Criminal Justice

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
University of Central Florida

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

• Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science
  Scholars Track
  Senior Scholar Program
  Internships

• Minor

• Certificate Programs
  Certificate in Crime Analysis and Crime Mapping
  Certificate in Crime Scene Investigation
  Certificate in Criminal Justice Management and Leadership
  Certificate in Criminal Profiling
  Certificate in Security Management
  Certificate in Victim Advocacy

Department of Criminal Justice
College of Health and Public Affairs
University of Central Florida

coha.ucf.edu/criminaljustice
ucf.edu/online

Cory Watkins, Ph.D., Undergraduate Program Director
HPA I - 330
Phone: 407-823-2603
Fax: 407-823-5360
Email: cory.watkins@ucf.edu
What Is Criminal Justice?

The study of criminal justice is designed to provide an understanding of criminal offending and the system of practices and institutions that operate together to protect the lives and property of citizens. The main components of the criminal justice system are law enforcement (e.g., police), criminal courts (e.g., defense counsel, prosecutors, and court and judicial administration) and corrections (e.g., jails, prisons, probation and parole).

Criminal Justice at UCF

UCF’s undergraduate program in criminal justice provides students with a broad understanding of crime and society’s control mechanisms. Students take required core courses in crime prosecution, corrections, police, research and data analysis. They also choose elective courses in criminal justice and supportive disciplines such as legal studies, public administration, social work, sociology and political science. Exceptional students may apply to the Scholars Track and/or Senior Scholar Program. Students earn either a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science, depending on the selected curriculum.

The major prepares students for professional careers in criminal justice and related fields, as well as for advanced study at the graduate level. Five optional certificate programs provide opportunities for more in-depth study. A minor also is offered. The department also offers study abroad opportunities.

Course work includes:
• criminal justice system
• crime in America
• prosecution and adjudication
• corrections and penology
• police and society
• research methods in criminal justice
• data analysis
• electives and other supportive courses

Program Highlights
• student organizations
• internships
• certificate programs

For complete degree requirements, see the UCF Undergraduate Catalog at catalog.ucf.edu.

Federal agencies typically require a bachelor’s degree for positions as agents with the FBI and DEA, corrections officers, and fish and game wardens, according to the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Where Can I Get a Job?

Criminal justice graduates find employment in all major components of the criminal justice system. Some work as law enforcement officers and detectives in local and state agencies or for special jurisdictions, such as public school districts and university campuses. Officers may work in courtrooms as well to maintain safety and order.

Graduates also find employment as probation, parole and correctional officers in local and state prisons and jails, where they usually work with either adults or juveniles exclusively. Others work as inspectors and agents in federal agencies, such as the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and U.S. Border Patrol. Many corporations hire graduates to work in areas such as security and surveillance.

Possible job titles:
• insurance fraud detective
• gaming or alcoholic beverage control officer
• correctional supervisor
• U.S. Customs inspector
• wildlife officer
• crime analyst
• loss prevention specialist
• juvenile probation officer
• police sergeant
• forensic investigator
• intelligence analyst
• crime analyst