



Criminal Justice | Major

"I had course material that was relevant to my career goals. Alvernia went a step further and allowed me to participate in lectures, field trips and hands-on work experience that all related to my current job."—Wayne Holben '00, Police Officer and K-9 Handler, West Reading, PA

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS IN BRIEF

The Criminal Justice Department at Alvernia University is dedicated to providing theoretical, practical, and professional knowledge needed in today's environment to be successful in the fields of law enforcement, corrections, courts, probation, parole, private security and related service careers. Emphasis is placed upon preparing students to enter the professional workplace or continue studies in graduate school. The curriculum is designed to provide students with expert instruction on the most current trends, policies and practices in the field. The curriculum is innovative and demands intensive classroom learning combined with extensive research and required field experience. This is not a "one size fits all" major, but one that provides the variety offered in the course selections to encourage each individual to build a personal program for the future with the assistance of a faculty advisor. Class sizes are small with opportunities that are large. We are proud to be known in the region as the small campus with the big university program.

ACADEMIC QUALITY

Alvernia has recruited faculty who are professionals in their respective fields within the criminal justice system. In addition to academic accreditation, our full-time faculty have extensive experience in the criminal justice system. All of the part-time faculty are practicing professionals in their teaching area. The strength of the department lies in the philosophy that faculty have worked in the specific field of the course they teach. Class instruction is therefore as current as the events of the day. The faculty include, but are not limited to, professionals from federal, state and local law enforcement, judges from the Courts of Common Pleas, probation department supervisors, forensic psychologist, and attorneys with prosecutorial, administrative and defense experience.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Criminal Justice Association: Alvernia University has an active Criminal Justice Association as a local chapter of Lambda Alpha Epsilon. Membership is open to all criminal justice majors.

Alpha Phi Sigma: Alpha Phi Sigma is the national honor society for criminal justice majors. The goal of the society is to honor and promote academic excellence, service, leadership and unity. The mission is to promote analytical thinking, rigorous scholarship and life-long learning.

CAREER SUCCESS

Students with career goals in law enforcement have the opportunity to attend the Reading Police Academy to obtain Municipal Police Certification (Act 120) as part of their four-year program without extended time or expense. The department is also host to pre-law students. Alvernia offers many course offerings in law and mentoring opportunities with the faculty who are also attorneys.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Adult Probation	District Attorney	Sheriff Department
ATF	FBI	State Police
Attorney	Forest Ranger	U.S. Customs Agent
Border Patrol	Homeland Security	U.S. Marshall
CIA	Juvenile Probation	Victim Services Specialist
Corrections Officer	Local Law Enforcement	
Detective	Private Security	

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The Criminal Justice major requires 42 core credits, which includes a 6 credit field practicum/ internship of 200 hours with an agency within the criminal justice system, and 6 elective credits.

Criminal Justice Requirements (42 Credits)

CJ 101	Introduction to Criminal Justice	
CJ 175	Fundamentals of Criminal Investigation	
CJ 201	Criminal Law	
CJ 216	Women and the Criminal Justice System	-OR-
CJ 218	Multicultural Issues in Criminal Justice	
CJ 221	Research Methods I for Criminal Justice	
CJ 272	Probation and Parole	-OR-
CJ 274	Corrections and Rehabilitation	
CJ 275	Criminology	
CJ 301	Organized Crime	-OR-
CJ 309	White Collar Crime	
CJ 302	Judicial Process and Procedures	
CJ 377	Juvenile Delinquency & Juvenile Justice	
CJ 403	Senior Seminar in Criminal Justice	
CJ 408	Agency Practicum	
CJ 422	Crisis Management	

The CJ minor is comprised of 18 credits including CJ 101, 218, 275 and 3 CJ electives.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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