The Undergraduate Major in Criminal Justice

For more information on the School of Criminal Justice, please visit our website at:
www.albany.edu/scj
THE UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

In response to student demand and the University's continued commitment to develop new and exciting curricula, the School of Criminal Justice offers an undergraduate major. The School is known throughout the world for its outstanding graduate program, and its undergraduate major provides a sound basic education in justice theory.

This program offers an education with a high level of abstraction clearly focused upon preparation for graduate work. Because criminal justice is by nature interdisciplinary, students will be urged to take preparatory courses in basic writing, history, English and math.

All undergraduate courses offered by the School of Criminal Justice are considered liberal arts and science courses for purposes of degree requirements for the B.A. or B.S. degrees. Courses listed in the School are preceded by the letter R (e.g., RCRJ 201).

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Guaranteed Admission to the Criminal Justice Major

Students who meet the following qualifications are guaranteed admission into the criminal justice major.

- Achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher following completion of at least 56 credits (of which 30 credit hours must be taken at the University at Albany)
- Earned a grade of B or better in two of the following courses - RCRJ 201, 202 or 203 or equivalents
- Completed the statistics and research methods classes required of majors (RCRJ 281 and 282, or equivalents) with a grade of B or better.

Even those students who qualify for guaranteed admission must complete an application.

Application into the Criminal Justice Major

Students who do not meet the conditions for guaranteed admission into the major, may still apply for admission. However, it is important to note that criminal justice is a restricted major with limited enrollment. Applications for admission to the criminal justice major are reviewed by the School's Undergraduate Admissions and Awards Committee. Applicants must have completed at least 42 graduation credits prior to application and 56 credits at the time of admission, and they must have earned a B or higher in RCRJ 201, RCRJ 202, or RCRJ 203 (or ASOC 203).

Some of the factors considered during application review include:

- Overall grade point average
- Breadth and quality of liberal arts background. The committee will view favorably students who have strong records in history, mathematics, English, languages, and/or natural sciences.
- Student's Written Statement of reason for seeking to undertake a criminal justice major

Admittance of Transfer Students to the Criminal Justice Major

Transfer students have two avenues through which they can be admitted to the undergraduate criminal justice major.

1. Transfer students may apply to the major upon admittance to the University if they have achieved a grade of B or better in either RCRJ201, RCRJ202 or RCRJ203 (equivalent courses at their prior college will be recognized as meeting this requirement if they received a B or better in those courses). Their application will be evaluated and compared to other applicants. The evaluation will primarily focus on overall GPA and the required essay. The best applicants will be admitted until we have reached our targeted number of majors.
2. Students who have transferred to the University of Albany will be eligible for guaranteed admission to the program under the same guidelines as native students. Specifically, to qualify for guaranteed admission transfer students must have:
   - Achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher following completion of at least 56 credits (of which 30 credit hours must be taken at the University at Albany)
   - Earned a grade of B or better in two of the following courses - RCRJ 201, 202 or 203, or equivalents
   - Completed the statistics and research methods classes required of majors (RCRJ 281 and 282, or equivalents) with a grade of B or better.

Even those students qualified for guaranteed admission must complete an application.

It should be noted that, because this program is not intended for persons interested in police science, criminalistics, etc., transfer students who have taken courses in such areas may expect such credits not to be transferable into the major. Articulation of such courses will be processed on a case-by-case basis.

**APPLICATION DEADLINES**

For fall admission, applications must be received by the last Friday in February.
For spring admission, applications must be received by the last Friday in September.

For more information about the major or the application process, please contact The School of Criminal Justice at (518) 442-5210 or scj@albany.edu.

**DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**General Program B.A.**

The major in criminal justice requires a minimum of 36 credits distributed as follows:

- RCRJ 201 – Introduction to Criminal Justice
- RCRJ 202 – Introduction to Law and Criminal Justice
- RCRJ 203 (or ASOC 203) – Criminology*
- 3 credits of statistics, either RCRJ 281, ASOC 221, APSY 210, or AMAT 108
- 3 credits in research methods, either RCRJ 282, ASOC 220, or APSY 211
- One 400-level, writing-intensive senior Capstone Seminar, either RCRJ 4**Z, RCRJ 4**W, or RCRJ 4**V
- 16 – 18 additional credits from any 300- or 400-level criminal justice courses and/or ASOC 283

* Students are advised that only one of RCRJ 203 or ASOC 203 may be taken for credit.

**Combined BA/MA Program**

The combined BA/MA program in criminal justice provides an opportunity for students of recognized academic ability and educational maturity to fulfill integrated requirements of undergraduate and Master's degree programs from the beginning of their junior years.

The combined program requires a minimum of 141 credits, of which at least 33 must be graduate credits. In qualifying for the BA, students must meet all University and college requirements, including the requirements of the undergraduate major described previously, the minor requirement, the minimum 90-credit liberal arts and sciences requirement, the general education requirements, and residency requirements. In qualifying for the MA, students must meet all University and college requirements as outlined in the Graduate Bulletin, including completion of a minimum of 33 graduate credits and any other conditions such as a research seminar, thesis, comprehensive
examination, professional experience, and residency requirements. Up to 12 graduate credits may be applied simultaneously to both the BA and MA programs.

Students are considered undergraduates until completion of 120 graduation credits and satisfactory completion of all BA requirements. Upon meeting BA requirements, students are automatically considered graduate students.

Students may be admitted to the combined degree program at the beginning of their junior year, or after the successful completion of 56 credits, but no later than the accumulation of 100 credits. A cumulative grade point average of 3.20 or higher and three supportive letters of recommendation from faculty are required for consideration. Students will be admitted upon the recommendation of the Graduate Admissions Committee of the school.

**Criminal Justice Honors Program**

The honors program in criminal justice is designed to provide undergraduate students with the opportunity for more complete training in research and writing than is normally available in the general undergraduate program.

**Honors Program Curriculum**

The major of Criminal Justice with Honors is a 36 credit program.

Students who have been admitted to the program may elect to begin taking courses that will be applied to the required 12 honors credits of coursework that will count toward the electives requirement of the major.

Select one of the following Advanced Theory course options:
- a. A writing-intensive course with a special honors section – OR –
- b. One of the two honors theory courses (RCRJ 507 or RCRJ 540) – OR –
- c. Other courses proposed and approved by the faculty

All students in the cohort will take a three-credit “Great Ideas in Criminal Justice” course (RCRJ 490). This course will include a series of lectures by faculty members in the School of Criminal Justice. The course will provide the incoming honors students with the opportunity to meet faculty and to learn about the research being conducted in the School.

Students will select either the Independent Senior Thesis (RCRJ 482/492) or the Topical Senior Research (RCRJ 481/491) track of the Honors Programs. Each track will be six credits over two semesters.

Students in both tracks will complete a thesis by April 15 of the senior year. This thesis will be reviewed by the committee created for this purpose. In order to graduate with honors in the major, the student’s thesis project must be approved.

**Admission to the Criminal Justice Honors Program**

Students can apply to the honors program in the second semester of the sophomore year or the first semester of the junior year. Minimum requirements for admission include Criminal Justice as a declared first major, an overall GPA not lower than 3.25, and a Criminal Justice GPA not lower than 3.50. Additionally, to remain in the honors program, all honors students must maintain a 3.50 GPA in the major.

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

A main goal of the School of Criminal Justice is to provide a sound education in theory and research about crime and criminal justice. The University at Albany Criminal Justice major is a program that develops qualitative and quantitative research skills, and provides students with a foundation in relevant legal and social science knowledge. In order to enrich and complement the theory-based program, we are interested in expanding the undergraduate curriculum to include an internship opportunity.
Internships are intended to provide seniors with an opportunity to learn how to apply effectively their university studies to an experience in relevant professional settings. Internships thus differ from independent study projects in that the major component of an internship involves the student actively taking part in the work of an off-campus agency or organization.

One of the strengths of the Criminal Justice internship program is the dedication to combining an academic component with the field placement. The students will be required to attend a weekly seminar designed to supplement the internship experience with theory and discussion. It is this partnership that will best serve the student and assist them in making the most of their internships.

Who is eligible?

In order to be considered for RCRJ 493 and RCRJ 494 a student must be a criminal justice major with senior standing (88 completed credits by the internship start date) and maintain an overall grade point average of 2.5 or higher. One relevant upper-division course and permission of the department are required.

Requirements for an Internship in Criminal Justice

Relevance
The internship should represent a bridge between the student's academic work and the student's professional growth. The particular internship should be seen as a coherent part of the student's academic program, not an isolated episode.

Specific Responsibilities
The student and the host agency or organization must arrange for specific responsibilities or projects to which the student will be assigned as an intern prior to the intern beginning a scheduled work session. These responsibilities must draw in some way on knowledge and skills the student acquired in university studies. This requirement is designed to protect the student from being assigned solely to menial tasks from which little learning can result, and to ensure that the academic purpose of internships, as stated above, is achieved.

Supervision
The student's on-site work must be supervised and evaluated by a knowledgeable professional. It is not productive for an intern to be in a situation where nobody in the host agency or organization is sufficiently knowledgeable to evaluate the student's performance and provide constructive feedback. This supervisor will be required to make a formal evaluation of the student's performance, in writing, to be delivered to the Student Services Administrator.

Academic Component – CRJ 493
In order to fully address the academic component and create an experience in which the student is able to connect the academic with the internship, the School has developed a co-requisite system. CRJ 493 is being offered as a co-requisite with CRJ 494 so that the student remains connected with the University setting and meets with faculty and other students on internships. The purpose of this class is to allow the student to examine the internship experience and his or her role in the agency. Students will be expected to keep journals and be prepared to discuss their experiences at the weekly meetings. Additional specific readings and written assignments in the academic component will be determined by the instructor for CRJ 493.

Credit
According to section 207 of the New York State Education Law (4/20/80), 45 hours of instruction and/or supplementary work are required for each academic credit awarded. Hence, a 3-credit internship must involve a total of at least 135 hours of on-site and academic work. To complete the internship students must complete both CRJ 493 (3 credits) and CRJ 494 (3 credits).

Length of Internship
Each internship will be held during one academic semester – internships will only be offered during the fall and spring terms.
Dean of the School of Criminal Justice

William Alex Pridemore, Ph.D., Criminal Justice, University at Albany - Social Structure and Violence; Cross-national Violence Rates; Impact of Alcohol Outlets on Crime and Health in Communities; Impact on Health of Alcohol; Impact of Policy on Crime; Rural Crime; Impact on Health of Incarceration; Crime Measurement

Distinguished Professors

Alan Lizotte, Ph.D., Sociology, University of Illinois - Statistics and Quantitative Research Methods; Developmental Study of Antisocial Behavior over the Life Course; Patterns of Firearms Ownership and Use

Colin Loftin, Ph.D., Sociology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill - Criminal Violence; Methodology and Statistics; Structural Factors and Crime

Distinguished Teaching Professors

James Acker, J.D., Duke University; Ph.D., Criminal Justice, University at Albany - Law; Capital Punishment; Law and Social Science; Constitutional Criminal Procedure; Substantive Criminal Law; Legal Rights of Children

David McDowall, Ph.D., Sociology, Northwestern University - Statistical Methodology; Violence; Criminology

Graeme Newman, Ph.D., Sociology, University of Pennsylvania - Comparative Criminology; Social Theory; Popular Culture; Punishment and Sentencing; Situational Crime Prevention; Problem Oriented Policing; Information Technology in Criminal Justice

Professors

Frankie Bailey, Ph.D., Criminal Justice, University at Albany - Social History; Popular Culture/Mass Media, Justice and Multiculturalism

Greg Pogarsky, J.D., University of Pittsburgh School of Law; Ph.D., Public Policy, Carnegie Mellon University - Criminology; Deterrence; Offender Decision-Making; Quantitative Research Methods; Longitudinal Data Analysis

Associate Professors

Megan Kurychek, Ph.D., Crime, Law and Justice, The Pennsylvania State University - Juvenile Delinquency and Justice; Offender Rehabilitation and Reentry; Courts and Sentencing; Statistics and Methods

Dana Peterson, Ph.D., Criminal Justice, University of Nebraska at Omaha - Juvenile Delinquency and Treatment; Youth Gangs and Gang Prevention; Sex and Gender Issues in Delinquency; Contextual Influences on Crime

Alissa Pollitz Worden, Ph.D., Political Science, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill - Criminal Court Behavior and Policy; Criminal Justice Theory; Public Opinion and Criminal Justice; Family Violence

Robert Worden, Ph.D., Political Science, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill - Criminal Justice Policy and Administration; Policing, Drug Control Policy.

Assistant Professors

Evelien Hoeben, Ph.D., Criminology, NSCR and VU University Amsterdam - Adolescent Delinquency; Substance Use; Peer Influence; Group Behavior; Time Use; Situational Explanations for Delinquency and Substance Use

David Hureau, Ph.D., Sociology & Social Policy, Harvard University - Violence and Social Inequality; Gangs; Urban Sociology; Ethnographic Methods; Criminal Justice Policy

Cynthia Najdowski, Ph.D., Social Psychology, University of Illinois at Chicago - False Confessions and Wrongful Convictions; Racial Disparities in the Criminal Justice System; Perceptions of Juvenile Offenders; Abuse and Trauma Victims’ Coping and Recovery

Justin Pickett, Ph.D., Criminology, Florida State University - Public Opinion on Crime and Criminal Justice; Social Threat and Social Control; Juvenile Justice and Delinquency; Sociology of Punishment; Survey Research Methods

Theodore Wilson, Ph.D., Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Maryland, College Park - Offender Decision Making; Criminal Justice Practitioner Decision Making; Quantitative Methods
COURSES OFFERED BY THE SCHOOL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

RCRJ 201 Introduction to the Criminal Justice Process (3)
Analysis of the decisions made in the process whereby citizens become suspects, suspects become defendants, some defendants are convicted and in turn become probationers, inmates and parolees. Analysis of operational practices at the major criminal justice decision stages. Analysis of innovative programs and the dilemmas of change in policing, diversion, court administration, sentencing and community correctional programs.

RCRJ 202 Introduction to Law and Criminal Justice (4)
Students will study judicial decisions involving constitutional and other legal issues relevant to criminal justice, including the government’s power to define conduct as criminal, procedural rights, defenses, the rights of juveniles, and punishment. In addition to class meetings, students will enroll in a discussion section where they will engage in legal writing and moot court exercises.

RCRJ 203 Criminology (3) (Cross-listed with ASOC 203)
Multidisciplinary analysis of criminal and delinquent behavior. Special attention to the definition, nature and scope of crime and delinquency in the United States and the explanations which evolved to account for these phenomena. Includes historical analysis of criminological thought and strategies of social control, with special emphasis on the law, which underpins current (and past) penal codes and correctional practices.

RCRJ 281 Introduction to Statistics in Criminal Justice (3)
Provides an introduction to statistical methods useful for analyzing the types of data most often encountered in criminal justice research, and it is intended primarily for criminal justice undergraduates. The course has a "practitioner" orientation, emphasizing how to understand and use statistics rather than how to create them. A variety of widely used statistical methods will be considered, including descriptive statistics, correlation and regression, hypothesis testing (inferential statistics,) and contingency tables. A working knowledge of high school algebra will be assumed.

RCRJ 282 Introduction to Research Design in Criminal Justice (3)
The practical aspect of doing theoretically informed criminological research. The course should provide students with 1) the methods of research available to criminologists, 2) the connection between theory and data, and 3) how to make criminological sense out of a body of data. It will cover a variety of design issues, methodological issues and analytic techniques. The techniques provide a springboard for the discussion of important methodological issues: the relationship between theory and data, the logic of inference, causality, data collection, model specification, standardized versus un-standardized data and many others. Prerequisite(s): RCRJ 281.

RCRJ 302 Punishment and Corrections (3)
Interdisciplinary review of the history of criminal punishment, analyzing the main changes that have occurred and their causes. Examines the dominant justifications used for punishing offenders, such as deterrence, retribution and rehabilitation. Special attention is given to the implications of the different justifications of punishment for current penological practice such as prison, jail, probation, parole, other alternative ways of dealing with offenders and sentencing. Reform is then discussed within this historical and interdisciplinary context. Prerequisite(s): RCRJ 201 or 203.

RCRJ 308 Juvenile Justice Administration (3)
The law of juvenile delinquency and the administration of the juvenile justice system. Examines the historical development of the concept of delinquency, the special status of juveniles before the law and juvenile justice procedural law. Considers the structure and operations of the major components of juvenile justice systems and contemporary reform efforts in juvenile justice. Examines recent developments in law reform concerning delinquency and dependency, along with change and reform in the youth corrections systems. Prerequisite(s): RCRJ 201, or junior or senior class standing.

RCRJ 310 Policies of Crime in Heterogeneous Societies (3)
Examines the implementation of policies of crime control in heterogeneous societies, with concentration on the US. Criminal and distributive justice is explored. The effects of crime control measures across racial and ethnic groups are then examined. Meets General Education: HD

RCRJ 351 Policing in a Free Society (3)
Introduction to the study of the local police in the United States, which provides the basis for a continuing study of policing. Also for the individual whose concern is to be an informed citizen dealing effectively with the problems which policing in America does raise. Policing is seen from three perspectives: the police officer-citizen interaction, the agency-community relationship, and the legal and ethical questions of policing in a democratic society. Considers the background of policing, the problems it must meet in the future, the police task, the major kinds of police work, and the system relationships that tie the police to the community and the criminal justice system. Prerequisite(s): jr. or sr. class standing.
RCRJ 353 American Criminal Courts (3)
Examines the organization and operations of state and local criminal court systems from the perspective of social science research and public policy analysis. Major issues include: the role of courts in American society; bail and pre-trial procedures; the roles and decisions of prosecutors, judges and the defense bar; selection and operation of grand juries and trial juries; sentencing of criminal defendants; and others. The operations of juvenile and adult courts are compared, and efforts directed toward court reform are assessed. Prerequisite(s): junior or senior class standing.

RCRJ 393 Mapping for Criminal Justice (3)
This course provides students with an introduction to the theory and techniques associated with collection, display, analysis, and storage of geographic data in the criminal justice environment. Lectures focus on the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to analyze criminal justice data while laboratory and project based methods expose students to a variety of GIS applications in criminal justice.

RCRJ 399 Seminar in Criminal Justice (3)
Covers a variety of topics in the criminal justice system. Content varies with each offering. May be repeated for credit when content varies.

RCRJ 401 Crime Deviation and Conformity (3)
Crime and criminal behavior is viewed as one of the many forms of deviation from political, moral, and conduct norms of the majority culture. Studies the parallel genesis of crime and other parallel forms of deviance, and the relationship between some forms of deviance (such as mental illness and political extremism) and some forms of criminality. Studies the forces that produce conformity and indirectly promote deviance. Prerequisite(s): RCRJ 203.

RCRJ 404 Crime and the Mass Media (3)
This course examines the interrelationships between crime, criminal justice, and the mass media. It explores the history of these linkages, the research, and the current issues. The possible impact of media images of crime and criminal justice on individuals, groups, and public policy is examined. Prerequisite(s): RCRJ 201 or 203; junior or senior class standing or permission of instructor.

RCRJ 405 Drugs, Crime and Criminal Justice (3)
This course examines the extent of illicit drug use and drug dealing in the United States; the impact of illicit drugs on individuals, communities, and the criminal justice system; correlates of and influences on illicit drug use; and the connections between illicit drug use and other forms of criminal behavior. Efforts to reduce the supply of and demand for illicit drugs, including street-level law enforcement, military intervention, education, treatment, and drug testing are reviewed. Legal issues in drug policy, including the drug legalization debate, are considered. Prerequisite(s): RCRJ 201 or 203 or permission of instructor or junior or senior class standing.

RCRJ 408 Ideology and Crime (3)
The nature of ideology; the relevance of a wide range of political theories to the exploration of crime; the comparative influence of various ideologies upon criminological research; the paradigmatic view of science in relation to research in criminal justice; the problem of objectivity; the problem of progress; the role of the criminologist as researcher and practitioner; an introduction to the ideology of law. Prerequisite(s): RCRJ 203.

RCRJ 410 Women and Crime (3)
A review of theories about the relationships among sex, gender, crime, and criminal justice processing. Characteristics of female offenders and offending patterns are reviewed for their relevance to understanding motivational and behavioral patterns in female offenders. Crime causal theories (biological, sociological, psychological) are evaluated for their compatibility with female crime data. Prerequisite(s): RCRJ 201 or 203.

RCRJ 411 The Community and Corrections (3)
Examines the relationship between the community and the correctional system, focusing on the relationships between prisons and the community as well as community-based alternatives to incarceration. The historical development of major correctional programs based in the community is examined, as is the current philosophy of community corrections. Questions about the effectiveness of community-based correctional alternatives are also considered. Prerequisite(s): RCRJ 201 or 302.

RCRJ 412Z Incarceration (4)
Provides an analysis of the historical development, organization and administration of correctional institutions. Social control processes within prisons are considered, as are policy dilemmas posed by "special category" inmates who require innovative and specialized intervention. Examines current topics such as overcrowding and its effects on institutional functioning, prison construction, disturbances and others. Prerequisite(s): RCRJ 201 or RCRJ 302.

RCRJ 413 Victims of Crime (3)
Examination of the multifaceted problem of crime victimization. Focuses on the incidence of criminal victimization, social characteristics of crime victims, the treatment of the victim in the criminal justice system, and efforts designed to alleviate the consequences of criminal victimization and provide support to victims. Prerequisite(s): RCRJ 203.
RCRJ 414Z Order and Disorder in Society (4)
An examination of problems of social control in different cultural settings and historical epochs. Students gain insight into the variety of solutions that have been devised for the problems of crime and disorder and thereby begin to understand the potentialities as well as the constraints in social ordering. Key questions addressed are: what kinds of disorder problems did a particular society face and what was the preferred solution adopted? Reading will be historical, literary and social scientific. Prerequisite(s): junior or senior class standing. Meets General Education: WI

RCRJ 416Z Current Issues in Delinquency (4)
This course examines a number of current issues in the field of juvenile delinquency research including causes of delinquency, the nature of delinquent careers and the effectiveness of efforts to prevent and treat delinquency. Emphasis is placed on analyzing recent developments in the area and, since it is a writing intensive course, presenting written critiques of the research. Prerequisite(s): RCRJ 201 and 203. Meets General Education: WI

RCRJ 417 Cross-National Crime (3)
The purpose of this course is to describe and understand geographic and temporal variations in the amounts and types of crime across countries. Students will critically examine the data, methods, and theories used to measure and explain crime across nations and over time.

RCRJ 418 Information Use and Misuse in Criminal Justice (3)
The information technology revolution has had a large impact on the criminal justice system. This course will use contemporary examples to explore the ways in which criminal justice information is used for different purposes and to examine some common mistakes made when interpreting such information.

RCRJ 423 Student Legal Services Internship Seminar (4)
Interns work in the Legal Service Office on campus under the supervision of a practicing attorney gaining valuable first-hand experience with the legal process. Interns must take RCRJ 424 or 425 during the fall semester. During the spring semester participation in a weekly seminar covering various areas of substantive law is required in addition to office hours. Internships are open only to qualified juniors and seniors who have an overall grade point average of 2.50 or higher. Prerequisite(s): RCRJ 424 or 425 and permission of instructor.

RCRJ 424 Introduction to Substantive Criminal Law (3)
The general principles of substantive criminal law studied through analysis of judicial opinions, text and, where appropriate, social science research. Principles such as mens rea, causation, harm, and actus reus are of recurring importance. They are considered both in the context of the definition of substantive criminal offenses, such as murder, assault and conspiracy, and with respect to such defenses as insanity, duress, self defense, mistake of fact or law and others. Prerequisite(s): junior or senior class standing.

RCRJ 425 Introduction to the Law of Criminal Procedure (4)
The study of judicial opinions provides the opportunity for students to become familiar with fundamental principles and rules of constitutional criminal procedure, and their application within specific factual settings. Where relevant, textual materials and social science research bearing on the legal issues are considered. Anticipated topics include: the functioning of the adversarial system of proof, including the respective obligations and duties of prosecuting attorneys and criminal defense lawyers; the Fifth Amendment and compulsory self-incrimination issues; the fourth amendment and the law of search and seizure; issues in capital punishment; and other, related matters. Prerequisite(s): junior or class standing.

RCRJ 426 Moot Court (3)
This class involves preparing for and participating in the American Collegiate Moot court Association (ACMA) Eastern regional Qualifying Tournament. Students will study judicial decisions covering issues related to the hypothetical case that is the subject of the AMCA competition, construct arguments addressing the issues, and orally present those arguments consistent with rules governing the moot court tournament.

RCRJ 428 Contemporary Legal Issues in Criminal Justice (3)
Select legal topics involving a variety of criminal justice issues are explored through consideration of judicial decisions and related readings. Illustrative issues to be examined include capital punishment, substantive due process (e.g., the criminalization of homosexual sodomy, abortion, physical-assisted suicide), the law of rape, drug-testing, mental health law, the rights of children, and the rights of prisoners. Specific topics considered may vary in light of contemporary legal developments. Prerequisite(s): junior or senior class standing.

RCRJ 450Z Street-Level Bureaucracy (4)
Criminal justice agencies, welfare agencies, schools, and some other public agencies constitute a class of organizations known as street-level bureaucracies. This course examines the work performed by street-level bureaucrats, the structural properties that street-level bureaucracies have in common, and the administrative problems in which these properties result. Prerequisite(s): R CRJ 201.
RCRJ 481 Honors: Topical Senior Research (3)
This course is the first in a two-semester sequence of courses required to fulfill the requirements of the honors program in criminal justice. R CRJ 481 is designed to involve undergraduate honor students in exploring research opportunities in a continuing research project. The course will introduce students to a specific problem in the field through evaluation of current literature and research. Students will be expected to develop their own research question and proposal by the conclusion of the term. Prerequisite(s): permission of instructor, for Honors majors only.

RCRJ 482 Honors: Independent Senior Thesis (3)
This course is designed for students pursuing individual research projects with faculty to complete the Honors Thesis requirement. The course is the first of a two part sequence and should be utilized by students to explore a problem in the field through evaluation of current literature and research. Additionally, students in this course will also participate in bi-weekly cohort/thesis meetings to discuss their various projects. Prerequisite(s): permission of instructor, for Honors majors only.

RCRJ 490 Honors: Theory and Research (3)
This course is designed to introduce undergraduate students to advanced Criminal Justice theory and research. Specifically this course aims to introduce students to the various research projects with which the faculty is involved and to assist them in preparing for their own senior honors research projects. Prerequisite(s): permission of instructor, for Honors majors only.

RCRJ 491 Honors: Topical Senior Research (3)
This course is the second in a two-semester sequence of courses required to fulfill the requirements of the honors program in criminal justice. R CRJ 491 is designed to involve undergraduate honor students in conducting their own research project. After review a current problem in the field (RCRJ 481), students will design and execute their own research proposals that address a gap in the literature. The class size will be limited to maintain a seminar-like dynamic that is valuable to student's intellectual development and mastery of the material. Prerequisite(s): permission of instructor, for Honors majors only.

RCRJ 492 Honors: Independent Senior Thesis (3)
This is the second course in a two part sequence. During this semester the student will finish conducting their research and write their thesis. During this term students will be working solely with their faculty mentors to complete the honors thesis. Prerequisite(s): permission of instructor, for Honors majors only.

RCRJ 493 Seminar in Applied Criminal Justice (3)
This course is a biweekly seminar in which analysis of the field placement (R CRJ 494) and related issues will take place. Co-requisite(s): R CRJ 494. Prerequisite(s): only open to criminal justice majors with senior standing and an overall grade point average of 2.50 or higher; one relevant upper division course and permission of department required.

RCRJ 494 Internship in Criminal Justice (3)
The field experience requires both a minimum of 15 hours/week in an approved Capital District community placement that will engage the student in the study of crime and/or criminal justice policy and programs. Also, participation in a biweekly seminar in which analysis of the field placement and related issues will take place. Corequisite(s): R CRJ 493. Prerequisite(s): only open to criminal justice majors with senior standing and an overall grade point average of 2.50 or higher; one relevant upper division course and permission of department required. S/U graded.

RCRJ 495 Special Topics in Criminal Justice (2-3)
This variable credit (2-3) course examines specialized topics in criminal justice. Topics may vary from semester to semester. May be repeated when subject matter differs. Differential credit is awarded according to requirements defined by instructor. Prerequisite(s): RCRJ 201 or 203 and junior or senior class standing; or permission of instructor.

RCRJ 496Z Special Topics in Criminal Justice (4)
Intensive examination of specialized topics in criminal justice. Topics may vary from semester to semester. May be repeated when subject matter differs. Prerequisite(s): RCRJ 201 or 203 or permission of instructor or junior or senior class standing. Meets General Education: WI

RCRJ 497 Special Topics in Criminal Justice (3)
Intensive examination of specialized topics in criminal justice. Topics may vary from semester to semester. May be repeated when subject matter differs. Prerequisite(s): RCRJ 201 or 203 or permission of instructor or junior or senior class standing.

RCRJ 498 Independent Study in Criminal Justice (1-3)
Independent study or research on selected topics in criminal justice under the direction of a faculty member. The student is responsible for locating a faculty member who is willing to direct the independent study. May be repeated for credit but no more than 3 credits may be accumulated. Prerequisite(s): permission of instructor and undergraduate program director, and junior or senior class standing. S/U graded.

RCRJ 499 Senior Seminar in Criminal Justice (3)
Covers a variety of topics in the criminal justice system. Content varies with each offering. May be repeated for up to 9 credits when topic differs. Prerequisite(s): RCRJ 201 or 203 or permission of instructor. S/U graded.
RCRJ 507 Advanced Theories of Crime (3)
Theories of crime causation ranging through biological, psychological, sociological, cultural, and political theories, giving close attention to the problems inherent in approaching the study of crime from a “causes of crime” perspective. Developed around key concepts used in theories of crime (e.g., responsibility, rationality), emphasizing the multidisciplinary source of these concepts, how they are changed when applied to criminological theory, and their importance for understanding the present state of criminological theory. Prerequisite(s): permission of instructor, for Honors majors only.

RCRJ 540 Theoretical Foundations of CRJ (3)
This course introduces students to theoretical work on criminal justice process and policy, from multiple disciplinary perspectives. Topics discussed include theoretical approaches to studying individual, organizational, system, and political behavior. Emphasis is placed on the practical utilization of theory to inform development of research problems and agendas. Prerequisite(s): permission of instructor, for Honors majors only.