

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) – Catalog Year 2026- 2027

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

As an academic discipline, Criminal Justice explores all aspects of crime and criminal behavior by relying on interdisciplinary study within the fields of sociology, psychology, economics, political science, statistics, anthropology, and criminology, to provide students with a well-rounded liberal arts education. Courses will prepare students and professionals alike for graduate study or law school, and for careers in social work, corrections, victim advocacy, policing at the local, state and federal level, public policy, and much more! The program delivery works with different lifestyles and career demands. CU Denver's School of Public Affairs (SPA) offers both a Bachelor of Arts and a Master Degree in Criminal Justice entirely online, mostly on campus, or a combination of campus and online courses. Highly-qualified, eligible undergraduate students are provided with the unique opportunity to begin working on their Master of Criminal Justice degree as an undergraduate in our Pathways BA/MCJ program.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Email: SPA.Advising@ucdenver.edu

Phone: 303-315-5818 / 303-315-0021

Office Location: 1380 Lawrence St., Suite 525, Denver, CO 80204

Advising Hours: By appointment

How to schedule an advising appointment:

Current undergraduate criminal justice students can schedule an advising appointment through our online scheduling system.

Prospective students, students wishing to change their major to criminal justice and those interested in criminal justice, please email SPA.Advising@ucdenver.edu for an advising appointment.

GENERAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

All CU Denver Criminal Justice students are required to complete the following minimum general graduation requirements:

1. Complete a minimum of 120 semester hours
2. Achieve a minimum 2.0 CU cumulative grade point average (GPA)
3. Complete all college and major requirements
4. Residency: complete a minimum of 30 hours in residence
5. Terminal Residency: 21 out of the last 30 hours in residence

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

Students are responsible for meeting with the academic advisor to confirm major requirements. Students completing the Criminal Justice degree are required to complete the following minimum program requirements:

1. Complete 36-38 credit hours of **CU Denver Core Curriculum coursework**.
2. Complete 46-48 credit hours in general electives (which may include minor coursework)
3. Complete all CRJU major requirements, including CRJU 4939 Internship
 - a. A letter grade of C- or better is considered a passing grade for all courses counted towards the CRJU major
4. Complete a minimum 21 credit hours of upper-division CRJU (3000-level or above) coursework
5. Complete a minimum of 21 credit hours of CRJU coursework in-resident
6. Complete a minimum 45 credit hours of upper-division (3000-level or above) coursework

Courses	Credits	Notes
* Course prerequisites change regularly. Students are responsible for consulting advisors and the class schedule in the student portal for prerequisite information. *		
Required CU Denver Core Curriculum Coursework	36-38	View the CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements
School of Public Affairs Graduation Requirements	6-16	
Additional Social Sciences	3	SPA students complete 3 Social Sciences from the Core
Additional Social Sciences	3	
Foreign Language	5-10	Through second semester proficiency. May be fulfilled via high school coursework or foreign language proficiency.
Required CRJU Coursework	42	
CRJU 1000: Criminology & Criminal Justice: An Overview	3	
CRJU 2000: Professional Development in Criminal Justice	3	
CRJU 2041: Criminological Theory	3	
CRJU 3620: Applied Research and Data Analysis	3	
CRJU 4042: Corrections	3	
CRJU 4043: Law Enforcement	3	
CRJU 4044: Courts and Judicial Process	3	

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CRJU 4170: Victimology	3	
CRJU 4939: Criminal Justice Internship	3-9	All students must work with CU Denver's Experiential Learning Center (ELC) to enroll and earn credit for their internship. Students must complete a minimum 3 credit hour internship for graduation and may receive up to 9 credit hours.
CRJU Major Electives	15	Students must select 15 additional 3000-level (or above) CRJU credit hours. Any Criminal Justice course that is not one of the required courses is considered a CRJU elective. Your academic advisor will email you an updated list of course options each semester.
General Electives	27-39	Students must have a minimum of 120 credits to graduate with a CRJU degree. A minimum of 45 credits must be at 3000-level or above. The number of general electives vary depending on what each student needs to complete 120 credit and 45 credits of upper-division.

SAMPLE ACADEMIC PLAN OF STUDY

The following academic plan is a *sample* pathway to completing degree requirements for this major. Students should tailor this plan based on previously completed college coursework (e.g., AP, IB, CLEP, dual/concurrent enrollment, and transfer credit), course availability, and individual preferences related to course load, schedules, or add-on programs such as minors or double-majors. This plan assumes the student does not need to complete Foreign Language at CU Denver.

YEAR ONE

Semester 1		CRS	
CRJU 1000 (CU Denver)		3	
ENGL 1020		3	
CU Denver Core		3	
CRJU Major Elective		3	
First-Year Experience		3	

Semester 2		CRS	
MATH 1010 or MATH		3-4	
CRJU 2041		3	
CRJU 2000		3	
CU Denver Core		3	
ENGL 2030		3	

YEAR TWO

Semester 3		CRS	
CU Denver Core SOCIAL		3	
CU Denver Core		3	
Foreign Language (if)		3-5	
CRJU 3620		3	

Semester 4		CRS	
CRJU 4042		3	
CU Denver Core		3	
Foreign Language (if)		3-5	
CU Denver Core		4	

YEAR THREE

Semester 5		CRS	
CRJU 4043		3	
CRJU 4939 ^{PE}		3	
CRJU Major Elective		3	
CU Denver Core SOCIAL		3	
Core Art		3	

Semester 6		CRS	
CRJU 4044		3	
CU Denver Core		3	
CRJU Major Elective		3	
Minor / General Elective		3	
Minor / General Elective		3	

YEAR FOUR

Semester 7		CRS	
CRJU Major Elective		3	
CRJU 4170 Victimology		3	
Minor / General Elective		3	
Minor / General Elective		3	
Minor / General Elective		3-4	

Semester 8		CRS	
CRJU Major Elective		3	
CRJU Major Elective		3	
Minor / General Elective		3	
Minor / General Elective		3	
Minor / General Elective		3	

^{PE} Prerequisite Enforced ^{PR} Prerequisite Recommended

The number of credits per semester will vary depending on course selection. Students must complete 120 credits minimum. This document is not an official record of degree requirements or degree progress. Students must consult their degree audit.