The degree program in the School of Criminal Justice prepares students to serve the community in the operation and management of criminal justice agencies which include federal, state, county, and municipal law enforcement; probation; courts; institutional corrections; parole; and related agencies. The major is founded on an interdisciplinary and academic approach to the role of criminal justice in the maintenance of social order in a democratic society.

Students pursuing a degree in criminal justice should be willing to meet the standards required of such a career. The majority of criminal justice agencies require sound academic preparation, psychological stability, physical agility, and a record free of felonies or excessive traffic offenses. The Criminal Justice program includes the development of advanced research and writing skills and includes interdisciplinary course work.

Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice (B.S.C.J.)

- Major in Criminal Justice

Minor
- Criminal Justice

Courses in Criminal Justice (CJ)

CJ 1310. Introduction to Criminal Justice.
History and philosophy of criminal justice: ethical considerations, crime defined, overview of criminal justice system, law enforcement, court system, prosecution and defense, trial process, and corrections.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
TCCN: CRIJ 1301

Police profession: organization of law enforcement systems, the police role, police discretion, ethics, police-community interaction, and current and future issues. Prerequisite: CJ 1310.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
TCCN: CRIJ 2328

CJ 2350. The Courts and Criminal Procedure.
Judiciary in the criminal justice system: structure of American court system, prosecution, right to counsel, pre-trial release, grand juries, adjudication process, types and rules of evidence, and sentencing. Prerequisite: CJ 1310.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
TCCN: CRIJ 1306

Corrections in the criminal justice system: organization of correctional systems, correctional role, institutional operations, alternatives to institutionalization, treatment and rehabilitation, and current and future issues. Prerequisite: CJ 1310.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
TCCN: CRIJ 2313

A study of the nature of criminal law: philosophy and historical developments, major definitions and concepts, classification of crime, elements of crimes and penalties using Texas Statutes as illustrations, and justifications of and defenses to criminal responsibility.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
TCCN: CRIJ 1310

A study of the juvenile justice process to include both the specialized juvenile law and the role of the courts, police and corrections in juvenile justice. Prerequisite: CJ 1310.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CJ 3322. Race, Ethnicity and Criminal Justice.
This course examines the relationship between race/ethnicity and the criminal justice system. Theories of race/ethnicity and crime, the criminal justice system, and social systems including media, politics and economics are examined to form a comprehensive understanding of the social construction of race as it pertains to a racially disproportionate system.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CJ 3323. Mid-Level Management in Criminal Justice Agencies.
Introduction and overview of the organizational theories of classical behavioral, and systems management concepts. Included in the course content are analyses of the functions of management in modern CJ organizations, internal and external environmental factors, individual & group dynamics, motivation, and leadership styles. Prerequisite: CJ 2310 or CJ 2355.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CJ 3325. Penology.
Role of the institution in the process of corrections including the philosophy of imprisonment, the inmate subculture and special problems and programs in institutions. Prerequisite: CJ 2355.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CJ 3329. Forensic Evidence.
Investigator’s role in collecting, preparing and presenting evidence in criminal trials. Special attention will be given to electronic evidence in addition to traditional physical evidence. Prerequisites: CJ 2350 and CJ 2360.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Analysis of criminal justice research, survey methods, and the utilization of research in criminal justice. (WI) Prerequisites: CJ 1310; CIS 1323 or CS 1308; and CJ 3347 or MATH 2328 or PSY 2301 or SOCI 3307.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CJ 3347. Statistics For Criminal Justice.
The theory and application of statistical inferential techniques, and correlation and regression for behavioral science data and its applications in Criminal Justice. Emphasis is on the collection, analysis, and interpretation of statistical data in criminal justice settings.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CJ 4301. Internship I.
Field service training in public and private criminal justice agencies at the federal, state and local levels. The internship is designed to provide actual work experience, observation, and analysis in the student's chosen career field. (WI) Prerequisites: CJ 2310, CJ 2350, CJ 2355, CJ 2360, CJ 3346, Texas State GPA 2.25 and Major GPA 2.50.
3 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 6 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

CJ 4302. Internship II.
Field service training in public and private criminal justice agencies at the federal, state and local levels. The internship is designed to provide actual work experience, observation, and analysis in the student’s chosen career field. (WI) Prerequisites: CJ 2310, CJ 2350, CJ 2355, CJ 2360, CJ 3346, Texas State GPA 2.25 and Major GPA 2.50.
3 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 6 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

This course focuses on media's role in social control of society by exploring public understandings of the problems associated with crime and their solutions through a critical examination of the relationships between the media, the criminal justice system, and crime in the larger context of society.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CJ 4309I. The Death Penalty in the United States.
This course examines the contemporary controversies that surround the death penalty, including its administration, modes of execution, disparities in application, deterrent effect, related social/economic costs, impact on international relations, and the potential for miscarriages of justice. The history of the death penalty, including Supreme Court developments, will also be reviewed.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CJ 4309J. Sexual Offenders and Sexual Offenses.
This course examines the social and individual mechanisms responsible for the onset, persistence, and desistance of sexual offending using a criminological perspective. The current state of sex offender risk assessment, treatment, as well as policing and legal responses to this type of crime, are also addressed.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CJ 4309K. Intelligence Analysis.
This course provides an overview of the importance of intelligence gathering in the global and domestic war on terrorism, and critically examines issues involved with the gathering of intelligence, techniques for the gathering of intelligence, methods of collecting, collating, analyzing and disseminating intelligence, and a review of current terrorist threats.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CJ 4310. Special Problems in the Criminal Justice System.
A study of contemporary problems in administration, management, organization and operation of criminal justice agencies. (Capstone Course). (WI) Prerequisites: CJ 2310 and CJ 2350 and CJ 2355 and CJ 2360 all with a grade of "D" or better, and Senior Standing.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CJ 4314. Terrorism in the United States.
Terrorist groups operating in the U.S. are examined with special emphasis on the far-right (militia, Christian identity, neo-nazi, other racist groups). Analyzed are their belief systems and structures, organizational structure, tactics and targets, and weapons. Future trends are discussed, including the threat posed by nuclear, biological, and chemical terrorism.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CJ 4316. Treatment in Community and Institutional Corrections.
A study of community based programs for adult and juvenile offenders, treatment modalities in various correctional settings, administration, legal issues, and future trends associated with community-based and institutional based treatment. Prerequisite: CJ 3325.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
A study of the problems of organized and upper social status criminal activities with emphasis on statutes and their application to fraud, embezzlement, deceptive trade practices and illegal trade practices.  
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CJ 4323. Special Operation Units in Law Enforcement and Corrections.  
This course introduces students to the basic principles of Special Operations Units (SOUs) within criminal justice agencies. Topics include the necessity for such units, the changing nature of communities and policing in America, the principles of crisis management, the development/implementation of SOUs, selection/training/operationalizing of personnel, and types of SOUs.  
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CJ 4326. Women and Criminal Justice.  
This course is designed to explore women's involvement in three primary areas of criminal justice-as victims, criminals and practitioners employed in criminal justice agencies. It will analyze the impact of sex and gender on such things as criminological theory, sentencing, prison subcultures victimization and career choices. Prerequisite: junior standing. (MULT) (W).  
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.  
Course Attribute(s): Multicultural Content|Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CJ 4327. Ethics of Social Control.  
This course is designed to explore moral decision making. Basic moral or ethical frameworks are applied to ethical decision which often need to be made in the criminal justice system. Prerequisite: junior standing. (W).  
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.  
Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

Survey of organized crime in contemporary society. Includes attention to crime types and methods, motivation, affiliations, and the effects of this type of criminality. Related legal and law enforcement perspectives will be covered, along with international and cyberspace issues. Prerequisite: CJ 1310.  
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CJ 4330. Cybercrime.  
This course introduces students to the concepts, technologies, techniques and legal and ethical issues associated with cybercrime, security, and computer forensics. Students will gain knowledge regarding development of national and international computer crime law, crimes unique to computer environments, and traditional crime involving computers and the Internet.  
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CJ 4331. Serial Murder.  
This course covers the phenomenon of serial murder and the police investigative response. Theories, concepts, and law enforcement analytic methods are covered in detail. Emphasis is placed on understanding the reality versus the myth of serial murder, serial killers, and criminal profiling.  
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

A critical analysis of the nature of organizations within the criminal justice system. An analysis of theories of organizations and of organizational changes within law enforcement agencies. An examination of the quantitative data gathered by the Criminal Justice System and its effective use and presentation. Prerequisite: CJ 2310 or CJ 2355.  
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

This course examines how psychological perspectives are used to explain antisocial behavior, by drawing on the intersection between theory and research in the following areas of psychology: developmental, child psychopathology, biological, personality, cognitive, and social.  
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

Examination of the causes of crime and crime victimization and competing explanations for crime and the impact of crime on crime victims. This course draws on perspectives advanced by a number of diverse fields of inquiry, for example, biology, psychology, sociology, and the political and economic sciences. (WI) Prerequisite: CJ 3300.  
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.  
Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

An in-depth study of recent developments in criminal law and procedure. Their effects upon the criminal justice agency official in society will be given special attention. Includes specific case studies with emphasis on analyzing factual situations and legal issues. (WI) Prerequisite: CJ 2310.  
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.  
Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

A study of the developing body of law defining the rights and duties of persons confined in penal institutions with equal emphasis on legal issues associated with probationers, parolees, and similar status’s within the corrections branch of the criminal justice system. (WI) Prerequisite: CJ 2355.  
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.  
Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
CJ 4362. Readings in Criminal Justice.
An individualized readings course tailored to the academic and professional interests and needs of the student. Emphasis is placed on developing in-depth knowledge of selected criminal justice subjects through directed research. Repeatable for credit with different emphasis. (Permission of instructor is required for course registration.).
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

Independent study and research on topics in criminal justice related to a student's primary area of interest. Work may include individual research, critical reviews or integration of existing body of knowledge. Course may be repeated with different emphasis once for credit with approval of department chair.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CJ 4365. Comparative Criminal Justice.
A survey of the organizational, administrative and philosophical principles of criminal justice systems around the world. (WI) Prerequisite: CJ 2310 or CJ 2355.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter