

CRIMINAL JUSTICE, AREA OF CONCENTRATION IN ARTS & SCIENCES (AA)

Area of Concentration in Arts & Science

Award: Associate of Arts Degree

No. of credits required: 60

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Program Description

The A.A. degree option in Criminal Justice is designed to prepare students for transfer to baccalaureate programs with majors in Criminal Justice. This option provides students an overview of various aspects of the Criminal Justice major and prepares students to complete the last two years at a four-year institution.

Program Goals

Upon completion of the A.A. degree criminal justice program, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the Criminal Justice discipline, including knowledge of police, courts and corrections, and theories of crime and justice.
2. Differentiate between the various components of the criminal justice system, the purposes and objectives of these components, and their roles in the community.
3. Explain individuals' motivation to commit crime in terms of various criminological theories.
4. Apply the rules of criminal law and criminal procedure to make appropriate decisions identifying criminal offenses, and arresting, searching, interrogating and identifying criminal suspects.

Transfer Information

Several Maryland colleges and universities offer majors in criminal justice. Graduates of this program may apply for transfer into many colleges or universities in Maryland or to public and private colleges nationwide

Employment Information

Students interested in criminal justice are employable in many areas of law enforcement. Some frequently chosen occupations are local, state and federal law enforcement officers, probation officers and correctional treatment specialists, customs and immigration inspectors, fish and game wardens, park rangers, and correctional officers.

The growth rates for criminal justice careers vary depending upon the specific career chosen. The job growth rate for police officers is expected to increase 7% for 2010-2020. For probation officers and correctional treatment specialists the growth rate is expected to be 18% for 2010-2020. For correctional officers for 2010-2020, the job growth rate is expected to be 5%. Projections are from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook.

Degree Requirements

Recommended Course Sequence

First Semester		Credits
CJ 101	Introduction to Criminal Justice	3
CJ 104	Procedural Law and Evidence ¹	3
ENG 101	English Composition (GE)	3
PS 101 or PS 102	American National Government (GB) or State and Local Government (GB)	3
SOC 101	Introduction to Sociology (GB) (D)	3
Credits		15
Second Semester		
CJ 103	Introduction to Corrections	3
CJ 111	Principles of Criminal Law ¹	3
ENG 109	English Composition: Research Writing	3
PSY 101	General Psychology (GB)	3
Physical Education Elective		1
Mathematics Elective (GM) (https://catalog.harford.edu/general-education/#mathematics) ²		3
Credits		16
Third Semester		
CMST 101 or CMST 105	Speech Fundamentals (GI) or Interpersonal Communication (GI) (D)	3
PHIL 205	Ethics (GH)	3
SOC 102	Social Problems (GB) (D)	3
Biological/Physical Lab Science Elective (GL) (https://catalog.harford.edu/general-education/#biological-physical-laboratory-science)		4
Physical Education Elective		1
Credits		14
Fourth Semester		
BA 210 or CIS 102	Business Computer Applications or Introduction to Information Sciences (GI)	3
CJ 213	Criminology (same course as SOC 213)	3
Arts/Humanities Elective (GH) (https://catalog.harford.edu/general-education/#arts-humanities)		3
Biological/Physical Science Elective (GS) (https://catalog.harford.edu/general-education/#science) ³		3
General Elective ⁴		3
Credits		15
Total Credits		60

¹ CJ 104 Procedural Law and Evidence is usually offered only in Fall semester. CJ 111 Principles of Criminal Law is usually offered only in Spring semester.

² A four credit course in mathematics may be substituted.

³ A four credit course in Biologic/Physical Science Lab course may be substituted.

⁴ General electives should be chosen based upon the requirements of the institution to which transfer is planned.

Additional Information

Students interested in forensic science as a major should reference the chemistry program in this catalog.

General Education Degree Requirements

Note: The following codes identify courses which satisfy the General Education Degree Requirements:

Behavioral/Social Science (GB)

English Composition (GE)

Arts/Humanities (GH)

Interdisciplinary and Emerging Issues (GI)

Biological/Physical Laboratory Science (GL)

Mathematics (GM)

Biological/Physical Science (GS)