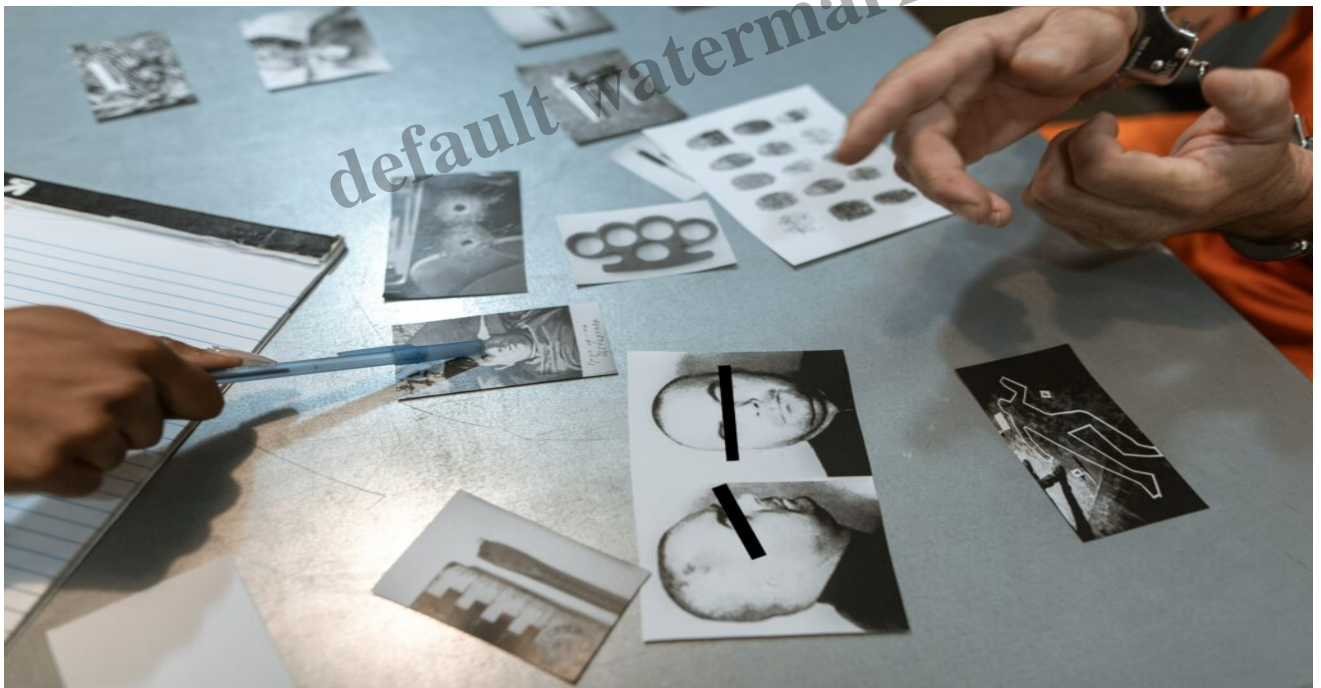




## Learn How to Chose the Best Criminal Justice Program

### Description

Criminal justice is a highly reliable and rewarding career option in the United States.



If you are just out of your school and want to step into an impactful and exciting field, you can go for criminal justice. This is a highly paid and respected field to serve your country. Check what is criminal justice, what are majors and career options in this field and why is this so important.

#### 1. What is criminal justice?

When you hear about a degree in criminal justice, you might think that graduates only work as police officers, but this is the only assumption. Criminal justice graduates not only work as police officers but a lot more career options are available for them. Criminal justice is a field based on the study of

systems and rules to hold offenders and culprits accountable for their unlawful actions and restore emotional and physical losses of the victim and help to bring justice to the victims. You can get various jobs in the legal system and also beyond it. This field represents one of the fastest-growing careers in the U.S. This boost in the job market appears after the terror attacks of 9/11. The Department of Homeland Security is making the highest number of recruitments in this field including recruitments for border patrol, Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and immigration. You can choose criminal justice degree if you want to keep citizens safe on the streets or you want to do work in the office for security and law enforcement. The U.S. is facing the highest crime rate in the world. Almost 655 people are jailed in every 100,000 people. Innovative solutions are needed to keep the country safe and secure because a criminal is getting smarter day by day. Criminal justice allows you to improve the social security of the community and also offers you good career growth.

The main goal of all majors in criminal justice to keep individuals and communities safe and secure. Professionals in the field of criminal justice keep protecting people, investigating crimes, and work for enforcing laws. They always make sure that safety remains the priority. If you want to make difference and impact the lives of others, choose criminal justice for you. You can help in solving different crime cases, prevent the criminals from committing crimes, and serve for the benefit of victims. National security force, police force and air marshals, cybersecurity specialists, forensic psychologists, public defenders, and victim advocates study criminal justice to pursue their careers in these fields. Criminal justice is a vast subject that surely should have some specializations or subfields related to your interest. You can secure your future by joining degree programs in criminal justice. Here we will discuss the major subjects, available options for courses, career details, and reasons to study criminal justice.

## **2. Reasons to choose criminal justice**

If you are looking for a field that offers you an extensive range of choices for your career, you can study criminal justice to explore exciting career paths. Some reasons to study criminal justice are following;

- Criminal justice degrees open a gateway to a variety of professions. You can join law enforcement agencies, legal jobs in court systems as a judicial assistant and paralegal. Career options like a forensic accountant, private security officers, and social worker are offered by the private sector. If you are more interested in science, you can join as a prison psychologist or crime scene investigator. You can study law if you have an interest in it. You can go for many career directions in criminal justice. You can get a job in Drug Enforcement Agency, Custom and Border Protection, Law Enforcement Agency, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Community Health Centers, Judiciary and Law, Corrections, and many more.
- If you have a humanitarian approach and feel good after helping others, give back to your community by starting a career in criminal justice. This is full of career options that help you to protect people from illegal activities. You can ensure justice for victims.
- Most of the jobs in this field are offered by the public sector. There is no downtime or holiday in crime so, the employability rate is not volatile and ups and downs are not observed in the professional field due to the tough job market or fluctuating economy. The private sector may face some ups and downs but the public sector is independent of these fluctuations. Public sector professionals in criminal justice get health insurance, training, life insurance, paid holidays, tuition assistance, sick leave, and generous retirement packages.

- Some people feel the excitement of doing challenging tasks. A degree in criminal justice allows you to accept various challenges that require special skills. You will be trained in your degree program and professional field to think smart and learn the skill for problem-solving. This is not a simple 9-5 job where you only work for the sake of earning. This field will never let you bore and stale. You can get chances to meet high-profile people including governors. So, if you are looking for an exciting and challenging career, go for criminal justice.

### 3. Majors in criminal justice

You can choose a different major in criminal justice according to your preferences, interests, and passions. Following are the majors offered in criminal justice degree.

**Criminology** is a fast-growing and fascinating major in criminal justice. People who think critically attract toward criminology. Criminology helps people to understand the minds of criminals. Detective reasoning is being taught in this major to discover patterns of committing crimes. Students who choose criminology as their major can work as detectives, criminal psychologists, forensic investigations, and as a member of crime investigation teams. The average salary of a detective is \$86k and the career growth rate is 14%.

**Psychology** is a major in the criminal justice field that helps you to understand the behavior of people and the reasons behind their actions. Psychology allows students to predict the future behavioral patterns of victims and culprits. You can become a member of criminal investigation teams, psychiatrists, or psychologists after earning their degree in this major. The average salary of a psychologist is \$80k per year and the career growth rate is 14%.

**Information Security** is also a fast-growing major in criminal justice because most of the companies are taking their operations online. You learn to handle security breaches and prevent breaches before they occur. If you are interested in Information Technology (IT) and computer sciences, this major is a good option for you. You can become a cybersecurity officer or IT officer by choosing this major. The expected career growth in information security is 32% and the average salary per year is \$100k.

**Sociology** can be selected as a major in criminal justice. Social workers provide rehabilitation services and human services by helping the victims to get them out of their trauma. A social worker can also provide services in public relations. Many government and private agencies provide jobs for this major. You can also start your social agency. This field has a career growth rate of 11% and an average salary of a social worker is \$50k per year.

**Rehabilitation** is a major in criminal justice that allows you to get the victims back on their feet after their hard times. You will study addiction forms, how the recovery of patients will start and how can you help them in their rehabilitation. The expected growth rate of this career field is 10% in the next decade and rehabilitation counselors made \$35k annually.

By majoring in **Pre-Law**, you can work as a lawyer in the field of criminal justice. You can be a criminal lawyer, public defender, or victim advocate by studying pre-law. The average career growth is 6% and the average salary is \$123k per year.

Many other majors are designed to become judge, private detective, criminal defense attorney, forensic scientist, paralegal, and intelligence analyst.

#### **4. Degree programs in criminal justice**

Criminal justice has a broad range of applications in various fields. All levels of education offer degrees for careers in criminal justice. Following are degree programs in criminal justice.

##### **Associate degree in criminal justice**

Associate degrees in criminal justice help students to train for entry-level jobs in law enforcement, security, and corrections. An associate degree is a two years degree program that includes introductory courses in criminal law, the American justice system, and social sciences. Jobs in law enforcement agencies also require training in addition to an associate degree. If you have field experience, you are extra qualified for detective and police jobs. Security guards and court clerks also hold associate degrees in criminal justice.

##### **Bachelor's degree in criminal justice**

Bachelor's degree expands the foundation skills learned in the associate program and helps in building career prospects. Criminal justice specialization is selected for a bachelor's degree. Criminology, corrections, and homeland security are common specializations. You can study Bachelor of Science (BS) or Bachelor of Arts (BA) in criminal justice that spans four years. After graduation, you can join as a victim advocate, corrections officer, and parole officer.

##### **Master's degree in criminal justice**

A Master's degree in criminal justice can enhance the career opportunities of homeland security professionals, criminal justice, and law enforcement. If you want to practice law or become a professor in this field, you can earn criminal justice degree to increase the credentials. It takes two years to complete a master's degree. You can study criminal justice administration, criminology, research methods, behavior analysis, cybercrime investigation, crime analysis, and ethics in a master's degree in criminal justice.

##### **Doctoral degree in criminal justice**

Doctoral scholars can pursue research with specialization in any major of criminal justice. Students do research and achieve teaching positions. Course work consists of management and improvement of criminal justice practices and crisis management. Ph.D. can be completed in 4 years. Scholars can pursue their careers as public policy consultants or professors of criminal justice.

#### **5. Careers in criminal justice**

Following are the career options for the graduates of criminal justice.

**Information security officer** works to protect cybersecurity procedures of an organization. They handle security breaches and manage software applications in the system of the organization. Bachelor's in cybersecurity or information security is needed for this job. The average income of an

information security officer is \$100k annually.

**Prison wardens** perform supervisory duties and administrative affairs as senior correctional officers. Many years of professional experience and a graduate degree in criminal justice are needed for this job. They earn an average of \$88k per year.

**Homicide detectives** investigate murder cases. They identify the potential suspect based on analysis of evidence from the crime scene. They produce written reports to support their investigations. Their average income is \$74k per year.

**Forensic psychologists** evaluate criminals and understand crimes by using psychology. They generate criminal profiles and judge the suspect's competency. A Ph.D. degree and a license issued by the state are required for this job. Their average salary is \$70k.

**FBI agents** require bachelor's degrees and job training in criminal justice or related field. Federal Bureau of Investigations hires FBI agents for investigations. They can earn an average of \$65k.

**Computer forensic specialists** retrieve data from digital devices including smartphones and computers. They use various software and cybersecurity techniques to retrieve deleted and corrupted data. Bachelor's degree in criminal justice or computer science is required for this job. Their average salary per year is \$62k.

**Border patrol agents** restrict illegal immigrations and halt contraband items at the country's border. Bachelor's degree is required for this job. Their average salary is \$59k per year.

**Forensic scientists** analyze biological materials collected from the crime scene to solve cases. The minimum requirement for this job is a bachelor's degree for this job. Some organizations demand at least a master's degree. Their average salary is \$56k per year.

**State troopers** perform duties like police officers. They are state-level law enforcement officers. Troopers arrest and investigate criminals, secure crime scenes, and provide services in natural disasters. They earn an average of \$54k annually.

**Police officers** enforce local laws and ensure public safety and security by patrolling. They also respond to emergency calls and complaints by the public. Troops arrest and ask questions to the criminals to solve criminal cases. Bachelor's degree in criminal justice is required for this job. Police officers earn a mean \$52k annually.

You can also join as a court reporter, paralegal, crime analyst, crime scene investigator, deputy sheriff, parole officer, probation officer, correctional officer, security officer, and victim officer.

## Category

1. Education

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