Drawing upon a rich urban environment, the multidisciplinary program in criminal justice studies explores the connections between law, crime and justice. The curriculum emphasizes critical thinking about the administration of justice, crime and delinquency, legal studies and working with diverse communities. As part of the major, students participate in a culminating field experience at the end of their program. The program is intended for a diverse group of students whose interests range from the local to the global, from street crime to terrorism, from municipal policing to international courts. Both majors and minors will pursue course work within and across four areas of emphasis within the field of criminal justice studies.

EMPHASIS AREAS

Administration of Justice
Courses include treatment of distinguishing features of the U.S. criminal justice system and comparative perspectives of systems around the globe. Attention is given to recurring problems including abuse of authority, community conflict and discrimination in case processing. Students have opportunities to learn methods and applications for studying criminal justice systems and processes.

Crime and Delinquency
Courses in this area expose students to major explanations of what brings about different forms of juvenile delinquency and adult criminality. Students have opportunities to explore biological, feminist, economic, international, psychological, racial and sociological perspectives of crime and delinquency. In addition to addressing street crime, courses are available for learning about hate crime, organized crime, terrorism, and white collar crime. In addition to addressing street crime, courses are available for learning about hate crime, organized crime, terrorism and white collar crime.

Legal Studies
Attention is given to legal doctrine relevant to criminal justice, the practice of law by criminal justice agents and the experience of law by defendants, family members and victims. Courses include distinctive disciplinary perspectives of law as well as issues faced by particular populations. Students have the opportunity to learn and apply legal analysis, including case law and development of legal briefs.

Working with Diverse Communities
Working in the criminal justice system in any capacity requires interacting with individuals from diverse family, cultural, social and economic backgrounds. Courses in this area expose students to a deeper understanding and appreciation of individuals and groups from backgrounds other than their own. These courses help students develop communication skills to bridge cultural differences while working toward common goals related to the pursuit of social as well as criminal justice.
General Education Areas Potentially Met by Courses in this Major

By successfully completing the Criminal Justice curriculum, you could also meet some of the Upper Division General Education requirements.

* AP and IB exam scores as well as courses taken at a community college can also impact the suggested course sequencing. If you are not sure how this will affect your scheduling, please contact an SRC advisor.

**Electives/Complementary Studies — please consult with major advisor on appropriate courses

ADDING, DROPPING AND WITHDRAWING FROM CLASSES AFTER START OF SEMESTER

Please be aware of all deadlines. You may add courses via your Gateway until before the first day of instruction, provided there is space available. Once classes start, you will need permission numbers from your instructor to add classes via Gateway.

Dropping courses via your Gateway without it noted on your official records must occur within the first three weeks of each semester. After this three-week period, you are no longer allowed to drop courses via your Gateway. You must have a serious and compelling reason to withdraw from a course and submit a petition with objective supporting documentation. If approved, a “W” will appear on your transcript. All withdrawal petitions that lack serious and compelling reasons and/or viable supporting documentation will be denied within the College of Health & Social Sciences. Be conscientious about withdrawing from classes as you are allowed a maximum of 18 units for withdrawal and “W”s on your transcript can reflect poorly. Also, keep in mind that you are only allowed to repeat a course once for a maximum of two times.

Lastly, it is ALWAYS students’ responsibility to ensure that they are in the appropriate classes — always check your schedule!