

Criminal Justice

Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice College of Health and Human Services

The criminal justice degree program at Bowling Green State University produces graduates who can critically assess issues and use that ability to impact the criminal justice system. Students are prepared for a wide range of post-graduation endeavors. Many students successfully pursue graduate degrees in criminal justice and law, as well as public administration, sociology and counseling. Students also distinguish themselves by taking jobs with federal, state and local agencies involved in criminal justice.

A study by the Police Executive Research Forum provided a good description of the University's criminal justice program. It noted that police agencies do not want higher education to provide technical training. Instead, agencies need students who can look at issues critically, make informed judgments and decisions, have an understanding about human nature and social arrangements, recognize cultural diversity, understand basic research, and communicate effectively.

Curriculum

The criminal justice degree program places emphasis on academics, oral and written communication and research potential. The curriculum is largely concentrated in social and behavioral sciences with core courses in government, law, psychology and sociology. Students take courses in other departments, as well as in criminal justice, giving them the ability to look at a problem from many viewpoints. This system exposes students to a wide diversity of faculty to explore different ideas and issues.

Various criminal justice courses are also required, as well as a rigorous internship in an agency of the student's choice. In addition, every student must complete a major research paper during the senior seminar in criminal justice.

Special Features and Opportunities

An intense internship requirement is one of the program's strengths. Contact is maintained with numerous agencies that accept interns on a regular basis. Internships may be arranged with law enforcement agencies, correctional institutions, probation/parole authorities, private security operations, prosecutors' and public defenders' offices, the local courts and some federal agencies. Feedback from both the agencies and the interns has consistently verified the value of "in-the-field" study to a well-rounded education.

Criminal justice students are encouraged to become part of an active criminal justice organization that provides excellent speakers, trips and social functions for members. A chapter of the criminal justice honorary, Alpha Phi Sigma, provides recognition of outstanding criminal justice students.

College Highlights

BGSU's College of Health and Human Services was the first collegiate unit in northwest Ohio devoted exclusively to academic programs in health and human services.

There are 8 active student organizations with many connected to their national professional affiliation. Each major emphasizes hands-on opportunities through practical experiences and laboratory courses.

The college sponsors a Health Sciences Residential Community where students benefit from learning and socializing with other students taking similar classes, increased contacts with faculty in the health-science academic majors, and academic advising and career exploration that takes place within the residence hall.

Preparation for College

Completing the requirements for high school graduation is necessary for admission to BGSU, but only finishing the minimum coursework will leave you unprepared for college. Consider taking four years of mathematics instead of

the three that are required. Two, three or even four years of the same foreign language is excellent for preparation for college. You will also benefit from competency in computer use. Courses that provide exposure to or training in the visual and performing arts are excellent choices.

Admission to the Program

BGSU's criminal justice degree program is one of the few selective entry programs in the country. Admission is highly competitive. Students who are admitted demonstrate high academic standards and strong initiatives.

Entering freshmen can be admitted with an ACT composite score of 24 or higher and high school GPA of 3.0 or above. Freshmen who do not meet this requirement may enroll as pre-criminal justice majors before being accepted into the program.

Current BGSU and transfer students are required to have an overall minimum GPA of 2.5 based on a minimum of 25 graded semester hours and completion of Introduction to Criminal Justice with a C or better.

Transfer students should file applications with a recent transcript the term prior to the one they wish to enter; admission to the University is required before admission to the program will be considered.

Applications for upperclass and transfer students are considered for each term. Applications may be obtained from the criminal justice program office, 223 Health Center, or online at www.bgsu.edu/departments/crju/CJmain.htm

While students meeting the requirements above will be admitted at any time, students should be aware that completion of the program may require two years and attendance at summer session(s) if admission is granted after the beginning of your junior year.

Students can graduate within four years (8 semesters) if they are admitted to the program before the end of their freshman year AND make adequate arrangements to undertake the practicum

(field placement) during a regular academic term. Most students opt to do their internship over a summer, either between junior and senior years, or after they complete all their coursework. This option will result in program completion in nine semesters.

Core Courses

The following are core courses for Criminal Justice students:

American Government
General Psychology
Principles of Sociology
Introduction to Criminal Justice
Law Enforcement in American Society
Crime Prevention and Security
Drugs, Crime and Criminal Justice
Criminal Investigations
Victimology
Public Administration
Juvenile Justice Subsystems
Constitutional Law
Criminal Justice Research Methods
Criminal Courts
Abnormal Behavior
Criminology
Corrections
Internship
Senior Seminar in Criminal Justice
Practicum Seminar

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Your University Opportunity

BGSU Firelands, located in Huron, Ohio, is a regional campus and one of the seven undergraduate colleges of Bowling Green State University. We offer many of the advantages and resources of a major university, but in a smaller, more personal environment.

Generally, students are able to complete at least two years of coursework toward most of the 200-degree programs at BGSU before transferring to the main campus, or to another college or university.

BGSU Firelands offers students a wireless environment campus wide. Kiosks and public-access computers located in most campus buildings provide easy Internet access. In addition, there are several on-campus computer labs with a variety of computers and software programs.

The library, containing more than 30,000 volumes, is computer-linked to the more than 4 million items available through BGSU's libraries to provide excellent research opportunities.

Academic advisors work individually with students to plan their degree programs and small class sizes allow students to have close, personal contact with their professors. Free tutoring is readily available through the Teaching and Learning Center. Scholarships, grants and loans are available to assist students with tuition.

NOTE: Information in this guide is subject to change without notice. To learn more about the official program of study for Criminal Justice, please check the undergraduate catalog online at: www.bgsu.edu/catalog/FIR/FIR22.html

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