

## **Criminal Justice Studies Program Description**

The Peirce College Criminal Justice Associate Degree program approaches the study of Criminal Justice from both a practical and theoretical perspective. Appreciating that the field of Criminal Justice is constantly evolving, students will engage in a full range of courses that lay the basic foundation of knowledge required to work in the field of criminal justice while offering a variety of courses designed to cater to students' individual interests within the field. Students will work directly with faculty members who are practitioners in the criminal justice field, preparing them to deal with real life examples of issues that arise in the field of criminal justice and learning the critical thinking and effective communication skills necessary to successfully negotiate those issues.

### **Program Outcomes – Students will be able to demonstrate:**

- The ability to engage in effective oral communication with individuals who work within and come into contact with the criminal justice system.
- The ability to communicate effectively in writing appropriate for employment in law enforcement/security, the courts, or corrections.
- Proficiency in the methods for conducting and analyzing criminal justice research from both a qualitative and quantitative perspective.
- Effective use of technology employed in the criminal justice system.
- The ability to respond to ethical issues and apply knowledge of perspective and judgment in this area to changing fact situations.
- Critical thinking skills in navigating the various issues which arise within the criminal justice system and at the different stages of the criminal justice process.
- An understanding of the ways in which the criminal justice system continues to change and the role of criminal justice professionals in implementing change.

<b>Core/Peirce Requirements:</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
<b>1 Peirce College Orientation Course:</b>		
PRC 100* or PRC 101		3 or 1
<b>(Students who have fewer than 15 college credits earned at entry must take PRC 100)</b>		
<b>2 English/Communication courses:</b>		
ENG 101*	English Composition*	3
ENG/COM (Recommended: COM 112 or COM 202)		3
<b>2 Mathematics courses:</b>		
MAT (Recommended: MAT 101 or MAT 102)		3
MAT 109*	Business Statistics I*	3
<b>2 Social Science courses:</b>		
SOC SCI (Recommended: PSC 101)		3
SOC SCI (Recommended: PSY 101)		3
<b>1 Humanities/History course:</b>		
HUM/HIS		3
<b>1 Science course:</b>		
SCI		3
<b>1 Technology course:</b>		
BIS 109	Information Searching & Presentation	3

\* A grade of "C" or above is required.

Note: Please consult with your Program Advisor for a list of core curriculum and electives.

<b>Criminal Justice Requirements:</b>		<b>Credits</b>
CJS 101*	Intro to Criminal Justice*	3
CJS 104*	Criminal Court Systems*	3
CJS 107*	Criminology*	3
CJS 201 (Prerequisites: MAT 109, CJS 101, and either CJS 104 or CJS 107)	Research Methods	3
CJS 204 (Prerequisite: CJS 101, CJS 104, or CJS 107)	Intro to Criminal Law & Procedure	3
CJS 207 (Prerequisite: CJS 101, CJS 104, or CJS 107)	Ethics in Criminal Justice	3
CJS 230* (Prerequisites: CJS 101, CJS 104, CJS 107, CJS 201, CJS 204, and CJS 207)	Criminal Justice Capstone *	3
<b>2 Program Electives:</b>		
CJS		3
CJS		3
<b>2 Open Electives:</b>		
ELEC		3
ELEC		3

\* A grade of "C" or above is required.

Note: Please consult with your Program Advisor for a list of core curriculum and electives.

## **Criminal Justice**

### **Course Descriptions**

#### **CJS101 Introduction to Criminal Justice**

*A grade of C or above is required for this course.*

This course is an introductory survey of the criminal justice system with an emphasis on the foundations of criminal law - including common law, statutory law, and case law. Students will explore the different components of the criminal justice system such as law enforcement, the courts, and corrections, as well as processes for arrest, trial, and sentencing. Finally, this course will provide students with an overview of terrorism, cyber crime, and the juvenile justice system.

#### **CJS104 Criminal Court System**

*A grade of C or above is required for this course.*

This course provides an overview of the operations of the criminal courts in state and federal jurisdictions and the significant stages in the criminal justice process. Students will engage in a detailed exploration of the roles of the individuals that make up the courtroom workgroup and extend this coverage to victims and their role in the criminal court system. Finally, students will focus on specialized courts and the future of the criminal court.

#### **CJS107 Criminology**

*A grade of C or above is required for this course.*

This course examines the nature and causation of crime. Its primary focus is the major theoretical perspectives that have been developed in an effort to explain how and why individuals break the law. Students will engage in an exploration of major theories of deviance as they apply to behavior viewed as criminal and how geographical patterns relate to that behavior. Lastly, this course conducts an investigation into the nature and extent of crime in our society, as well as how theories and understanding criminal behavior shape responses to crime and criminals.

**CJS201      Research Methods**

*A grade of C or above is required for this course.*

*Prerequisites: MAT 109, CJS 101, and either CJS 104 or CJS 107*

This research-based course introduces the basic principles and issues imperative to understanding the application of the scientific method to research in the criminal justice field. Students will be exposed to the various types of criminal justice data such as the Uniform Crime Report, victimization surveys, court and prison statistics, evaluation studies, and agency reports. Students will apply knowledge of statistics to gain a deeper understanding of social science research methodology. Through application of computer based analysis of criminal justice data, students will examine the relationship between theory, hypotheses, empirical research, and differentiating between qualitative and quantitative methods.

**CJS204      Intro to Criminal Law and Procedure**

*Prerequisites: CJS 101, CJS 104, or CJS 107*

This course provides an introduction to substantive criminal law and procedures involved in the criminal justice system. Topics include: the elements of a crime, available defenses, complicity, causation, and inchoate crimes; as well as arrest, bail, detention, arraignment, preliminary hearings, guilty pleas, and trial.

**CJS207      Ethics in Criminal Justice**

*Prerequisites: CJS 101, CJS 104, or CJS 107*

This course provides students with an opportunity to explore one of the most important issues in criminal justice, ethics. Students will be exposed to an in-depth exploration of practical ethical considerations for those who work in the criminal justice system. Through the use of case scenarios and the application of ethical decision-making tools, students will gain a deeper understanding of the importance of professional integrity and leadership skills.

**CJS230 Criminal Justice Capstone**

*A grade of C or above is required for this course.*

*Prerequisites: CJS 101, CJS 104, CJS 107, CJS 201, CJS 204, CJS 207*

The Capstone course brings together all of the essential elements of the criminal justice system. Students will apply the information acquired in the core curriculum to engage in simulations involving various issues that arise in this field. Simulations focus on the roles of the parties involved in the day-to-day functioning of the criminal justice system, as well as the ethical issues faced by each party. As part of the simulation process, students will also focus on proposed resolutions. Writing assignments will be integrated into the simulations. These assignments are designed to enhance students' understanding of the issues and proposed resolutions presented during classroom activities.