

SOCIOLOGY AND CRIMINOLOGY & LAW

Welcome to the Criminology Major at the University of Florida!

We are happy you are joining us and excited to share information about the program and the department with you! In criminology, you will study the complexities of relationships among legal, political, historical, and psychological influences affecting law processes and crime and justice. Your study in Criminology at UF will introduce you to the study of criminal behavior and criminal justice systems from a multidisciplinary, liberal arts perspective. You will learn to understand crime, how society reacts to crime, and the interrelationships between features of law and society. You'll become knowledgeable about criminology theory and methods for studying crime, law, and society. [Be sure to check out our website for a trove of information to help you in your career here!](#)

With over **600 undergraduate majors** and an active graduate program, we are the largest interdisciplinary degree program at the University of Florida. Our faculty are internationally known for their high-quality research and have received numerous teaching awards recognizing their commitment to high quality, rigorous instruction.

As an undergraduate student in our program, you have many opportunities to 'go greater' and take your education beyond the classroom through our honor society, internships, research, honors theses, and many other possibilities!



Courses

Courses in Criminology focus on explanations for the development of law within society, why people break laws, and how society reacts to law-breaking. Interdisciplinary breadth in the study of Criminology is essential for understanding the complexities of criminal behavior, law, and legal institutions.

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Careers

A career in criminology, law, or criminal justice is heavily dependent on you and your interests! Many of our majors go on to law school or graduate school. Others are interested in federal or local law enforcement. Many want to work as practitioners or professionals with courts, juvenile or adult correctional facilities, or federal, state, and local agencies. Others work outside of the justice system in helping professions (e.g., prevention, social work). There are wide variety of opportunities available! [You can read more about careers on our website.](#)

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(Courses, continued) You can find all the required courses for the major in the [catalog](#), but in brief, all majors will receive training in basic criminology/criminal justice and law and society in our core classes. Majors will further understand the role of law in our society through our required legal courses. Students will also learn methods for studying crime, law and society and the theoretical perspectives that explain phenomena and generate new hypotheses in criminology, law and society. Students will apply these skill to practical research questions and will communicate findings in a scientific format.

In addition to our core coursework, students choose major electives that allow for customization of their criminology degree. These courses can be chosen from crime and justice/criminology/law and society courses and interdisciplinary courses that allow students to take their interdisciplinary understanding of criminology to the next level. This approach allows our students to consider how other disciplines tackle issues that impact law, crime, and criminal justice. For example, **economists and accountants** may discuss fraud, cash handling, and loss prevention. **Biologists and chemists** may offer courses and labs on forensic science, evidence collection, post-mortem examination, or crime scene investigation. **Public administrators** might focus on the law, policy, and courts. In **counseling/treatment fields and social work**, professionals may work on programming, case management, and treatment for people who have committed crime. In **communications and business**, folks may work on press releases following major attacks, managing social media for agencies or criminal justice actors, raising awareness about issues and/or cases in the system, or funding/budgeting initiatives for crime prevention. So, using your electives fully and tailoring them to your interests can help you examine ideas for your career goals and develop you as a well-rounded, marketable criminal justice professional.

Studying Criminology & Law vs. Vocational Training

For those who haven't yet decided what to study, it's important to distinguish between criminology and law and vocational training in the field, or the technical aspects of law and law enforcement. Though these are complimentary fields of study, they focus on different sides of the same coin. Our program focuses on criminology and criminal justice. In criminology, we examine crime as a social phenomenon, and thus a social problem. We study all aspects of crime and its effects on society. In criminal justice, we focus on the system in which crime is detected, prosecuted and punished, learning about the function of the system, who is impacted by it, and how we might increase just outcomes. Our program is unique in that it incorporates study of the law and legal aspects of crime and criminal justice as well. However, the program is not a technical or vocational degree.

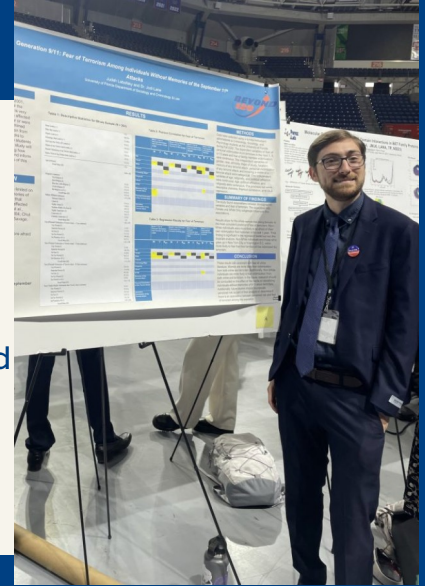
UF Online

We are proud to offer our degree program in both our residential and our UF Online programs at the University of Florida. The only difference between the programs is the format in which they are offered. Residential students primarily take courses in person, but also may enroll in some online courses. UF Online students will take the courses 100% online. Both programs earn the same degree upon graduation. Go gators!

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Research

Students in Criminology have opportunities to work with faculty to conduct groundbreaking research in criminology, crime, law and justice. Participating in everything to the grant-getting process to presenting at professional conferences and publishing their work, our undergraduate students have contributed to the field in new and exciting ways through their research! Here, Judah Lebofsky (BA '23) presents his work, funded by the [CLAS Scholars Program](#), at a UF Conference. He also presented at the American Society of Criminology Conference.



Major Opportunities

Internships

Many students take the opportunity to gain real-world experience through our internship program. Students work in law enforcement, law, court administration, victim services, juvenile justice, corrections, and more! Students can also participate in on-campus internships designed to develop their teaching and research skills. We have an internship coordinator who helps with all the practical aspects of completing the internship (and earning credit toward your degree while doing so)! For more information, [click here](#).



Honors

High performing students graduate from the University of Florida with a degree in Criminology earn honors. Students earning a 3.5 GPA during their junior and senior years earn honors, and students completing a high-quality honors thesis earn high or highest honors.



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Advising in Criminology

Most information about the Criminology and Law Major is available [online](#). For questions about the criminology and law major and major requirements, please contact the criminology and law undergraduate advisors. The fastest way to get a response is to email:

Residential Majors:

ugadvising@crim.ufl.edu

UF Online Majors:

ufocrimadvising@crim.ufl.edu

Internships: Dr. Michael Capece

mcapece@ufl.edu

All criminology and law undergraduate advisors have office hours via zoom, phone, and/or in person. Summer advising may be more often conducted via zoom and email due to limited summer budgets. [Visit our website for current term office hours.](#)

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Advising

For requirements outside of the major (e.g., general education requirements, foreign language requirements, college and university requirements), you will need to visit the CLAS Academic Advising Center in Farrior Hall, located on Fletcher Drive.

To contact your college advisors, you can visit <https://advising.ufl.edu> or call 352-392-1521.

Criminology and Law Advising Team



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