

CRIMINOLOGY



The Millersville University criminology program provides students with an opportunity to study criminal behavior and the operation of the criminal justice system within a broad sociological context. The combination of a criminology focus with the development of sociological research skills provides excellent preparation for a wide range of criminal justice careers as well as for graduate and professional school.

DEGREES/CONCENTRATIONS

BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.) IN SOCIOLOGY: CRIMINOLOGY OPTION

Students who complete the Criminology Option take courses on theories of criminal behavior, policing, courts, corrections, juvenile delinquency, and racial and gender issues as they relate to the criminal justice system. Additional required sociological course work provides an understanding of the broader social, cultural, and economic context in which criminal justice issues manifest themselves. This course work also enables students to develop specialized analytical and research skills highly sought by employers in the field. Students in the Criminology Option are strongly encouraged to complete an internship in a criminal justice related setting.

MINORS

CRIMINOLOGY MINOR

Many students majoring in psychology, government, emergency management, social work, communications, and anthropology complete a Criminology Minor. The minor courses cover theories of criminal behavior, policing, the courts, corrections, and other crime related topics. Students who minor in Criminology may also complete an internship in a criminal justice setting as part of their course work for the minor.

FACULTY

Sociology faculty work closely with students on academic advisement. Students meet with faculty advisors every semester to arrange class schedules and outline a path towards graduation. Students complete an academic review during their sophomore year to ensure proper academic progress. Also, sociology faculty members organize lunch every fall and spring semester to discuss upcoming courses and answer questions about class and schedule requirements.

EXPERIENCE

Criminology students have opportunities to work with Millersville University's Center for Public Scholarship and Social Change where, as undergraduate research fellows, they assist faculty in conducting research for local agencies and organizations. Students have gained valuable work experience producing research on financial exploitation of the elderly, racial disparities in bail practices, and the use of video evidence in the prosecution of criminal cases. Students also often present the results of these research projects at national, regional and local conferences.



GRADUATES

Graduates of the Criminology Option work in law enforcement at the local, state, and federal level as well as in local and state probation and parole agencies, and in corrections. Two of our graduates are magisterial district judges. Others choose to work in human service organizations, governmental agencies, business or research based organizations. Our major provides outstanding preparation for graduate school and law school.



INTERNSHIPS

Criminology students have participated in a variety of valuable internships including:

- Careerlink of Lancaster County
- Lancaster Adult Probation and Parole
- Lancaster County Juvenile Probation
- Manos House – Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation
- Millersville University Police Department
- PA Bureau of Consumer Protection
- PA Office of Homeland Security
- York County District Attorney's Office
- YWCA of Lancaster County

NETWORKING

Faculty in the Criminology Option regularly bring criminal justice practitioners, often alumni, to campus to educate students about their careers. They are guest lectures in criminology classes and provide vital information regarding the operation of the criminal justice system. They also inform students regarding opportunities for employment available to program graduates.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS



Benjamin Shoff '15

Major: Sociology (criminology option)

As a student, Benjamin completed an honors thesis on community crime prevention strategies and presented the research at the Eastern Sociological Society meeting in New York City. He was also an undergraduate research fellow at the Center for Public Scholarship and Social Change. After receiving his BA in Sociology/Criminology in 2015, Benjamin Shoff completed a Master's Degree in Cybersecurity. He is currently

employed with the Federal government.



Abigail Jefferys '19

Major: Sociology (criminology option)

Abi was a tutor for the Social Statistics class, an undergraduate research fellow at the Center for Public Scholarship and Social Change and a member of Alpha Kappa Delta, the sociology honors society. She presented her research on racial disparities in bail practices at the American Society of Criminology annual meeting. She is now employed as a research assistant at the American Institutes for Research in Arlington, Virginia.

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Millersville University

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