



What Is Criminology?

As a scientific discipline, Criminology arose directly from the field of sociology. Core sociological concepts inform explanations of crime and society's response to it. WKU's Bachelor's program in Criminology, the only one in Kentucky, provides students with the opportunity to understand the theoretical principles which guide practical solutions to issues associated with offending, victimization, and interactions with the Criminal Justice System. Compared with traditional criminal justice programs, Criminology has a strong interdisciplinary focus. Our program continues this tradition by studying crime through a societal lens as we examine theoretical explanations, policy developments, and the broader implications of solutions on the health and wellbeing of communities and society.

What Can You Do With A Major In Criminology?

Employment opportunities for graduates from the Criminology major program are expected to grow at a better than average rate over the next decade. The need for qualified graduates in Criminology is apparent in the recent growth of Criminology major programs. The interdisciplinary and research-centered focus of the program will allow graduates to seek employment in a variety of vocations, including occupations within the Criminal Justice System, social services, nonprofit, governmental and public and private research agencies at the local, state, national or international level. The program will also prepare students for graduate study. Courses are available during the traditional spring and fall semester, online, during the summer and winter terms, and through independent learning.

Career Fields for Criminology Majors

- Law Enforcement
- Court Systems
- Correctional Institutions
- Counseling Agencies
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Government
- Private Investigation Agencies
- Retailers
- Bank, Financial, & Insurance Institutions
- Think-Tanks

Contact

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Careers for Criminology Majors

The following list of possibilities is only illustrative — many other paths may be open to you and additional education or training may be required.

Career Paths in Criminology:

- Youth Programming & Counseling
- Substance Abuse & Behavioral Disorder Counseling
- Rehabilitative Services
- Intervention Programming
- Prevention & Diversion Programming
- Loss Prevention Specialist
- Law Enforcement & Other Protective Services
- Criminal Investigation
- Private Investigation
- Medical Investigation
- Bank, Financial, & Insurance Fraud Investigation & Prevention
- Retail Investigation
- Probation, Parole, and other Community Corrections
- Institutional Corrections
- Judicial / Court Administration
- Lawyers/Arbitrators/Mediators
- Judicial Law Clerks
- Expert Witness
- Victim Advocacy
- Security
- Policy Development, Implementation, and Evaluation
- Data Analyst
- Forensic Psychologist
- Higher Education
- Federal Government
- Drug Enforcement Agency
- Federal Bureau of Investigations
- Homeland Security
- U.S. Border Patrol
- State Government
- State Police
- Family Resource & Youth Services
- Justice & Public Safety
- Local Governments
- Local Police Department
- Victim Advocates
- Department of the Treasurer