Why Should I Major in Criminal Justice at Seton Hall?

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to search for a burglary suspect in the dimly lit streets and narrow alleys of a large city in the dead of the night, or what it would be like to be the manager of an entire cell block in a prison? Have you ever wanted to profile a murderer who has eluded detection for years or to deliver the closing argument at a murder trial? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, you should consider majoring in criminal justice at Seton Hall University. Selecting the major in criminal justice at Seton Hall has many advantages. First, our instructors have worked as probation and parole officers, criminal profilers, and murder trial consultants and, thereby, have real-world work experience. Second, the robust cooperative education program allows students to earn up to nine credits working as an intern in local, state or federal criminal justice agencies. Third, we provide a learning environment where students receive instruction in small classes and can get to know their instructors, all of whom have doctoral degrees and some of whom are nationally and internationally recognized.

The Curriculum:

The criminal justice curriculum is divided into three areas of study: (1) Criminalization — the study of the creation and enforcement of the criminal law, with courses that include Police and Modern Society and Prosecution and Adjudication; (2) Criminality — the study of the causes, correlates and amounts of crime, with courses that include Violent Crime and Victimology; and (3) Corrections — the study of the punishment and treatment of offenders, with courses that include Penology and Community Supervision.

What Does It Take to Graduate?

To graduate with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice, students must complete 48 credits in their major, in addition to fulfilling their core requirements, and earn a minimum overall GPA of 2.0.

Career Opportunities:

There are ample internship and, later, employment opportunities for student’s majoring in criminal justice at such governmental agencies as municipal police departments, the Federal Marshal’s Service, state and federal district attorney’s offices, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, state probation and parole offices, the New Jersey State Police, local victim and witness assistance programs, the Federal Bureau of Prisons and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

A bachelor’s degree in criminal justice also allows students to further their education in graduate school. It provides them with the necessary educational qualifications to apply for admission to master’s degree programs in political science, criminal justice, criminology, law, public administration or sociology.

How Do I Apply for Admission?

Complete your application to Seton Hall University and include the $55 non-refundable application fee ($45 if applying online). Freshman applicants must submit official high school transcripts and any college or university transcripts where credit was attempted, plus the results of the SAT or ACT assessments. Transfer students must submit transcripts from each college or university where credit was attempted. Those with fewer than 24 earned credits must complete the freshman requirements. Applications are available at admissions.shu.edu.

Can I Get Financial Aid?

Almost 90 percent of the students who entered Seton Hall last year received some form of financial aid, and 75 percent of these students received money directly from the University. The four types of financial aid include scholarships, grants and discounts, loans, and part-time jobs on campus. For further information, visit admissions.shu.edu/FinancialAid.htm or call (973) 761-9332.
Criminal Justice Requirements:

Core Curriculum Requirements*

A. English Language (6 credits)
B. Communication (3 credits)
C. Mathematics (3 credits and prerequisites)
D. Natural Sciences (6 credits) and Behavioral Sciences (6 credits)
E. Western Civilization (6 credits), Foreign Language (6 credits) and American/African, Asian and Latino Civilizations/Foreign Literature/Advanced Language (6 credits)
F. Ethical Questions (3 credits)
G. Philosophy and Religious Studies (9 credits)

* Please see Undergraduate Catalogue

Criminal Justice Major — 48 hours, including:

Unit I Required Courses (12 Credits)

ANTH 1202 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
CRIM 3550 The Criminal Justice System in Modern America
PSYC 1101 Introduction to Psychology
SOCI 1101 Understanding Society

Unit II Intermediate Required Electives (9 Credits)

CRIM 2616 Criminology
CRIM 3550 Criminology Theory and either
CRIM 2910 Research Methodology or
CRIM 3120 Qualitative Methods of Criminal Justice Research

Unit III Criminal Justice Electives (18 Credits)

Students are required to complete six courses from the following:

CRIM 2613 Victimology
CRIM 2614 Police in Modern Society
CRIM 2615 Penology
CRIM 2617 Juvenile Delinquency
CRIM 2618 Community Supervision
CRIM 2619 Prosecution and Adjudication
CRIM 2912 Criminal Justice Adjudication and Management
CRIM 29xx Special Issues in Criminal Justice

3310 Violent Crime
CRIM 3894-3896 Cooperative Education I, II, III
CRIM 5986-5987 Special Theoretical Issues in Criminal Justice
CRIM 5988 Senior Seminar

Unit IV Extra Departmental Electives (9 Credits)

Select three of the following courses, with no more than two courses from the same department

AFAM 2311 Public Institutions and the African-American
ANTH 1210 Culture and Communication
ANTH 1913 Race, Racism and the Meanings of Human Difference
POLS 1113 Public Administration
POLS 1912 Introduction to American Law
PSYC 2214 Abnormal Psychology
SOCI 2314 Organizations and Society
SOCI 2515 Intergroup Relations
SOWK 1314 Social Work and the Law

Criminal Justice Minor — A minimum of 18 hours, including:

Required Courses
CRIM 2612 The Criminal Justice System in Modern America
CRIM 2616 Criminology
SOCI 1101 Understanding Society

Elective Courses

Any two of the following:

ANTH 2222 Case Studies in the Anthropology of Law
CRIM 2613 Victimology
CRIM 2614 Police in Modern Society
CRIM 2615 Penology
CRIM 2617 Juvenile Delinquency
CRIM 2618 Community Supervision
CRIM 2619 Prosecution and Adjudication
CRIM 2912 Criminal Justice Administration and Management
CRIM 29xx Special Issues in Criminal Justice
CRIM 3894-3896 Cooperative Education I, II, III
SOCI 2213 Law and the Legal System
SOCI 3815 Deviance and Conformity

Any one of the following:

SOCI 2211 Marriage and Family Life
SOCI 2313 City Life
SOCI 2314 Organizations and Society
SOCI 2513 Social Inequality
SOCI 2515 Intergroup Relations: Race, Ethnicity and Social Class in America
SOCI 2701 Social Change
SOCI 2713 Politics and Society
SOCI 2714 Strategies of Transformation

Degree Requirements: 130 total credit hours

Students can minor or double major in any of the College of Arts and Sciences disciplines.

For more information, call an admissions counselor at 1-800-THE-HALL, send an e-mail to thehall@shu.edu or visit admissions.shu.edu.

To talk to a faculty adviser, please contact Lonnie Athens, D.Crim., chair of the Department of Criminal Justice, at (973) 761-9108 or athenslo@shu.edu.

Seton Hall University is a major Catholic university. In a diverse and collaborative environment it focuses on academic and ethical development. Seton Hall students are prepared to be leaders in their professional and community lives in a global society and are challenged by outstanding faculty, an evolving technologically advanced setting and values-centered curricula.

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