Criminal Justice | Major

“The professional qualities and practical knowledge instilled at Alvernia University's dynamic Criminal Justice program curriculum and faculty have been key enablers of my success and were instrumental to preparing me for a career serving the United States Department of Defense.” — Donnie Rhoads ’05, Headquarters, Department of the Army, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-2, 1000 Army Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS IN BRIEF

The Criminal Justice Department at Alvernia University is dedicated to providing the theoretical, practical, and professional knowledge needed in today’s environment to be successful in the fields of law enforcement, corrections, courts, probation and parole, loss prevention, private security and related careers. Emphasis is placed on 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. All Criminal Justice students are assigned an advisor, all of whom are former practitioners in the criminal justice discipline.

ACADEMIC QUALITY

The Alvernia University Criminal Justice full-time faculty members include a former FBI Agent, a former Pennsylvania State Trooper, a former Probation and Parole Officer and a former Texas Police Officer/Forensic Psychologist. The part-time Alvernia University Criminal Justice faculty members include a two Chiefs of Police, a Berks County Judge, a Berks County Assistant District Attorney and a retired FBI Agent. The strength of the department lies in the philosophy that the faculty has worked as criminal justice practitioners. Class instruction is as current as the events of the day, taught by professionals who have experienced a variety of careers in Criminal Justice.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Criminal Justice Association: Alvernia University has an active Criminal Justice Association. Membership is open to all Criminal Justice and Forensic Science students, both majors and minors.

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. Alvernia University Criminal Justice students who obtain 15 credits in Criminal Justice, and maintain a 3.2 cumulative grade point average in Criminal Justice and overall are eligible to join Alpha Phi Sigma.

Saint Thomas More: Saint Thomas More is the Alvernia University Honor Society. Open to Alvernia University Criminal Justice students, with the same qualifications, above, for Alpha Phi Sigma.

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 University offers many course offerings in law and mentoring opportunities with the faculty, including the Chair of the Criminal Justice Department who is an attorney.
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
FBI Agent                  State Police Officer  Loss Prevention Officer
DEA Agent                  Deputy Sheriff            Fraud Investigator
ATF Agent                  United States Customs Officer  Forest Ranger
U.S. Marshal               Border Patrol              Pre-Law/Law School
Secret Service             Local Police Officer      Probation/Parole Officer

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW
Criminal Justice Administration Requirements (48 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

Plus 2 elective courses (6 credits)

The Criminal Justice Minor is comprised of 18 credits including CJ 101, CJ 218, CJ 275 and 3 Criminal Justice elective courses (9 credits).

Program requirements are subject to change. Contact your admissions counselor for the most up to date information.

CONTACT INFORMATION
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