PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS IN BRIEF

Criminal justice students gain theoretical, practical, and professional knowledge needed to be successful in the fields of law enforcement, corrections, courts, probation, parole, private security, and the related service careers. The curriculum is designed to provide students with expert instruction on the most current trends, policies and practices in the field. This is not a “one size fits all” major, but one that encourages each individual to build a personal program for the future.

The program features intensive classroom learning combined with extensive research and required field experience. All students complete a field practicum.

Alvernia has recruited faculty who are professionals in their respective fields within the criminal justice field. In addition to their academic credentials, the full-time faculty have extensive experience in the criminal justice system. All part-time faculty are practicing professionals in the area in which they teach. Students benefit from learning trends, policies, and practices that are current and relevant.

Students with career goals in law enforcement have the option of the Law Enforcement Track with the option of attending the Reading Police Academy to obtain Municipal Police Officer Certification (Act 120). This can be completed as part of their four-year degree without extended time or expense. Students are eligible to apply for the Academy during their junior year in order to attend in the senior year.

Students with a criminal history and/or motor vehicle violations may not be able to successfully complete this program and/or secure employment or an internship in the criminal justice and related fields. Prior to entering CJ 408 Agency Practicum, students are required to obtain criminal background clearances as outlined in the Practicum policies.

AGENCY PRACTICUM

Criminal Justice Administration majors participate in an internship designed to broaden educational experience through appropriate observation and assignment. Internships are with criminal justice, private corporate security, and service agencies on the local, state, or federal level. Students are required to spend at least 200 hours with an agency. It is the student’s responsibility to locate and secure the internship placement.

CAREER SUCCESS

The degree in Criminal Justice Administration prepares students for success in the fields of law enforcement, correction, courts, probation, parole, private security, and the related service centers. Graduates of the program are prepared to enter the professional workplace or to continue studies in graduate school.

Alvernia University offers a Master of Business Administration: Community Service and Economic Leadership. This degree is ideal for executives and future executives, or managers in Criminal Justice and Addiction or Chemical Abuse agencies and organizations. The degree offers a special option in Criminal Justice that includes courses that are appropriate for executive and managerial career paths.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Administrator/Manager
- Police Officer
- Airport Security Officer
- Bodyguard
- Children & Youth Case Manager
- Guard
- Security Officer
- Juvenile Court Counselor
- Probation/Parole Officer
- Juvenile Detention Center Case Manager
- Prison Guard
ALPHA SIGMA LAMBDA

Alpha Sigma Lambda is the premier national honor society for nontraditional adult students. Its aim is to recognize the special achievements of adults who accomplish academic excellence while facing competing interests of home and work. For the nontraditional student, the Society stands as an inspiration for continuing scholastic growth, and is a builder of pride through recognition. The Alvernia University ASL Chapter serves as a vehicle for imparting appreciation for adult students’ academic achievements and contributions. To this day Alpha Sigma Lambda is not only the oldest, but also the largest, chapter-based honor society for full- and part-time students.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

BA/Criminal Justice Administration
Liberal Arts Core (54/55 credits)*
General Elective requirements (as needed)**

CJ Administration Major Requirements (48 credits)
CJ 101 Introduction to Criminal Justice
CJ 175 Fundamentals of Criminal Investigation
CJ 201 Criminal Law
CJ 216 Women & the Criminal Justice System -OR-
CJ 218 Multicultural Issues in Criminal Justice
CJ 221 Research Methods I for CJ
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 Justice System
CJ 403 Senior Seminar in Criminal Justice
CJ 408 CJS Agency Practicum (6 credits)
CJ 422 Crisis Management
CJ Approved Electives (6 credits)

*All students must complete the Alvernia University Liberal Arts Core in addition to their Major and Related Requirements.

**A total of a minimum 123 credits are required to earn a Bachelor’s Degree. To adhere to Franciscan Values, community service hours are also required. Transfer students admitted to Alvernia’s Mid-Degree Program must complete a minimum of 30 Alvernia credits at the 300/+ level.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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