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, among other services.

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 policies 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 take 120 semester credit hours to graduate: 42 semester credit hours from the University’s core curriculum and 60 specific semester credit hours in the major, including courses in criminal justice, theories of justice, comparative justice systems, research methods (including a senior research seminar) and statistics, among others. In addition, students must take 18 semester credit hours of electives, with nine of these hours in advanced courses outside of the major.

Criminology at UT Dallas also is offered as a minor and requires 18 semester credit hours.
Every new generation inherits a world more complex than that of its predecessors, which prompts a need for new thinking about public policies that impact people's daily lives. In the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences (EPPS), we examine the implications of innovation and change for individuals and communities.

As an undergraduate in EPPS, you will have the chance 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.

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:** Criminology, economics, geospatial information sciences, international political economy, justice administration and leadership

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

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