

MAJOR

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CRIMINOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

524 West 59th Street, New York, NY 10019 ■ Haaren Hall, Room 520 ■ 212-887-6123

www.jjay.cuny.edu/departments-sociology

See all major requirements at: www.jjay.cuny.edu/criminology-major-resources

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN IN THIS MAJOR?

Criminology is the scientific and research-oriented study of the crime problem, which is seen as connected to other social problems, like poverty, unemployment, severe social inequality, and institutionalized discrimination. Unlike much conventional thinking about crime, sociologists look through a critical lens at the current explanations for involvement in illegal behavior, the public's reactions to the threat of becoming a victim, and the effectiveness of policies to prevent and control crime.

By studying criminology, students learn to use the insights and methods of sociology to uncover the social, political, and economic roots of the crime problem. Criminology majors investigate how inequities within the criminal justice system lead to preferential treatment for some while others face discrimination, callousness, and marginalization, depending upon the race/ethnicity, social class, and gender of both the offenders and victims. Researchers also address the needs of offenders as well as their victims. Students develop a deeper, evidence-based understanding of crime theories and anti-crime strategies as they use qualitative methods (such as field observations and interviews) and quantitative methods (such as surveys) to collect and analyze their data.

IN THIS MAJOR YOU WILL ■■■

Discover the most convincing and influential explanations of why some people get involved in criminal activities.

Analyze and evaluate current anti-violence and anti-drug policies.

Examine research about offenders' problems, victims' suffering, police operations, and prison conditions that draw upon different types of data collection strategies.

Learn to distinguish and assess explanations for why some people are drawn to guns, gangs, drugs, and terrorist groups.

Engage in evidence-based debates about controversial tactics and approaches to improve public safety.

Participate in a wide variety of experiential learning opportunities.

FIRST COURSES IN THE MAJOR ■■■

SOC 203: Criminology

STA 250: Principles and Methods of Statistics

SOC 314: Theories of Social Order

SSC 325: Research Methods in the Behavioral Sciences

SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology is the required foundation course for this major.

“Criminology as a major and the courses it consists of have allowed me to acquire the knowledge I need when analyzing criminal justice matters from a sociological perspective.”

— Karen Mazariegos, Senior

“By majoring in Criminology I have the opportunity to work with the law, practice the law and work with those who have been victims or violators of the United States Justice system.”

— Frances Plata, Senior

WHAT CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS WILL YOU DEVELOP IN THIS MAJOR?

- Collect, evaluate, and interpret data, such as evidence about discrimination in arresting, prosecuting, sentencing and imprisoning law-breakers.
- Question, test, and challenge conventional wisdom in debates about crime and justice.
- Plan and develop independent research projects that involve data derived from interviews, polls and surveys, careful observations made in the field, analyses of media coverage, and reports issued by criminal justice agencies.
- Analyze research findings to make policy recommendations.

WHAT MINOR MIGHT BE A GOOD COMPLEMENT TO THIS MAJOR?

- Sociology
- Anthropology
- Dispute Resolution
- Humanities and Justice
- Counseling
- Law

For more information about minors, go to:

www.jjay.cuny.edu/minors

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL THIS MAJOR OFFER YOU?

- Earn awards for excellence in Criminology that are given to outstanding graduating seniors.
- Take the courses that will prepare you for a masters or a doctoral program in criminology or criminal justice.
- Participate in Study Abroad Programs during winter and summer sessions.
- Attend and present your research at academic conferences.
- Take crime-oriented courses in other departments.
- Choose internships in criminal justice agencies.

This major has some great electives that focus on specific aspects of the crime problem, including gun violence and terrorism; delinquency and gangs; the suffering of crime victims; sources of conflicts and methods of resolving disputes; media coverage; controversies surrounding prisons, probation and parole; the seriousness of white collar and corporate crime; migration and crime; and women as victims, offenders, and criminal justice professionals.

THIS MAJOR CAN BE A GREAT FOUNDATION FOR A WIDE RANGE OF JOBS. HERE ARE SOME POSSIBILITIES TO CONSIDER:

- Law Enforcement Officer
- Probation, Parole, and Corrections Officer
- Office Support Staff in Criminal Justice Agencies
- Victim Advocate
- Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Professional
- Child Welfare Worker
- Field Interviewer and Research Assistant
- Program Evaluator and Policy Analyst
- Community Organizer and Advocate
- Private Security Officer