

Sterling College

Criminal Justice Program

Description of Major

The objective of the Criminal Justice major is to prepare students to directly enter the criminal justice system upon graduation, or to continue their education at the graduate level. Students may choose a concentration in Law Enforcement or Pre-Law. The curriculum provides students the occasion to be exposed to a wide array of criminal justice topics in the class room, as well as gaining experience in the field of criminal justice through internship opportunities.

Course Descriptions

CJ 110 Introduction to Criminal Justice 3 credits
This course provides an initial overview of the criminal justice system and is designed to familiarize students with the basic facets and components of criminal justice at the local, state and federal levels. (Fall)

CJ 210 Criminology 3 credits
Overview of the primary criminological theories, as well as an examination of the social context within each was developed. This course also examines how the theories aid in explaining causation of crime. (Spring)
Prerequisite: CJ 110

CJ 220 Criminal Law 3 credits
This course explores substantive criminal law by way of a case study approach and examination of statutory law. The study includes analysis of criminal acts, required elements of crimes, punishments and possible defenses to criminal conduct. Crimes against persons, as well as property crimes are examined. (Fall/Even Years)
Prerequisite: CJ 110

CJ 230 Criminal Procedure 3 credits
A concentration on the rules of criminal procedure as they related to the criminal justice process, including rights of those accused of crimes, arrests, search and seizure, interrogation, confessions, right to counsel and the exclusionary rule. (Spring/Odd Years)
Prerequisite: CJ 220

CJ 240 Corrections, Probation and Parole 3 credits
An overview of the theory behind corrections, as well as historical and current practices of corrections within the criminal justice system. This course examines various types of correctional institutions, alternatives to incarceration, legal rights of inmates, reintegration into the community following release, parole/probation and major issues confronting correctional institutions. (Fall/Odd Years)
Prerequisite: CJ 110

CJ 370 Legal Internship 1-3 credits
This internship is designed to give criminal justice students enrolled in the pre-law concentration the opportunity to gain real world experience. Students will be connected with a local attorney or law firm and must complete a minimum of 50 hours of experience for each hour of academic credit. All internships must be pre-approved prior to the beginning of the internship.

CJ 380 Terrorism and Homeland Security 3 credits
This course focuses on the impact that terrorism has on individuals, society and government in our country. Included are discussions of the impact of terrorism on law enforcement, especially first responders, changes in Americans perspective on constitutional rights, and government responses to terrorism. (Spring/Odd Years)

CJ 390 Independent Study 1-3 credits
This course provides students with an in-depth study of a current topic of interest in criminal justice. Requires prior approval by instructor.
Prerequisites: Junior or senior in criminal justice.

CJ 410 Senior Seminar 1 credit
This seminar is an opportunity for students to apply the knowledge and experiences gained from the criminal justice curriculum through class discussions, presentations and the completion of a major senior project. This course is writing intensive.
Prerequisite: Senior standing in criminal justice.

CJ 420 Legal Research Methods 3 credits
This course introduces students to the basic techniques of legal research, writing and analysis. Attention is given to briefing of cases, researching legal issues, and framing legal arguments. (Fall/Odd Years)
Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing in criminal justice.

CJ 280/480 Special Topics in Criminal Justice 1-3 credits
Topics related to specific subjects within the field of criminal justice that are not taught as a component of the standard curriculum.