

CRIMINOLOGY

What is Criminology? (from <http://www.albright.edu/catalog/soc-criminology.html>)

Sociology is concerned with the analysis and explanation of social phenomena. These phenomena, which range from the socialization of the child to criminal behavior and cultural change, are studied and investigated using a wide variety of research techniques. Through formalized standards of inquiry, sociologists focus on the relationships between the parts of social systems and how the systems are formulated, how they function, and how they are related to the everyday lives of human beings.

The criminology track exposes students to the sociological perspective through study of the methodology of the field, basic theoretical paradigms, as well as the study of socialization, culture, deviance and conformity, social organization and societal development, complex organizations and the principles of stratification, and other forms of social inequality. In addition, students study the social problem of crime and deviance within the context of other social problems, e.g., family dysfunction, poverty, education, racism, gender issues and the sociology of work and occupations. Courses that concentrate on crime and delinquency are concerned with:

- The study of behaviors defined as criminally deviant in both American society and other developed and developing societies.
- The traditional and contemporary theoretical explanations of both the process of defining criminal behavior and the social and interpersonal decisions and circumstances related to engaging in criminalized deviant behavior.

What is this career like? (from

<http://www.princetonreview.com/cte/profiles/dayInLife.asp?careerID=47>)

“A criminologist studies normal social behaviors and how certain factors influence deviation from that norm. They work with, and often for, law enforcement offices (both local and federal), analyzing the behavior and methods of criminals for a variety of reasons: to increase the chances of criminals being apprehended, to predict patterns and motives for behaviors in certain demographic groups, and to assess the responsiveness of crime to various methods of law enforcement. These duties border on the territory of the statistician, and many of the same skills are required of the criminologist, but the additional analytic component of psychological insight and sociological patterns of behavior make this profession unique. Criminologists’ duties can be as distant from police work as reviewing a pattern of behavior among a certain demographic group and writing a profile of the pressures that increase that behavior. Or they may involve going to crime scenes, attending autopsies, and questioning potential suspects to see if they fall into the general psychological profile constructed of the suspect for that crime.

There are comprehensive and rigorous academic requirements to become a criminologist because the job is academic in nature, as much of criminology rests on evaluating and predicting the foundations of behavior based on incomplete information. The overwhelming majority of criminologists are sociology and psychology majors. Coursework should include statistics,

writing, computer science and logic. While many enter the profession with only a bachelor's degree, a significant number continue for graduate work in the behavioral sciences, and those who wish to teach are expected to pursue a doctorate in psychology or sociology. Since most criminologists are employed by law-enforcement agencies, background and security checks are standard. Employers look for candidates who have demonstrated responsibility, creativity, and logical thinking. Criminologists must know how to design and construct sound research projects. Written examinations are required in a number of states to license criminologists, so check with your local law-enforcement agency for requirements in your state and county.

Criminologists work closely with many law-enforcement officers, and the few who leave often pursue a variety of law-enforcement careers. Criminologists become police officers, FBI agents, and state medical examiners more often than any other careers. A number use their psychological training as springboards to careers as therapists, psychologists and counselors.”

What are the career opportunities for a criminology concentrator? (from <http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/>)

Entry-level Job Titles

Airport Security Officer	Customs Agent	Litigation Manager
Alcohol/Drug Case Worker	Delinquency Counselor	U.S. Marshall
Bailiff	Deportation Officer	Mental Health Worker
Body Guard	Deputy Marshall	Naval Investigator
Border Patrol Agent	Detective	Non-Profit Organization
CIA Agent	Discrimination Investigator	Paralegal
Child Support Agency	Drug Enforcement Agent	Park Ranger
Community Service Cood.	Employ. Agency Recruiter	Parole/Probation Officer
Compliance Manager	Envir. Conservation Officer	Postal Service Investigator
Correctional Case Worker	FBI Agent	Pre-Trial Services Officer
Court Administrator	Fish & Game Warden	Private Security Officer
Court Clerk	Foster Care Worker	Probation & Parole Officer
Housing/Tenant Rep.	Industrial Security Specialist	Public Safety Officer
Juvenile Court Counselor	Law Clerk	Corrections Officer
SBI Agent	Social Worker	Loss Prevention Specialist
Secret Service Agent	Teacher	Victim Services Specialist
Sheriff	U.S. Customs Agent	Youth Advocate
Peace Corps/VISTA	Police Officer	

Jobs Requiring Additional Education or Experience

Attorney	Criminologist	Law Librarian
Coroner	Corrections Facilities Mgr.	Police Detective
FBI Agent	Contracts Administrator	Penologist

Criminal Investigator	Substance Abuse Counselor	Private Investigator
Warden	Social Worker	Welfare Counselor

How do you get ready? (from <http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/>)

Analyze, synthesize and interpret information	Knowledge of social structures and change
Interpersonal communication (oral & written)	Interact well with diverse cultures/ groups
Knowledge of community resources	Resolve conflicts/ counseling
Ability to understand and improve human relationships	Work well under pressure
Insight into group dynamics	Ethics and moral values
Computer skills (data processing and analysis)	Interviewing skills
Written and presentation skills	Strong background in humanities, social science and natural science
Understanding societies' reaction to crimes	Broad understanding of criminal law and the criminal justice system
Considerations of gender and race	Ability to identify and analyze social problems and develop solutions
Quantitative skills	Knowledge of legal structures
Skills in research and scientific methodology	Supervision and management skills
Critical thinking	Understanding nature of crimes
Decision making	Patience

Related Major Skills (from <http://career.utk.edu/students/majors.asp>)

- Many transferable skills, such as analytical, organizational, research, interpersonal, computer, leadership, teamwork and oral/written communication, are associated with the sociology degree.
- Internships, part-time jobs, summer jobs and/or volunteer experiences are critical.
- An undergraduate degree is sufficient for many entry-level positions in business, industry and government. However, a graduate degree is likely to be more desirable in a competitive market.
- An undergraduate degree in sociology is great preparation for graduate or professional education in sociology, law, counseling, psychology, social work, medicine, education, college student personnel, higher education administration and other related fields. Research prerequisites for graduate or professional programs of interest.
- To enhance graduate or professional school opportunities, maintain a high grade point average, secure strong faculty recommendations, join student or professional

organizations, and gain relevant experience outside the classroom through work, internship, volunteer and research opportunities.

- For human or social service positions, gain experience with a population of interest (i.e., children, college students, elderly adults) and develop multicultural sensitivity and understanding.
- Many criminal justice professions require candidates to possess strong oral and written communication skills and good computer skills. The ability to speak a second language is also desirable.
- Develop good listening skills and the ability to work well with a wide range of diverse populations.
- Most entry-level positions for criminology majors reside with law enforcement and social service organizations.
- Be willing to start in an entry-level job in order to prepare for more advanced career opportunities.
- Course work related to the hard sciences (biology, chemistry or biochemistry) is preferred for career opportunities in forensics.
- Depending upon one's career goals, earn a master's degree in disciplines such as criminal justice, forensic science, social work, counseling or business to obtain positions involving therapy, higher levels of administration, forensics or research. Earn the doctorate degree for university teaching positions.
- Conduct informational interviews with professionals in fields of interest to learn more about opportunities.

What about the future? (from <http://www.bls.gov/oco>.)

The job outlook for the foreseeable future is excellent. Crime is a major domestic policy concern, and efforts continue to find effective responses to it. "The U.S. Department of Labor has predicted that by 2010 there will be more than a 29 percent increase in the demand for FBI agents, police officers, private detectives, U.S. customs agents and many others, but the growing emphasis on homeland security has created an unprecedented demand for criminal justice and security professionals."

For a more detailed employment outlook of crime and justice occupations, refer to <http://www.bls.gov/oco/oco1006.htm>.

Available at Albright College Career Development Center's Resource Library

- Great Jobs for Criminal Justice Majors, by Stephen Lambert
- Career Opportunities in Law and the Legal Industry, by Susan Echaore-McDavid
- Career Opportunities in Law Enforcement, Security, and Protective Services, by Susan Echaore- McDavid
- Careers for Courageous People and Other Adventurous Types, by Jan Goldberg
- Careers for High Energy People and Other Go-Getters, by Marjorie Eberts, Margaret Gisler, and Maria Gisler
- Careers for Introverts and Other Solitary Types, by Blythe Camenson

- Careers for Legal Eagles and Other Law-and-Order Types, by Blythe Camenson
- Careers for Mystery Buffs and Other Snoops and Sleuths, by Blythe Camenson
- Careers for Night Owls and Other Insomniacs, by Louise Miller
- Careers for Patriotic Types and Others Who Want to Serve Their Country, by Jan Goldberg
- Careers for Puzzle Solvers and Other Methodical Thinkers, by Jan Goldberg
- Careers in Criminology, by Marilyn Morgan
- Careers in Sociology, by W Richard Stephens, Jr.
- Opportunities in Fire Protection Services Careers, by Ronny J. Coleman
- Opportunities in Forensic Science Careers, by Blythe Camenson
- Opportunities in Government Careers, by Neale Baxter
- Opportunities in Law Careers, by Gary Munneke
- Opportunities in Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Careers, by James Stinchcomb
- Opportunities in Paralegal Careers, by Alice Fins

Disclaimer

Links to Internet sites are provided for your convenience and do not constitute an endorsement by Albright College or the Career Development Center.

Links found at <http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/index.htm>

Law Enforcement Job Links

- Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (Employment and Links), <http://www.calea.org>
- CopCareer, <http://www.copcareer.com>
- International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training, <http://www.iadlest.org>
- International Association of Crime Analysts, <http://www.iaca.net/JobOps.asp>
- Jobs4Police, <http://www.jobs4police.com>
- Law Enforcement Recruiting Directory, <http://www.officer.com/recruiting/index.htm>
- Officer, <http://www.officer.com>
- Official Directory of State Patrol and State Police, <http://www.statetroopersdirectory.com>
- Police Jobs, <http://www.policejobs.com>
- PoliceEmployment, <http://www.policeemployment.com>
- USACops, <http://www.usacops.com>
- Law Enforcement & Correction Jobs <http://www.911hotjobs.com>

Court-Related Job Links

- American Bar Association Career Corner, <http://www.abanet.org/lsd/jobopp.html>
- Association of Corporate Counsel, <http://jobs.acca.com/search/browse/>
- ChooseLaw, <http://students.chooselaw.com/>

- Counsel.net, <http://counsel.net/jobs/>
- FindLaw, <http://careers.findlaw.com>
- Internet Legal Research Group, <http://www.ilrg.com/pre-law.html>
- LawInfo Career Center, <http://jobs.lawinfo.com>
- LawJobs, <http://www.lawjobs.com>
- Lawyers Weekly Jobs, <http://www.lawyersweeklyjobs.com>
- Legal Employment, <http://www.legalemploy.com>
- National Association for Law Placement, <http://www.nalp.org>
- National Bar Association, <http://www.nationalbar.org>
- National Federation of Paralegal Associations, <http://www.paralegals.org>
- U.S. Courts, <http://www.uscourts.gov/employment.html>
- Legal Jobs <http://www.lawcrossing.com>

Correction-Related Job Links

- American Correctional Association, <http://www.aca.org>
- American Jail Association, <http://www.corrections.com/aja>
- Corrections Connection, <http://www.corrections.com>
- Federal Bureau of Prisons, <http://www.bop.gov>
- National Institute of Corrections, <http://www.nicic.org>
- Law Enforcement and Correction Jobs <http://www.911hotjobs.com>

Federal Job Links

- Federal Government Employment, <http://www.usajobs.gov/>
- Government Departments and Agencies, http://www.firstgov.gov/Agencies/Federal/All_Agencies/index.shtml
- National Security Agency, <http://www.nsa.gov/careers>
- StudentJobs.gov, <http://www.studentjobs.gov/>
- Students.gov, <http://www.students.gov/STUGOVWebApp/Public>
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection, <http://www.customs.ustreas.gov/xp/cgov/careers>
- U.S. Government Manual, <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/gmanual/index.html>
- U.S. Government Office of Personnel Management, <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>

Career Planning Links

- Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, <http://www.acjs.org>
- American Academy of Forensic Sciences, <http://www.aafs.org>
- American Board of Criminalistics (Forensic Science), <http://www.criminalistics.com>
- American Society of Criminology, <http://www.asc41.com>

- CJ Career Info, <http://www.criminaljusticeusa.com>
- CJ Directory, <http://talkjustice.com/cybrary.asp>

Professional Associations Links

- International Association of Crime Analysts, <http://www.iaca.net>
- National Archive of Criminal Justice Data, <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD/links.html>
- National Criminal Justice Reference Service, <http://www.ncjrs.gov>
- Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, http://www.acjs.org/pubs/167_670_10833.cfm
- American Society of Criminology, <http://www.asc41.com/dir3/jobposts.htm>