

Program Overview: Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Applied Science, Criminal Justice

About This Major . . .

The Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice is designed to provide students interested in careers in the justice system with the knowledge, communication, and critical thinking skills necessary for success in their field. Graduates secure positions in policing, probation, parole, and corrections. Many also use this degree as the starting point in their pursuit of a law degree. Finally, the degree will assist students with upward mobility in their area of employment.

The Bachelor of Applied Science in Criminal Justice is designed to give students the option to obtain both a bachelor's degree and the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certification simultaneously. Graduates will be job ready and able to secure positions in various policing positions (e.g., police officer, deputy sheriff, parole officer, etc.). The degree combines the technical skills required within entry-level policing positions with the academic rigor of the baccalaureate degree. The degree will also assist students in their upward mobility in their areas of employment.

All CMU baccalaureate graduates are expected to demonstrate proficiency in critical thinking, communication fluency, quantitative fluency, and specialized knowledge/applied learning.

Students graduating with a degree in Criminal Justice will be able to:

1. discuss the history and practice of each component of the Criminal Justice System: police, courts, and corrections. *(For example, students learn how each component works independently and how the components either collaborate or conflict with one another.)*
2. analyze ethical issues surrounding the practice of criminal justice in a diverse society. *(For example, students learn to analyze various ethical dilemmas from each component of the criminal justice system and evaluate the role of discretion in decision-making.)*
3. use knowledge of the nature and causes of crimes, typologies, and theories of offenders and victims in critiquing current crime prevention policies. *(For example, students will critique policies directly related to police operations, court procedures, and correctional practices such as offender treatment.)*
4. practice quantitative and qualitative research methods including interpretation of statistical analyses. *(For example, students engage in field observations and learn to use statistical software.)*
5. demonstrate proficient oral communication and writing skills that are formal and professional in nature. *(For example, students learn to write academic papers, pre-sentence investigations, case briefs, and engage in individual and group presentations that hone both oral and written skills.)*

BAS (POST Academy) Only:

6. demonstrate proficiency in basic skills (driving, firearms, and arrest control) required for entry level policing. *(For example, students learn the aspects of high speed pursuit driving, effective vehicle maneuvering, appropriate levels of force to safely apprehend resistive offenders, mastery of weaponry, defensive tactics, etc.)*

Program Highlights:

Make Connections

Rigorous core curriculum structured with a strong emphasis on connecting theory, research, and practice.

Faculty members have strong academic backgrounds with terminal degree qualifications as well as strong practical field experience in all three core components of the criminal justice system.

Student chapter of Alpha Phi Sigma, the National Criminal Justice Honor Society, and the Criminal Justice Association student club.

Hands-on Learning

Mock Crime Scene House, Forensic Investigation Research Station (FIRS), Colorado Law Enforcement Training Facility with state-of-the-art driving track and simulated city blocks for training.

On-the-job experience and networking gained through interaction and internship placements in the criminal justice field.

Special

Training/Certifications

(All credits can be applied toward the four-year degree)

- Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST)
- Emergency Dispatch



Program Requirements

A student must follow CMU graduation requirements by completing 120 semester credit hours, including 40 credits in the BA and 33 credits in the BAS of coursework at the 300+ level. See the "Undergraduate Graduation Requirements" in the catalog for additional graduation information. Students should work closely with a faculty advisor when selecting and scheduling courses prior to registration. In general, CMU's programs of study are based on two curriculum groups:

1. Essential Learning

CMU's Essential Learning program provides the foundation of skills and information that cuts across all fields of study and the support for advanced concepts that students will later encounter in their majors. Before moving into work at the 300+ level, students complete the Maverick Milestone and its co-requirement, Essential Speech. This pair of courses is a capstone experience where students integrate what they have learned from their foundation courses by making connections among diverse areas of knowledge. The capstone is also an opportunity for students

2. What You Will Study in This Major. . .

Foundational Courses

- Orientation to Criminal Justice (the program)
- Introduction to Criminal Justice (the field)
- Statistics for Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Ethics in Criminal Justice
- Police Process
- American Courts
- Corrections

Common Core (BA and BAS)

- Criminal Procedure
- Research Methods
- Criminology
- Criminal Law
- Comparative Criminal Justice
- Other core requirements vary by degree

BAS (POST Academy) Course Requirements

These courses are taken as part of the program's state approved Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Academy (31 credit hours toward the BAS degree):

- Basic Academy I
- Basic Academy II
- Basic Law
- Arrest Control
- Law Enforcement Driving
- Firearms
- Physical Conditioning

Electives

In order to increase your breadth of knowledge, the following electives are offered. Students are encouraged to consult with their advisors when selecting the electives so they are suited to their career goals.

- Domestic Violence
- Capital Punishment
- Community Policing
- Community Corrections
- Criminal Investigations
- Crime and Deviance
- Women and Crime
- Civil Liability
- Emergency Dispatch
- Counter-terrorism
- Survey of Forensic Science
- Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice
- Trial, Evidence, and Legal Advocacy
- Inside Out
- Victimology
- Public Management
- Forensic Psychology
- Race and Ethnic Relations
- Drugs and Human Behavior
- Social Psychology
- Internships

For more information about this major, go to: <http://www.coloradomesa.edu/sbs/criminal.html> or contact the Academic Department Head for Social and Behavioral Sciences, 414 Lowell Heiny Hall, 970.248.1932.