Bachelor of Arts in Criminology

Criminology is the study of crime and criminal behavior. Because crime is a core societal issue, criminologists examine society’s response to crime and the role of the state in crime prevention and enforcement. It is not always easy to understand why people commit crimes, what an appropriate punishment may be or how laws impact the prevention of crime. Criminologists study all of these issues and more. Criminology is a field of sociology that borrows from the disciplines of law, political science, history and psychology, among others.

Careers in Criminology

Police officers and federal agents, corrections and probation officers, crime scene investigators and victim advocates — these are among the varied career paths that can be pursued with a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminology. Local, state and federal justice agencies hire people with degrees in criminology. As with any professional field, a graduate degree can lead to even higher-level careers in law enforcement, corrections, courts and human services.

The University’s Career Center is an important resource for students pursuing their career. Licensed counselors are available to provide strategies for mastering job interviews, writing professional cover letters and resumes and help students connect with campus recruiters.

Criminology at UT Dallas

The mission of the criminology program at UT Dallas is to examine the causes and consequences of crime and crime control politics by providing a program of study involving a variety of perspectives, approaches and social science disciplines. Faculty members are dedicated teachers and scholars who have published their work in the most prestigious journals in the field. They are committed to expanding the knowledge of the discipline and preparing students to be leaders in influencing society’s response to crime.

Students must complete 120 hours to graduate: 42 hours from the University’s core curriculum and 43 specific hours in the major, including courses in criminal justice, theories of justice, comparative justice systems, research methods (including a senior research seminar) and statistics. In addition, students must take 35 hours of electives, with nine of these hours in advanced courses outside of the major.

Criminology at UT Dallas is also offered as a minor and requires 18 credit hours.

Fast-Track

UT Dallas undergraduates who meet the requirements for admission to graduate school and have at least a 3.25 UT Dallas cumulative GPA should consider the Fast-Track option. Fast-Track allows students to take up to 15 credit hours of graduate courses their senior year that can be applied toward both their bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree. Students who successfully complete the Fast-Track requirements are not required to take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) before entering the master’s program.

School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences (EPPS)

Every new generation inherits a world more complex than that of its forefathers, which prompts a need for new thinking about public policies that impact people’s daily lives. While our colleagues in the Naveen Jindal School of Management or the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science are creating new managerial or technological systems, we in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences (EPPS) examine the implications of innovation and change for individuals and communities.

As an undergraduate in EPPS, you will have the opportunity to work with professors who are probing issues that will affect your future. You will develop the vital skills you need to thrive in a rapidly evolving, highly competitive job market. EPPS will prepare you for careers in government, non-profits and the private sector that enable you to make a real difference in the world of today and tomorrow.
EPPS is at the forefront of leadership, ethics and innovation in the public and nonprofit sectors. Our students and faculty look forward to new opportunities to study and address the complex and evolving issues of the future.

Research informs much of the instruction. The school has seven centers of excellence:

- Center for Crime and Justice Studies
- Center for Global Collective Action
- Center for the Study of Texas Politics
- Institute of Public Affairs
- Institute for Urban Policy Research
- Texas Schools Project
- The Negotiations Center

**Degrees Offered**

**Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts:** Criminology, economics, geospatial information sciences, international political economy, political science, public affairs, sociology

**Master of Science:** Applied sociology, criminology, economics, geospatial information sciences, international political economy, justice administration and leadership

**Master of Arts:** Political science, political science-constitutional law studies, political science-legislative studies

**Master of Public Affairs:** Public affairs

**Master of Public Policy:** Public policy

**Doctor of Philosophy:** Criminology, economics, geospatial information sciences, political science, public affairs, public policy and political economy

**Certificates**

EPPS offers the following graduate certificates, which generally can be completed in one year of part-time evening classes:

- **Geographic Information Systems (GISc):** a 15-hour graduate-level certificate focusing on the application of GIS in government, private sector and scientific areas, which can be completed in one year of part-time evening classes.

- **Remote Sensing:** a 15-hour for-credit graduate certificate focusing on remote sensing and digital image processing, which can be completed in one year of part-time evening study.

- **Geospatial Intelligence:** a 15-hour graduate certificate focusing on the application of geospatial ideas and techniques to national security and other intelligence activity.

- **Local Government Management:** a 15-hour graduate certificate focusing on the application of geospatial ideas and techniques to national security and other intelligence activity.

- **Nonprofit Management:** a 15-hour graduate certificate designed to provide an overview of the nature and context of nonprofit organizations and develop competencies needed by nonprofit managers.

**Contact Information**

EPPS Advising  
EPPSadvising@utdallas.edu  
School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences  
The University of Texas at Dallas  
800 West Campbell Road GR 31  
Richardson, TX 75080-3021

Office of Admission and Enrollment  
800 West Campbell Road ROC 11  
Richardson, TX 75080-3021  
Phone: 972-883-2270 or 1-800-889-2443  
E-mail: interest@utdallas.edu  
Website: utdallas.edu/enroll