit Requirements

Total units in the major: 40-43
Total units required for the degree: 120

Special Grade Requirement

A minimum grade of C is required for all courses in the major.

Required Courses (24 units)

Lower Division

CRIM 125 [3] Intro to Criminology and Justice Studies
CRIM 225 [4] Inequalities/ Criminalization, or
CRIM 225S [4] Inequalities/ Criminalization **
SOC 282L [1] Sociological Statistics Lab

Upper Division

CRIM 325 [4] Law and Society
SOC 382 [4] Intro to Research Methods
SOC 372 [1] Proseminar, or

Knowledge Based Requirements

(13-16 units)

Inequalities, Identities, and Crime
Complete one course.

SOC 330 [4] Social Deviance
SOC 480 [4] Special Topics **

Law
Complete one course.

CRGS 360 [4] Race, Gender & US Law
PHIL 307 [3] Philosophy of Law
PSCI 410i [4] U.S. Constitutional Law
PSCI 441 [4] International Law
SOC 480 [4] Special Topics **

Justice and Policy
Complete one course.

CRIM 420 [4] Drugs and Society
CRIM 430 [4] Law and Dissent
CRIM 433 [4] Punishment and Justice in Cross-National Perspective

† Course requires one or more prerequisites that are not required elsewhere in the major.

** Service Learning component

*** Course only meets requirements if the specific topic is appropriate to the knowledge based area. Consult with an advisor.

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NAS 332  (3) Environmental Justice  
NAS 468  (3) Tribal Justice Systems  
PSCI 313  (4) Politics of Criminal Justice  
SOC 480  (4) Special Topics***  

**Social Research and Action Skills**  
*Complete one course.*

ANTH 318†  (4) Ethnography  
CRGS 313/EDUC 313 [3] Community Activism  
FILM 362  (4) Social Change Digital Production  
FILM 455  (4) Grant Writing  
FILM 455S  (4) Grant Writing**  
PSCI 412  (4) Legal Research  
PSCI 413  (3) Moot Court  
SOC 475  (4) Community Organizing  
SOC 480  (4) Special Topics***  
WS 320  (3) Act to End Violence Seminar  

**Capstone [3 units]**  
*Complete one course.*

SOC 482  (3) Internship  
SOC 492  (3) Senior Thesis  

Many contributing departments to the CJS major offer 1-2 unit workshops around pressing social issues and popular topics. We encourage enrollment in these workshops, but the units may not be counted as part of the required 40-43 unit major requirement. Exception: Units may be used to “make up” 1-2 units if a student is short after transferring 3-unit courses from another college.

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