



# UNIVERSITY *of* DUBUQUE

## **Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice**

### LEARNING INSTITUTE FOR FULFILLMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

University of Dubuque's Learning Institute for Fulfillment and Engagement (LIFE) program is an accelerated adult bachelor's and master's degree program. The LIFE program was established by University of Dubuque, a nonprofit private Christian university established in 1852 in Dubuque, Iowa, and is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The bachelor of arts (BA) in criminal justice program prepares graduates for effective participation in a variety of public and private sector careers. This can include law enforcement, courts, corrections, community service, mental health services, and human services. Students may also seek positions as researchers and/or university teachers by continuing study at a graduate level. The study of criminal justice provides the background needed for graduate programs in law, criminal justice, social work, and other related disciplines.

### PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Identify the various components of the criminal justice system inclusive of law enforcement, courts, and corrections.
- Demonstrate professional written and oral communication skills.
- Apply analytical and critical thinking skills to the theoretical perspectives of sociology and/or criminal justice.
- Apply criminological and/or sociological theory to practical experience.
- Evaluate the society in which they will perform their duties and the societal issues that contribute to and influence the work they perform.
- Assess ethical implications of decision making relevant to their discipline as well as to the distribution of justice in society.
- Model a professional code of conduct consistent with the standards of their discipline.

## BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE REQUIREMENTS

Course	Course Description	Credits
	<b>Prerequisite</b>	
SOC 111: Introduction to Sociology	An introduction to the social, political, and economic aspects of human societies. Basic concepts and principles are developed through the study of several societies with an emphasis on American culture and its institutions. Prerequisite course for most other sociology and criminal justice courses.	3
	<b>Criminal Justice Core Requirements</b>	
SCJ 110: Introduction to Criminal Justice	This course provides an overview of the American criminal justice system with an emphasis on three core areas: police, courts, and corrections. Students will study the history, structure, and the primary mission of the core areas of the criminal justice system and how they are interrelated. Students will discuss various constitutional requirements and their impact as well as theories and concepts related to the criminal justice system.	3
SCJ 210: Introduction to Law Enforcement	This introductory course to law enforcement provides students with the historical overview of policing in America, covering topics such as police organization, structure, and operations. This course also examines the personal side of policing and critical issues in contemporary policing. <i>Prerequisite: SCJ 110.</i>	3
SCJ 211: Criminal Law	This course provides substantive criminal law including its origins, elements, foundational principles, and supporting rationales. Students will review state criminal code provisions, the model penal code, federal criminal statutes, and supporting case law. Students will learn how to define various criminal offenses and concepts. <i>Prerequisites: SOC 111 and SCJ 110 or SOC 112.</i>	3
SCJ 212: Criminal Procedure	This course provides an overview of constitutional regulations outlining procedures used by police and courts. Students will learn to identify police constraints of citizens during casual encounters, detentions, and arrests. From first contact with police through the appeals process, students will have an interpretive exposure to criminal justice procedures. Students will also define terminology, define roles of various participants in the system, demonstrate vocational skills, recognize criminal procedures from arrest through trial, and interpret information when making valid procedural appraisals. <i>Prerequisite: SCJ 110.</i>	3
SCJ 215: Court Systems and Judicial Process	In this course, students will examine the state and federal court systems, with special attention to the adjudication of criminal offenses and the political and social impact of court decisions. Students will learn the key actors and concepts as well as assess the broader forces impacting the judicial process. <i>Prerequisite: SCJ 110 or departmental approval.</i>	3
SCJ 225: Corrections	This course examines the history and nature of the correctional system, from its beginning through current times, with a primary focus on corrections in the United States. Course topics will include goals of the correctional system, prison and jail management, identifying challenges, special populations, trends in population growth, inmate behaviors, current trends in contemporary corrections, and the ethical and sociological impact of policy and management decisions. <i>Prerequisite: SCJ 110 or departmental approval.</i>	3
SCJ 231: Criminology	This course presents a biological, psychological, and sociological analysis of crime and criminals. Fundamental factors related to criminal behavior and the impact criminal behavior has on society will be explored. Students will be able to articulate various theories of crime and apply these theories to individual situations involving crime. <i>Prerequisites: SOC 111 or SOC 112 or departmental approval.</i>	3
SCJ 313: Introduction to Constitutional Law	This course is a survey of constitutional law with a focus on civil rights and civil liberties. Students will learn about constitutional issues and principles by reading key Supreme Court opinions and engaging in regulation discussion. Students will gain an understanding of how constitutional doctrines affect people's lives. <i>Prerequisites: SCJ 110 and SCJ 215 or departmental approval.</i>	3

## BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE REQUIREMENTS

Course	Course Description	Credits
SCJ 495: Senior Seminar – Ethical and Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice	In this course, students will examine criminal justice issues through various ethical frameworks (eg, Consequentialism, Kantianism, and Socialism). Students will examine ethical codes of conduct and dilemmas specific to the three parts of the criminal justice system: policing, courts, and corrections. Students will gain an understanding of these dilemmas as faced by current criminal justice professionals and how these dilemmas are often addressed. Students will also show a mastery of the necessary written, oral, and critical thinking skills appropriate to their chosen profession. Senior standing or instructor permission required.	3
	<b>Practicum</b>	
SCJ 485: Internship	This course provides an experiential learning opportunity designed to integrate academic learning with community-based experience through field observation and work involvement with a governmental, public, or private organization affiliated with the field of criminal justice. The student is required to complete a minimum of 50 hours per credit of field experience (150 total hours for a three-credit internship). In addition, the student will complete various written assignments and an oral presentation. <i>Prerequisites: Junior or senior standing in the criminal justice program or departmental approval.</i>	3
SCJ 491: Independent Research	This course enables students to examine a select topic in the criminal justice field through intensive study in literature review and research under the guidance of a supervising faculty member. Students will learn to identify and reflect critically on connections between discipline-specific theory and practice and the research topic. <i>Prerequisites: MATH 230 with approval of a learning contract by the sponsoring faculty member and dean, and junior or senior standing in the criminal justice program with departmental approval.</i>	3
	<b>Electives and Sociological Perspective</b>	
SCJ 233: Juvenile Justice	This course examines the origins of the juvenile justice system, its function in current American society and compares it to the adult criminal justice system. This course will explore theories of delinquency including risk factors, intervention, and treatment strategies. Students will learn to analyze the juvenile justice system's ethical and critical issues through theories. <i>Prerequisite: SCJ 110 or departmental approval.</i>	3
SCJ 303: Criminal Investigation	Students will learn about the purpose of criminal investigations. Topics will include duties and responsibilities of the criminal investigator, crime scene analysis, collection and preservation of evidence, investigation techniques, and laws and regulations relevant to criminal investigations. Current issues related to criminal investigations will also be addressed. Students will gain knowledge of and apply investigative skills, describe and discuss laws related to the function of criminal investigations, and apply interview and investigative techniques in scenario exercises. <i>Prerequisite: SCJ 211 or departmental approval.</i>	3
SOC 202: Inequalities of Race, Class, and Gender	This course focuses on the similarities and differences among forms of oppression and emphasizes the ways in which issues of race, class, and gender intersect. The course examines the social construction of difference, analyzes how differences become translated into inequalities, and adopts a critical stance in the exploration of how inequalities based on difference are maintained and changed. <i>Prerequisite: SOC 111.</i>	3
SOC 331: Social Stratification	A critical and historical examination of contrasting theories and the thoughts of those who are justifying or attacking social inequality. Various aspects of social injustice such as socioeconomic, political, sexual, racial, and international inequalities are explored. Class relations within the United States are compared with class and caste relations in other societies, and inequalities between societies are also examined.	3

## BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE REQUIREMENTS – 46 CREDITS

Courses listed below are required for the criminal justice major in conjunction with general education core curriculum courses to complete the bachelor of arts in criminal justice degree.

*Prerequisites – All courses below are 3 credits each.*

- SOC 111: Introduction to Sociology, Minimum grade of C

*Criminal Justice Core Requirements – All courses below are required and are 3 credits each.*

- SCJ 110: Introduction to Criminal Justice
- SCJ 210: Introduction to Law Enforcement
- SCJ 211: Criminal Law
- SCJ 212: Criminal Procedures
- SCJ 215: Court Systems and Judicial Process
- SCJ 225: Corrections
- SCJ 231: Criminology
- SCJ 313: Introduction to Constitutional Law
- SCJ 495: Senior Seminar – Ethical and Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice

*Practicum – Choose one of the following practicum options. Must be a minimum of 3 credits.*

- SCJ 485: Internship
- SCJ 491: Independent Research

*Electives and Sociological Perspective – Students must complete nine to 10 electives of criminal justice (SCJ) 200 level courses or above not applied towards any other category. One three-credit sociology (SOC) 200 level course or above may be used, not applied towards any other category. One additional SOC three-credit course is required to meet the sociological perspective requirement, but no more than six elective credits may be SOC.*

- SCJ 233: Juvenile Justice
- SCJ 303: Criminal Investigation
- SOC 202: Inequalities of Race, Class, and Gender
- SOC 331: Social Stratification

*Please note, the sequence of courses and course schedule are contingent upon enrollment.*

UNIVERSITY *of* DUBUQUE

[www.dbq.edu/LIFE](http://www.dbq.edu/LIFE)