

CRIMINOLOGY, LAW AND SOCIETY, BS

Banner Code: LA-BS-CLS

354 Enterprise Hall
Fairfax Campus

Website: cls.gmu.edu/programs/la-bs-cls

Criminology, Law and Society provides a focused study of the justice system and social, human, and moral problems raised in the justice field. This course of study prepares students for careers in law enforcement, corrections, the courts, investigations, juvenile justice, private and homeland security, and related social and human services. The BS degree provides students a focused approach, requiring more courses within the field of criminology. Students who earn the BS degree either gain work experience in a criminal justice agency, or complete a minor in a related field to enhance their study of justice.

Admissions & Policies

Policies

Students pursuing this degree must complete 60-65 credits within the major, with a minimum GPA of 2.00. Students may use up to 18 credits of transferable ADJ courses from the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) or comparable courses at another community college to fulfill the degree requirements. Once a student matriculates at Mason, no courses may be taken at another institution without prior written approval from the program and the dean.

No more than 12 credits of CRIM 485 Study Abroad can be applied to the major.

For policies governing all undergraduate degrees, see AP.5 Undergraduate Policies.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: minimum 120

Students should be aware of the specific policies associated with this program, located on the Admissions & Policies tab.

Core Courses in the Major

CRIM 100	Introduction to Criminal Justice (Mason Core)	3
CRIM 306	Criminal Justice Ethics	3
CRIM 315	Research Methods and Analysis in Criminology	3
CRIM 424	Constitutional Law: Criminal Process and Rights	3
CRIM 495	Capstone in Criminology, Law and Society (Mason Core)	3
Total Credits		15

Internship or Minor in the Major

Select either 15 credits of internship or a minor: 15-20

Internship

CRIM 479 Preparation for Internship
& CRIM 480 and Internship

Minor in a Related Field

Intelligence Analysis Minor (18 credits)
Information Technology Minor (18 credits)
Computer Science Minor (19-20 credits)
Forensic Psychology Minor (18 credits)
Forensic Science Minor (20 credits)
Geographic Information Systems Minor (18-20 credits)
Data Analysis Minor (15 credits)
Statistics Minor (15 credits)
Legal Studies Minor (18 credits)
International Security Minor (18 credits)

Total Credits 15-20

Electives in the Major

Select ten electives from the following: 30

CRIM 210	Introduction to Criminology
CRIM 220	Introduction to Law and Society
CRIM 230	Introduction to Homeland Security
CRIM 301	Public Law and the Judicial Process
or GOVT 301	Public Law and the Judicial Process
CRIM 302	Delinquency
CRIM 304	Computer Crime, Forensics, and Auditing
or IT 357	Computer Crime, Forensics, and Auditing
CRIM 305	Crime and Crime Policy
CRIM 307	Social Inequality, Crime, and Justice
CRIM 308	Human Rights and Justice
CRIM 310	Introduction to the Intelligence Community
CRIM 312	Intelligence Analysis Techniques
CRIM 320	Crime and Place
CRIM 325	Hate Crime
CRIM 350	Counterintelligence
CRIM 400	Applied Criminal Psychology
CRIM 401	Policing in America
CRIM 402	Punishment and Corrections
CRIM 403	Community Corrections
CRIM 404	Crime Victims and Victimization
CRIM 405	Law and Justice around the World (Mason Core)
CRIM 406	Family Law and the Justice System
CRIM 407	Advanced Topics in Law and Society
CRIM 408	Criminal Courts
CRIM 409	Community Policing
CRIM 410	Criminal Investigations
CRIM 411	Innovations in Policing

CRIM 422	Controversial Legal Issues
CRIM 423	Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties
or GOVT 423	Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties
CRIM 425	Criminal Justice Management
CRIM 430	Criminal Law
CRIM 460	Surveillance and Privacy in Contemporary Society
CRIM 462	Law Enforcement and Homeland Security
CRIM 471	Prevention and Deterrence of Crime
CRIM 475	Theory and Politics of Terrorism
CRIM 485	Study Abroad
CRIM 490	Special Topics
CRIM 491	Honors Seminar I
CRIM 492	RS: Honors Seminar II
CRIM 498	Research Practicum
CRIM 499	Independent Study
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Total Credits	30

Optional Concentrations in the Major

Criminology, law and society majors have the option of obtaining a concentration by completing 15 of their 30 elective credits within one of the following areas. Credits earned in CRIM 490 Special Topics may be applied to a concentration as appropriate for the content of the course, to be determined by the undergraduate director.

Concentration in Criminal Justice (CJUS)

Select 15 credits from the following: 15

CRIM 210	Introduction to Criminology
CRIM 302	Delinquency
CRIM 304	Computer Crime, Forensics, and Auditing
or IT 357	Computer Crime, Forensics, and Auditing
CRIM 305	Crime and Crime Policy
CRIM 307	Social Inequality, Crime, and Justice
CRIM 320	Crime and Place
CRIM 325	Hate Crime
CRIM 400	Applied Criminal Psychology
CRIM 401	Policing in America
CRIM 402	Punishment and Corrections
CRIM 403	Community Corrections
CRIM 404	Crime Victims and Victimization
CRIM 408	Criminal Courts
CRIM 409	Community Policing
CRIM 410	Criminal Investigations
CRIM 411	Innovations in Policing
CRIM 425	Criminal Justice Management
CRIM 462	Law Enforcement and Homeland Security
CRIM 471	Prevention and Deterrence of Crime
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Total Credits	15

Concentration in Homeland Security and Justice (HSJ)

Select 15 credits from the following: 15

CRIM 230	Introduction to Homeland Security
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CRIM 310	Introduction to the Intelligence Community
CRIM 312	Intelligence Analysis Techniques
CRIM 350	Counterintelligence
CRIM 405	Law and Justice around the World (Mason Core)
CRIM 460	Surveillance and Privacy in Contemporary Society
CRIM 462	Law Enforcement and Homeland Security
CRIM 475	Theory and Politics of Terrorism
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Total Credits	15

Concentration in Law and Society (LAWS)

Select 15 credits from the following: 15

CRIM 220	Introduction to Law and Society
CRIM 301	Public Law and the Judicial Process
or GOVT 301	Public Law and the Judicial Process
CRIM 308	Human Rights and Justice
CRIM 325	Hate Crime
CRIM 405	Law and Justice around the World (Mason Core)
CRIM 406	Family Law and the Justice System
CRIM 407	Advanced Topics in Law and Society
CRIM 408	Criminal Courts
CRIM 422	Controversial Legal Issues
CRIM 423	Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties
or GOVT 423	Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties
CRIM 430	Criminal Law
CRIM 460	Surveillance and Privacy in Contemporary Society
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Total Credits	15

Writing-Intensive Requirement

The university requires all students to complete at least one course designated "writing intensive" in their majors at the 300 level or above. Students majoring in criminology, law and society fulfill this requirement by successfully completing CRIM 495 Capstone in Criminology, Law and Society (Mason Core). Students should complete ENGH 302 Advanced Composition (Mason Core) before taking the writing-intensive course in the major or take the two courses simultaneously.

Upper Level Requirement

Students seeking a bachelor's degree must apply at least 45 credits of upper-level courses (numbered 300 or above) toward graduation requirements.

Mason Core

Note: Some Mason Core requirements may already be fulfilled by the major requirements listed above. Students are strongly encouraged to consult their advisors to ensure they fulfill all remaining Mason Core requirements.

Code	Title	Credits
Foundation Requirements		
	Written Communication	6
	Oral Communication	3

Quantitative Reasoning	3
Information Technology	3-7
Core Requirements	
Arts	3
Global Understanding	3
Literature	3
Natural Science	7
Social and Behavioral Sciences	3
Western Civilization/World History	3
Synthesis/Capstone Requirement ¹	
Synthesis/Capstone	3
Total Credits	40

¹ minimum 3 credits

Additional Electives

Any remaining credits may be completed with electives to bring the degree total to 120.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Highly qualified students may pursue advanced work leading to graduation with honors in the major. Students admitted to the honors program in the major take a two-course sequence CRIM 491 Honors Seminar I and CRIM 492 RS: Honors Seminar II. To graduate with honors in criminology, law and society, students must complete both courses with a minimum GPA of 3.50 in the two courses.