Overview

The primary purpose of the Criminal Justice and Criminology (CJC) program is to teach and educate students. The program provides CJC majors at MSU Denver with opportunities to broaden their understanding of criminal justice systems and criminal behaviors within the information age. Knowledge and investigation in these areas contribute fully to an individual’s professional development. Included in this understanding is an awareness of the technological, societal, political, and economic implications of various approaches to different crime control policies and implementation strategies. Furthermore, the new CJC curriculum contributes to a solid educational and professional foundation for students wishing to either work in some aspect of the criminal justice system or pursue further graduate-level training, such as law school or graduate school.

Department Mission

The mission of the CJC Department at MSU Denver is to engage students in the scientific study of crime, criminality, other forms of social deviance, and the official response to crime by law enforcement, the criminal courts and the correctional system. To that end, the department seeks to address the special needs of adult learners and to prepare them to move into criminal justice careers or post graduate work as liberally educated, intellectually mature, ethically aware, and culturally sensitive people. The degree will provide students with knowledge of, and the ability to analyze the nature and causes of crime and victimization, criminal processes, criminal justice organizations and the agency practices, as well as the law and the legal system. Moreover, the program requires students to critically examine how social justice is administered in a diverse and global society.

Preparing for Your Career

The CJC undergraduate degree provides students with a wide range of employment opportunities given its strong preparation for entry-level positions throughout government, corrections, policing, and social services. Many students choose CJC because it provides them with a wealth of knowledge as well as analytical, critical thinking and problem solving skills necessary for professions in criminal justice as well as government, social work, counseling and law. The most common occupational categories for CJC graduates include: police officers, probation officers, victim advocates, social service workers, correctional officers, and youth workers.
Scholastic Opportunities

We offer scholarships exclusively for CJC majors.

James A. Wier Endowed Memorial Scholarship is to honor the late James A. Wier, a former student at Metropolitan State University of Denver who was killed in the line of duty as a patrolman with the Denver Police Department, by providing financial assistance to MSU Denver students majoring in CJC.

Dr. Hal Nees Memorial Endowed Scholarship is to provide assistance to students who are passionate about criminal justice and criminology and plan to pursue a career in that field. Students who are in a good academic standing and have completed volunteer work related to criminal justice are eligible for this scholarship.

For more information, visit msudenver.edu/cjc

The Honor Society

Delta Gamma Xi is our official criminal justice and criminology honors program. The mission of Delta Gamma Xi is to promote critical thinking, rigorous scholarship and life-long learning; to keep abreast of the advances in scientific research; to elevate the ethical standards of the criminal justice professions; and to sustain in the public mind the benefit and necessity of education and professional training.

Study Abroad Programs

We have three study abroad programs: London (UK), Hague (Netherlands), and Seoul (South Korea). Each program involves the study and visitation of sites that represent the criminal justice system. Students have an opportunity to compare the U.S. criminal justice system with those of other countries through travel, site visits, and lectures about police agencies, courts, prisons, and other political and judicial organizations.

Internships

We offer a variety of internships in criminal justice agencies throughout the Denver Metropolitan area. These programs include probation agencies, Colorado Parole Departments, public defender offices, police departments, sheriff offices, and other ancillary agencies in Colorado such as halfway houses, safe houses, rape awareness and assistance programs, and district attorney officers.
Degree Requirements for Criminal Justice and Criminology Majors

Students are required to take the Introduction to Criminal Justice System course (CJC 1010) as a pre-major requirement. This class cannot be counted towards their general studies requirements if you are a CJC major. If you are a CJC major, there are 21 hours of major core requirements to complete the major and 15 hours of area electives. There is an additional 9 hours of CJC electives. In total, there are 45 credit hours required for the CJC degree.

CJC majors are required to select a minor. It can be in any discipline. Usual minors are 18-24 credits. Check with your minor department for details.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Studies (33-36 credits)</th>
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<th>Natural and Physical Sciences</th>
<th>6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written Communication</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Social Sciences I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Social Sciences II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative Literacy</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Global Diversity</td>
<td>0-3*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts and Humanities</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historical</td>
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*Students may fulfill the global diversity requirement by taking an approved course within one of the following categories: arts and humanities; historical; natural and physical sciences; or social and behavioral sciences I or II.

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<th>Multicultural and Senior Experience Requirement (3 credits)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Multicultural*</td>
<td>0-3</td>
<td>CJC4700 Capstone</td>
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*The multicultural course does not require 3 semester hours as a separate category and can be taken in the major, minor, or as an elective.

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<tr>
<th>Criminal Justice and Criminology Pre-Major Requirement (3 credits)</th>
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<tr>
<td>CJC 1010: Introduction to Criminal Justice System*</td>
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*This cannot be counted toward General Studies.

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<tr>
<th>Criminal Justice and Criminology Major Core Requirements (21 credits)</th>
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<tr>
<td>CJC 1450: Introduction to Corrections</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CJC 2020: Research Methods and Basic Statistics for the Criminal Justice Professional</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CJC 2050: American Judicial System</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CJC 2210: American Policing</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CJC 3400: Criminological Theories</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CJC 3410: Criminal Justice and the Social Structure</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CJC 4700: Capstone Seminar in Criminal Justice and Criminology (Senior Experience)</td>
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### Criminal Justice and Criminology Area Electives (15 credits)

**Police (Choose One)**
- CJC 3800: Federal Law Enforcement and Terrorism: 3 credits
- CJC 4250: Community Policing: 3 credits

**Courts/Law (Choose One)**
- CJC 2100: Criminal Law: 3 credits
- CJC 3110: Constitutional Law: 3 credits

**Corrections (Choose One)**
- CJC 3270: Community Corrections: 3 credits
- CJC 3290: Probation and Parole: 3 credits
- CJC 3470: Punishment and Society: 3 credits

**Administration of Justice (Choose Two)**
- CJC 3130: Victimology: 3 credits
- CJC 3350: Juvenile Justice and Delinquency: 3 credits
- CJC 4430: Comparative Criminal Justice: 3 credits
- CJC 4650: Ethics for the Criminal Justice Professional: 3 credits

### Criminal Justice and Criminology General Electives (9 credits)

Additional nine hours of CJC general electives credits are required. However, students can choose to take additional courses from CJC courses from CJC areas electives not previously taken. Six of nine credits must be upper division (3000/4000 level).

**CJC Electives**
12 credits

* 12 hours selected in consultation with and approved by the department advisor, at least 4 hours of which must be upper-

### Degree Requirements for Criminal Justice and Criminology Minors

- CJC 1010: Introduction to Criminal Justice: 3 credits
- CJC 3410: Criminal Justice and the Social Structure: 3 credits
- CJC 4650: Ethics for the Criminal Justice Professional: 3 credits
- CJC Electives*: 12 credits

* 12 hours selected in consultation with and approved by the department advisor, at least 4 hours of which must be upper-

### Student Advising

Faculty-student advising is an important aspect of the CJC program. Faculty members work closely with students in an advisory capacity to make sure that students meet the requirements for their degree. Faculty members hold regular office hours each week for the express purpose of providing one-on-one guidance in classes and to advise students in the pursuit of graduate degrees and careers in criminal justice. In addition, the department has a Criminal Justice Advisory Council that meets twice each academic year to review program structure, offerings, and other information about the Department.
Faculty and Staff

Our department is made up of twelve highly trained full time faculty members. Faculty members were lawyers, police officers, probation officers, correctional officers, and researchers from a wide variety of criminological and criminal justice backgrounds. Our classes are relatively small (20-50 students) and this gives our students more one-on-one time with their professors.

Andrea Borrego, Ph.D. (aborreg1@msudenver.edu)
Arizona State University (Ph.D., M.S.), University of Notre Dame (B.A.)

Jennifer Bradford, Ph.D. (jlasswell@msudenver.edu)
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Hyon Namgung, Ph.D. (hnamgung@msudenver.edu)
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Rebecca Trammell, Ph.D. (rtrammel@msudenver.edu)
University of California, Irvine (Ph.D., M.A.), San Diego State University (B.A.)

Catherine Reddy (creddin2@msudenver.edu)
Administrative Assistant
Student Testimonials

“The professors in the CJC department are an incredible group of individuals who push you to broaden your thoughts when it comes to the difficult issues within the system. Each and every CJC professor that I have had at MSU Denver has challenged my thoughts and allowed me to become an analytical thinker and a better educated individual.”

- Lindsey Baker

“Coming into MSU Denver as a freshman was very overwhelming, but once I found the CJC Department I was very confident going forward. I have really enjoyed becoming a CJC major, and the classes are all very challenging and relevant to issues faced in today’s world. The advising in the criminal justice department has really helped me stay on the right track and also has helped me reach out too many volunteer and internship opportunities.”

- Austin Miller

“The CJC Department provided a uniquely personalized experience for me while I have been spreading my wings. I had been out of school nearly 10 years, 4 of which I spent in the military, coming back with an explosive desire to graduate within my GI Bills allotted time, 3 years. The department stepped up to my goals with vigor. Professors insisted on making my resume shine and guiding me towards a professional status unlike those of my peers. My advisors allowed me to regularly meet with them to make sure I was on track to meet my daunting goals.”

- Stephanie Bricker

“The CJC program at MSU Denver is definitely one of the best. The professors are what really make this program great for many different reasons. They are experienced in different areas of the Criminal Justice System so they are able to give different perspectives on the system. They make one-on-one connections with students and help students prepare for a very competitive job market. Their doors are always open to help the students in any way they can.”

- Brittany Kimmel

“The best part of the CJC program is the fabulous team of faculty! Each one of them has experience in different aspects of our field. They know what it takes to be successful in Criminal Justice and they want us to be successful, too! It can be overwhelming when you’re entering a new major, but if you choose Criminal Justice then you’ll have an exceptionally supportive team around you.”

- Carlie Brockmann

“My experience within the CJC Department during my undergraduate degree is the primary reason I decided to go to Graduate School. I worked closely with professors in multiple ways that were not restricted to the classroom. The CJC Department is also where my love for research started, which changed the trajectory of my career path.”

- Nicole Pyfer (Class of 2015)
Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology

Contact Us
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