

# CRIMINOLOGY, LAW AND SOCIETY, BS

**Banner Code:** LA-BS-CLS

354 Enterprise Hall  
Fairfax Campus

Website: [cls.gmu.edu/programs/la-bs-cls](http://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 with an internship must complete 60 major credits. Students who complete an approved minor need 45 major credits, plus 15-20 credits in the minor, some of which may overlap with the major credits. A minimum GPA of 2.00 is required. Students may apply a maximum of 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. No more than 15 credits of CRIM 490 Special Topics 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

Code	Title	Credits
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

Code	Title	Credits
Select either 15 credits of internship or a minor:		15-20
<b>Internship</b>		
CRIM 479 & CRIM 480	Preparation for Internship and Internship	
<b>Minor in a Related Field</b>		
Computational and Data Sciences Minor (15 credits)		
Computer Science Minor (19-20 credits)		
Data Analysis Minor (15 credits)		
Forensic Psychology Minor (18 credits)		
Forensic Science Minor (20 credits)		
Geographic Information Systems Minor (18-20 credits)		
Information Technology Minor (18 credits)		
Intelligence Analysis Minor (18 credits)		
International Security Minor (18 credits)		
Legal Studies Minor (18 credits)		
Statistics Minor (15 credits)		
Total Credits		15-20

### Electives in the Major

Code	Title	Credits
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.

#### Available Concentrations

- Concentration in Criminal Justice (CJUS)
- Concentration in Homeland Security and Justice (HSJ)
- Concentration in Law and Society (LAWS)

#### Concentration in Criminal Justice (CJUS)

Code	Title	Credits
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)

Code	Title	Credits
Select 15 credits from the following: 15		
CRIM 230	Introduction to Homeland Security	
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)

Code	Title	Credits
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.

## Additional Electives

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

## 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
<b>Foundation Requirements</b>		
	Written Communication (ENGH 101)	3
	Oral Communication	3
	Quantitative Reasoning	3
	Information Technology and Computing	3
<b>Exploration Requirements</b>		
	Arts	3
	Global Understanding	3
	Literature	3
	Natural Science	7
	Social and Behavioral Sciences	3
	Western Civilization/World History	3
<b>Integration Requirements</b>		
	Written Communications (ENGH 302)	3
	Writing-Intensive <sup>1</sup>	3
	Synthesis/Capstone <sup>2</sup>	3
Total Credits		40

<sup>1</sup> Most programs include the writing-intensive course designated for the major as part of the major requirements; this course is therefore not counted towards the total required for Mason Core.

<sup>2</sup> Minimum 3 credits required.

## 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.