Criminal Justice | Major

“As a criminal justice major at Alvernia, I was allotted the opportunity to engage in seminars, workshops, and a variety of diverse courses. These courses, combined with my internship with The Department of Justice, prepared me for my career and were an extraordinary learning experience.”—Katherine Marie Griffith ’05, Department of Homeland Security, York, PA

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS IN BRIEF

The Criminal Justice Department at Alvernia University is dedicated to providing the theoretical, practical, and professional knowledge needed in today’s environment to be successful in the fields of law enforcement, corrections, courts, probation, parole, private security, and related service careers. Emphasis is placed upon preparing students to enter the professional workplace or continue studies in graduate school. The curriculum is designed to provide students with expert instruction on the most current trends, policies, and practices in the field. The curriculum is innovative and demands intensive classroom learning combined with extensive research and required field experience. This is not a “one size fits all” major, but one that provides the variety offered in the course selections to encourage each individual to build a personal program for the future with the assistance of a faculty advisor. Class sizes are small with opportunities that are large. We are proud to be known in the region as the small campus with the big university program.

ACADEMIC QUALITY

Alvernia has recruited faculty who are professionals in their respective fields within the criminal justice system. In addition to academic accreditation, our full-time faculty have extensive experience in the criminal justice system. All of the part-time faculty are practicing professionals in their teaching area. The strength of the department lies in the philosophy that faculty have worked in the specific field of the course they teach. Class instruction is therefore as current as the events of the day. The faculty include, but are not limited to, professionals from federal, state, and local law enforcement; judges from the Courts of Common Pleas; probation department supervisors; forensic psychologist; and attorneys with prosecutorial, administrative, and defense experience.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Criminal Justice Association: Alvernia University has an active Criminal Justice Association as a local chapter of Lambda Alpha Epsilon. Membership is open to all criminal justice majors.

Alpha Phi Sigma: Alpha Phi Sigma is the national honor society for criminal justice majors. The goal of the society is to honor and promote academic excellence, service, leadership, and unity. The mission is to promote analytical thinking, rigorous scholarship, and life-long learning.

CAREER SUCCESS

Students with career goals in law enforcement have the opportunity to attend the Reading Police Academy to obtain Municipal Police Certification (Act 120) as part of their four-year program without extended time or expense. The department is also host to pre-law students. Alvernia offers many course offerings in law and mentoring opportunities with the faculty who are also attorneys.
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Adult Probation
- ATF
- Attorney
- Border Patrol
- CIA
- Corrections Officer
- Detective
- District Attorney
- FBI
- Forest Ranger
- Homeland Security
- Juvenile Probation
- Local Law Enforcement
- Private Security
- Sheriff Department
- State Police
- U.S. Customs Agent
- U.S. Marshall
- Victim Services Specialist

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The Criminal Justice major requires 42 core credits, which includes a 6 credit field practicum/internship of 200 hours with an agency within the criminal justice system, and 6 elective credits.

Criminal Justice Requirements (42 Credits)
- CJ 101 Introduction to Criminal Justice
- CJ 175 Fundamentals of Criminal Investigation
- CJ 201 Criminal Law
- CJ 216 Women and the Criminal Justice System -OR-
- CJ 218 Multicultural Issues in Criminal Justice
- CJ 221 Research Methods I for Criminal Justice
- CJ 272 Probation and Parole -OR-
- CJ 274 Corrections and Rehabilitation
- CJ 275 Criminology
- CJ 301 Organized Crime -OR-
- CJ 309 White Collar Crime
- CJ 302 Judicial Process and Procedures
- CJ 377 Juvenile Delinquency & Juvenile Justice
- CJ 403 Senior Seminar in Criminal Justice
- CJ 408 Agency Practicum
- CJ 422 Crisis Management

The CJ minor is comprised of 18 credits including CJ 101, 218, 275 and 3 CJ electives.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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