

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Associate of Arts

The need for college-level training in the field of criminal justice has grown dramatically. Criminal justice agencies in all areas have recognized the value of college training for their employees. Some have made it mandatory, while many others offer incentive pay for employees with college education. Criminal justice careers can be found in a variety of forms: law enforcement/police, private detectives, insurance companies, private security, child and adult protective services, correctional officers, probation and parole officers, juvenile counselors and game wardens are among the many possibilities available. These agencies help our society operate safely and function smoothly within the realms of the law. They also play a key role in the detection of threats against our communities, and prevention of harm to our country.

Graduates of a criminal justice program can find employment opportunities in the field at the local, state and federal levels. Most criminal justice agencies require or strongly recommend a two-year or four-year college degree as a minimum requirement for employment. After completion of the Associate of Arts (A.A.) in Criminal Justice, students will have the basic knowledge to enter many criminal justice agencies. Students may also transfer completed coursework to a four-year institution to become more competitive in the job market.

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Students will identify and summarize the various components in the criminal justice system (police, courts and corrections) and how these components and the community respond to crime and society.
2. Students will identify and summarize the judicial system and process with particular emphasis on due process.
3. Students will identify and summarize the history of criminal law, its elements, definitions and applications.
4. Students will identify and summarize the components of the corrections system, their history and development, alternatives to formal corrections and the current state of the corrections system including issues being faced.
5. Students will identify and summarize the history of policing, organizational aspects of policing, community-police relationships and current issues in policing.

TSI Liable

Field of Study - 18 Credit Hours

Discipline Foundation Courses (12 SCH)		
CRIJ 1306	Court Systems and Practices	3
CRIJ 1310	Fundamentals of Criminal Law	3
CRIJ 2313	Correctional Systems and Practices	3
CRIJ 2328	Police Systems and Practices	3
Directed Electives (UTRGV) (6 SCH) ¹		
CRIJ 1307	Crime in America	3
CRIJ 1313	Juvenile Justice System	3

STC Core Curriculum - 42 Credit Hours

Complete 42 credit hours of required Core Curriculum ^{2,3} 42

Total Credit Hours 60

¹ The listed Directive Electives are for students pursuing to transfer to The University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley. Students pursuing a different transfer institution should see an advisor for selection of Directed Electives.

² In addition to the courses in the Field of Study, the student is required to take 42 credit hours from the STC Core Curriculum.

³ Students who select a 3 credit hour Mathematics course to fulfill the Mathematics component of the Core Curriculum must take 4 credit hours to complete the Component Area Option for the Core Curriculum.

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100% Online

Recommended Course Sequence

Course	Title	Credit Hours
First Year		
Fall		
HIST 1301 or HIST 2327	United States History I or Mexican-American History I	3
ENGL 1301	Composition I	3
Social and Behavioral Sciences Elective - Core Curriculum		3
Required:		
CRIJ 1301	Introduction to Criminal Justice ²	
Creative Arts Elective - Core Curriculum		3
Credit Hours		12
Spring		
HIST 1302 or HIST 2328	United States History II or Mexican-American History II	3
ENGL 1302	Composition II - Rhetoric	3
GOVT 2305	Federal Government	3
CRIJ 1306	Court Systems and Practices	3
Credit Hours		12
Summer		
Component Area Option - Core Curriculum		3
Select one of the following:		
EDUC 1300	Learning Framework	
PSYC 1300	Learning Framework	
SPCH 1311	Introduction to Speech Communication	
SPCH 1315	Public Speaking	
SPCH 1318	Interpersonal Communications	
SPCH 1321	Business and Professional Communication	
SPCH 2333	Discussion and Small Group Communication	
SPCH 2335	Argumentation and Debate	
PSYC 2301	General Psychology	
SOCI 1301	Introductory Sociology	
SOCW 2361	Introduction to Social Work	
GOVT 2306	Texas Government	3
CRIJ 1310	Fundamentals of Criminal Law	3
Credit Hours		9
Second Year		
Fall		
Mathematics Elective - Core Curriculum		3-4
Recommended:		
MATH 1414	College Algebra	

Life and Physical Sciences Elective - Core Curriculum		4
CRIJ 2313	Correctional Systems and Practices	3
CRIJ 2328	Police Systems and Practices	3
Credit Hours		14
Spring		
Life and Physical Sciences Elective - Core Curriculum		4
Language, Philosophy & Culture Elective - Core Curriculum		3
Strongly Recommended:		
PHIL 2306	Introduction to Ethics	
CRIJ 1307	Crime in America ¹	3
CRIJ 1313	Juvenile Justice System ¹	3
Component Area Option - Core Curriculum (if required)		1
Credit Hours		13
Total Credit Hours		60

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² Students must take CRIJ 1301 Introduction to Criminal Justice for the Social and Behavioral Sciences Elective.