CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Department of Criminal Justice
School of Social Sciences and Education
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Program Description
The Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in Criminal Justice at CSU
Bakersfield is designed to provide the student with familiarity
in the major components of the U.S. criminal justice system,
including law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and
corrections organized on local, state, and federal levels.

Mission Statement for the Bachelor of Arts Degree in
Criminal Justice
The Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice is designed
to empower students as critical thinkers, effective oral
communicators, and competent writers on subject matters
of crime and justice including: (1) the nature, extent, and
causation of crime; (2) knowledge in research methods and
statistical applications to promote an understanding of criminal
behavior and to assess the effectiveness of criminal justice
policies; (3) the role of criminal law in the regulation of human
conduct and maintenance of stability in society; (4) the
philosophy, theory, policies, practices, processes, and reform
of the U.S. police agencies at the federal, state, and local levels;
(5) the philosophy and goals of criminal punishment and to
understand the structure, processes, and reform of the U.S.
correctional agencies at the federal, state, and local level.

Graduates who have acquired these skills and knowledge
and have been exposed to other relevant topics, such as
juvenile delinquency, the role of women and victims in the
justice process, ethical concerns for criminal justice
practitioners, understanding of the appreciation for cultural
and ethnic diversity, the connection between drugs and
crime, and the dynamics of gangs and violence, are prepared
for graduate study, law school, or challenging careers in the
field of criminal justice. Students who graduate from the
Criminal Justice program should be able to demonstrate the
skills and knowledge as stated in the goals and objectives
which can be found at the department’s website.

Requirements for the Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice

Total Units Required to Graduate 120 units
Major Requirements 54 units
Prerequisites 9
Basic Core Courses 15
CRJU Systems Courses 15
Thematic and Elective Courses 15
Minor Requirement 12 units
General Education Requirements 41-48 units
First-Year Seminar 2
LD Area A Foundational Skills 9-12*
LD Area B Natural Sciences 6-15*
LD Area C Arts and Humanities 6
LD Area D Social and Behavioral Sciences 3-6*
American Institutions 6
SELF 0-1
Junior Year Diversity Requirement 3
UD Thematic Areas B and C 6
Capstone 0-1*
GWAR (Exam) or Class 0-3**
Additional Units 6-13 units

*Some major requirements may be used to satisfy GE.
[PSYC 2108/MATH 1209 count for A4; PSYC 1018 and
SOC 1008 count toward the LD Area D requirement and
Senior Seminar CRJU 4900 satisfies the GE capstone
requirement]

**The GWAR may be satisfied by exam.

Note: One (1) semester unit of credit normally represents
one-hour of in-class work and 2-3 hours of outside study per
week.

Requirements for the Major in Criminal Justice
Prerequisites to the major
CRJU 1108; MATH 1209 or PSYC 2018; SOC 1008 or
PSYC 1018

Basic Core Courses
CRJU 2100, 2150, 3110, 3170, 4900

Criminal Justice systems and areas courses
1. Required courses
CRJU 2210, 3250, 3260, 3270, 3280

2. Thematic and Elective Courses in Criminal Justice
a. Multiculturalism and Diversity in Criminal Justice (select one) CRJU 3318, 3320, 4300, 4340
b. Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice (select one) CRJU 3448, 3450, 3460, 4400
c. Forensics and Field Exploration (select one) CRJU 2500, 2890, 3500, 4500
d. Criminal Justice Electives (select two) CRJU 2600, 3608, 3660, 4600, 4638, 4770, 4800, 4850, 4860, 4870, 4890
Minor, Concentration, and Special Minor
In addition to meeting the requirements for the major, the student must satisfactorily complete one of the three university required options listed below:
1. A special minor consisting of at least 12 semester units, 9 of which must be upper division, approved by the student’s advisor and the AVP for Academic Programs, taken outside the major discipline.
2. A minor consisting of at least 12 semester units within a minor program designed and approved by another discipline.
3. An interdisciplinary concentration or minor in one of the specially developed areas.

Requirements for the Minor in Criminal Justice
Four courses, including CRJU 1108, or an approved equivalent, and three upper division Criminal Justice courses, as approved by the Department of Criminal Justice.