

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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

## FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS

### 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. The coursework 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! Students also have the option to declare certificates and/or minors. The program delivery works with various lifestyle and career demands. CU Denver’s School of Public Affairs (SPA) offers both a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and a Master of Criminal Justice on campus, online, and occasionally in remote and hybrid formats. Highly-qualified, eligible undergraduate students are provided the unique opportunity to begin working on their Master of Criminal Justice degree as an undergraduate in our BA/MCJ Pathways program.

### CU DENVER ACADEMIC ADVISING

Email: [SPA.Advising@ucdenver.edu](mailto: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 criminal justice minor students should email [SPA.Advising@ucdenver.edu](mailto:SPA.Advising@ucdenver.edu) for an advising appointment.

### COURSEWORK THAT CAN BE COMPLETED AT PREVIOUS INSTITUTION

The following is a “bucket” of requirements students can complete prior to transferring to CU Denver, including equivalent Colorado Community College System (CCCS) courses. To determine the equivalencies of courses to be completed at non-CU Denver institutions, students can visit [www.transferology.com](http://www.transferology.com). It is critical for students to connect with a CU Denver academic advisor to ensure planned courses will transfer and apply to CU Denver degree requirements. All non-CU Denver coursework must be completed with a C- or better to be eligible for transfer.

Students interested in completing an Associate (A.A. or A.S.) Degree or a [Colorado Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreement or Degree with Designation \(DWD\)](#) must work with their community/junior college academic advisor to create an academic plan that accounts for all degree or transfer articulation agreement requirements. Colorado Community College Students may also explore the option to complete [Reverse Transfer](#) at CU Denver.

CU Denver Requirements	CU Denver Credits	CCCS Equivalent Courses & Notes	CCCS Credits
<b>CU Denver Core Curriculum Requirements</b>	<b>34 - 40</b>		
ENGL 1020 – Core Composition I	3	ENG 1021	3
ENGL 2030 – Core Composition II	3	ENG 1022	3
Mathematics	3 - 4	GT-MA1 ( <i>MAT 135 recommended</i> )	3-4
Arts	3	GT-AH	3
Humanities	3	GT-AH or GT-HI	3
Behavioral Sciences	3	GT-SS	3-4
Social Sciences	3	GT-SS or GT-HI* ( <i>SOC 101 recommended</i> )	3-4
Natural/Physical Science with lab	4 - 5	GT-SC1	4-5
Natural/Physical Science without lab or Math	3 - 5	GT-SC2 or GT-MA1 ( <i>except the course used for Core Math</i> ) or GT-SC1	3-5
International Perspectives	3	Additional GT-AH, HI, SS* ( <i>see note below</i> )	3
Cultural Diversity	3	<i>To be completed at CU Denver. This requirement must be completed with an upper-division course and CCCS courses will not apply.</i>	
<b>SPA Graduation Requirements</b>	<b>6-16</b>		
SPA Foreign Language	0 - 10	e.g., SPA 1012 or ASL 1122 <b>Students have several options to fulfill this requirement. Please consult a CU Denver SPA Academic Advisor.</b>	
SPA Social Sciences	6	Any SS3 courses	6

*Potential transfer coursework continued on following page.*

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CRJU Major Courses	15		
CRJU 1000: Criminology & Criminal Justice: An Overview	3	CRJ 1010: Introduction to Criminal Justice <i>Course can fulfill CU Denver Core Social Sciences or SPA Social Sciences</i>	3
CRJU 2041: Criminological Theory	3	CRJ 2030: Criminology	3
CRJU 4042: Corrections	3	CRJ 1045: Correctional Process ( <i>course will transfer as lower-division credit</i> )	3
CRJU 4043: Law Enforcement	3	CRJ 1025: Policing Systems ( <i>course will transfer as lower-division credit</i> )	3
CRJU Elective	3	<i>Students select any elective course from the approved Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreement</i>	3
<b>Minimum Applicable Transfer Credits Recommended:</b>	<b>60</b>	<i>Students are strongly encouraged to follow the approved Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreement and transfer once they complete 60 credit hours. Depending on foreign language completion students will have varying amounts of general elective credit at CU Denver.</i>	

**\*The applicability of Guaranteed Transfer (GT Pathways) courses to specific CU Denver Core Curriculum requirements requires completion of a block of five courses: two GT-AH courses; one GT-HI course; one GT-SS course; and one additional GT-AH, GT-HI, or GT-SS course.**

## SAMPLE PLAN – COURESWORK TO BE COMPLETED AT CU DENVER

Based on successful completion of 60 applicable transfer credits and the complete “bucket” of requirements outlined above, students would have the following remaining to complete at CU Denver. At CU Denver, students must tailor this plan based on the evaluation of previously completed college coursework (e.g., AP, IB, CLEP, dual/concurrent enrollment, and transfer credit), course availability, individual preferences related to course load, summer term courses, part-time or full-time student status, or add-on programs such as minors or double-majors.

Note: this plan assumes students have completed the SPA Foreign Language proficiency requirement. Students who have not fulfilled this requirement must work with a CU Denver SPA Academic Advisor to modify this plan. (Students must demonstrate foreign language proficiency through a 2<sup>nd</sup> semester college-level course equivalent (e.g., SPA 1012 or ASL 1122), proficiency testing through CU Denver’s Department of Modern Languages, or submitting their high school transcript demonstrating completion of a 2<sup>nd</sup> year (Level II) high school course with a minimum grade of “C-” (1.7) in the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year). Students are strongly encouraged to submit their high school transcripts during the admission process for quick evaluation of foreign language completed in high school.

This sample plan will adjust accordingly depending on what electives a student completed while at community college. Students will work directly with their academic advisor to determine how many general electives they have left once they are admitted to CU Denver. The number of general electives can also change depending on whether the students has completed the SPA Foreign Language requirement. While not required, students are encouraged to pursue a minor or concentration as a way to structure their general electives. Common minors include Business Fundamentals, Communication, English, Ethnic Studies, History, Human Development & Family Relations, Law Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Public Administration, Sociology, and Spanish. Minors are recommended but not required.

### YEAR THREE

Year Three	Fall	CRS
	CRJU 3620 Applied Data & Research Analysis	3
	CRJU 4042 Corrections (if not satisfied by CRJ 1045)	3
	CU Denver Core Cultural Diversity <sup>c</sup>	3
	Upper-Division General Elective	3
	Upper-Division General Elective	3
	<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

Spring	CRS	
	CRJU Elective	3
	CRJU 4170 Victimology	3
	CRJU 4043 Law Enforcement (if not satisfied by CRJ 1025)	3
	Upper-Division General Elective	3
	Upper-Division General Elective	3
	<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

### YEAR FOUR

Year Four	Fall	CRS
	CRJU 4939 Internship <sup>PE</sup>	3
	CRJU Elective	3
	CRJU Elective	3
	Upper-Division General Elective	3
	Upper-Division General Elective	3
	<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

Spring	CRS	
	CRJU Elective	3
	Upper-Division General Elective	3
	General Elective	3
	General Elective	3
	General Elective	3
	<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>15</b>

<sup>c</sup>CU Denver Core Course <sup>PE</sup> Prerequisite Enforced

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## GENERAL PROGRAM 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 at CU Denver.
5. Terminal Residency: 21 out of the last 30 hours in residence at CU Denver.

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

1. Complete 34-38 credit hours of CU Denver Core Curriculum coursework.
2. Complete 23-48 credit hours in general electives, which may include minor coursework. See notes about general electives below.
3. Complete all CRJU major requirements, including CRJU 4939 Internship.
  - a. A letter grade of C- or better is required 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-residence at CU Denver.
6. Complete a minimum 45 credit hours of upper-division (3000-level or above) coursework overall.

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	34-38	<a href="#">CU Denver Core Curriculum</a>
School of Public Affairs Graduation Requirements	6-16	
Additional Social Sciences	3	SPA students must complete 3 Social Science courses from the Core
Additional Social Sciences	3	
Foreign Language	0-10	Through second semester proficiency. May be fulfilled via high school coursework, college coursework, or foreign language proficiency.
Required CRJU Coursework	42	
CRJU 1000: Criminology & Criminal Justice: An Overview	3	This course also fulfills a SPA Social Science Core course
CRJU 2000: Professional Development in Criminal Justice	3	
CRJU 2041: Criminological Theory	3	
CRJU 3620: Applied Data & Research Analysis	3	
CRJU 4042: Corrections	3	
CRJU 4043: Law Enforcement	3	
CRJU 4044: Courts and Judicial Process	3	
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.
CRJU Major Electives	15	Students must select 15 additional 3000-level (or above) CRJU credit hours. Your academic advisor will email you an updated list of course offerings each semester.
General Electives	23-48	Students must complete 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 will <i>vary greatly</i> depending on what each student needs in order to complete 120 credits, 45 of which must be upper division. The credits listed here are intended to give students a general idea but are not a minimum or maximum amount. Students will work with their academic advisor to determine how many general electives they need.