CRIMINOLOGY

Impacting Lives ... One Person at a Time

The field of Criminology provides excellent preparation for a variety of careers. Students hone their skills in critical thinking, oral and written communication, and data-analysis to positively impact the lives of individuals, communities and support efforts.

DEGREES/CONCENTRATIONS

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

Millersville’s Criminology program prepares students to understand how the criminal justice system operates and to undertake specific training for the career path they choose. With the criminology option, students develop the knowledge and skills to comprehend our vast social world, individuals and systems. Students apply their knowledge and skills to become professionals helping others in the courts, policing, corrections, probation, parole and citizen reentry fields.

PROGRAM PREREQUISITES

Completion of at least 30 transferrable credits is required. The following prerequisite courses or their transfer equivalent must also be completed before beginning the program:
- SOCY 101 – Intro to Sociology (C or higher final grade)
- MATH 130 – Statistics (C- or higher final grade)

PROGRAM BENEFITS

• 100% online courses.
• Year-round classes available.
• Program start dates in spring and fall.
• Flexibility to work while earning a degree.
• Research shows that professionals within this field that hold a bachelor’s degree have a greater ability to de-escalate situations because they have a broad understanding of social behaviors and possess advanced evaluative skills.
• Heightens knowledge and insights of social structures so students can lead problem-solving efforts to improve programs and systems.
• Gain highly marketable data-analysis skills necessary for program evaluation, effective policing and goal assessment.
• Positions students for careers or advancement to help and support others who are in the criminal justice system.
• Enables students to effectively communicate with others to guide them through available options, programs and services.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Millersville University sociology department is to provide students with the ability to understand human behavior in the context of social, historical, cultural, political and environmental influences—that is, to enable students to develop a “sociological imagination” with which they can understand their place in and responsibility for the world around them. All human behavior is necessarily social behavior, making the criminology emphasis within the sociology major widely applicable. Students will learn to acquire, synthesize and apply sociological information.

Millersville University

Office of Online Programs • 717-871-7200
onlineprograms@millersville.edu • www.millersville.edu/onlineprograms
GRADUATES
There are a variety of professions that people earning a degree in criminology frequently enter in order to make a positive impact in various communities and demographics. Although specific job requirements may vary, all require the following: good oral and written communication skills, the ability to collect and analyze information, excellent organizational skills, as well as honesty and integrity.

These are just some of the potential careers for our Criminology graduates:
• Policing/community policing
• Reentry services specialist
• Probation officers
• Parole agents
• Youth advocates or juvenile delinquency
• Investigator
• Private security
• FBI agent
• Administrators in crime-prevention agencies
• Correctional case managers
• Treatment court officers

PROGRAM COURSES
Major Courses (37 credits):
SOCY 211 Social Problems
SOCY 230 Criminology
SOCY 301 Craft of Sociology
SOCY 302 Social Statistics
SOCY 303 Sociological Theory
SOCY 305 Social Research Methods
SOCY 331 Policing and the Courts
SOCY 332 Modern Corrections
SOCY 335 Ethics in Criminal Justice
SOWK 313 Family Violence
SOWK 350 Encounters in Human Diversity
PSYC 318 Psychology of Racism

Program Electives (6 credits):
SOCY 318 Sociology of Disaster or other SOCY elective
SOCY 338 Sociology of Deviance or other SOCY elective
Additional general education or elective courses may be required depending on transfer credits.

After applying, a transfer evaluation will be conducted to identify how many general education credits you will need to take to fulfill degree requirements.

ALUMNI MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT

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 the Center for Public Scholarship and Social Change. After receiving his B.A. 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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