

School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Website (<https://cssh.northeastern.edu/sccj/>)

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The School of Criminology and Criminal Justice prepares students for meaningful careers in criminology, justice policy, the law, criminal justice, and related fields, including professional research careers. We do this by applying multidisciplinary social science tools that predict and explain crime, as well as deepening the understanding of policies that improve our systems of justice. We encourage each student to plan a program of study consistent with their interests and future aims. Our approach is experiential and our methods for teaching are rooted in knowledge creation as a top-tier research program. Our goal is to create ethical problem solvers who are prepared to tackle important crime and justice issues facing society. Our educational goals for students include a commitment to identify and address the role of systemic racism and intersecting dimensions of oppression in the development and application of justice system policies and practices, crime and justice theory, and research.

Our student interests traverse a diverse range of fields and careers. Our program is flexibly designed to allow students to take different paths to pursue different goals and interests:

- **Understand, investigate, and stop crime.** Develop cutting-edge skills in fields such as psychology of crime, cybercrime and cybersecurity, white-collar crime investigation, corporate security, and national security.
- **Build a foundation for law school.** Pursue a career in criminal law as a prosecutor, defense attorney, a judge, or explore another area of the law or politics.
- **Reform justice policies and practices.** Effect change and address systemic problems in our laws and justice systems. Explore the broader goal of helping to fix or reform the criminal justice system by working with politicians, policymakers and researchers, advocacy groups, and other political organizations.
- **Help victims of crime or those harmed by the justice system.** Become involved with victim advocacy groups and victim assistance programs. Help those harmed by their contact with the criminal justice system by working with vulnerable populations. Help those who are incarcerated and those transitioning from prison.
- **Improve national security, the administration of justice, and protect human rights on a global scale.** Prepare for careers in Interpol, the United Nations, the Department of Justice, and similar organizations.

Our curriculum is structured into four levels of learning, across multiple pathways. The first, or foundations level, is where students acquire a base understanding of three substantive pillars of our field: crime, the law, and the justice system. This level also introduces students to topical issues related to crime and justice and guidance to develop digital skills.

In our second level, institutions and systems, students develop a solid understanding of the systems and institutions tasked with providing justice. We do so by promoting experience and interaction with local criminal justice institutions.

Our third level, crime problems and justice system challenges, engages students with specific crime problems such as violence, drug addiction, organized crime, or terrorism. This level cultivates knowledge that deals with problems in the criminal justice system, focusing on disparities and biases, including those related to gender and race.

Finally, in solutions and reform, our fourth level, students apply all the skills and knowledge obtained through the three previous levels. Students will analyze how to navigate and solve problems encountered through capstone projects, research, theses, study cases, and other work. Our curriculum enables students to explore and analyze crime and justice issues through courses on computational methods, statistical data, analytical techniques, and experiential practice. The skills students learn will continue to serve them throughout their professional life.

Our faculty are renowned scholars in their fields and are dedicated to exploring and analyzing pressing issues facing our society. They are actively engaged in research, and undergraduates have opportunities to work closely with faculty to collaborate on projects related to crime and justice issues: crime prevention, human trafficking, police accountability, hate crimes, mass incarceration, and much more.

The School of Criminology and Criminal Justice was established in 1967 as one of the first schools devoted to matters of crime and justice. It remains one of the top-ranked research programs in criminology, something that is unique to universities with highly ranked undergraduate programs. We invite you to further explore our course offerings and combined major degrees with psychology, cybersecurity, political science, and others.

Academic Progression Standards

Same as university-wide standards described under “Academic Status (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/progression-standards/#status>).”

Programs

Bachelor of Science (BS)

- Business Administration and Criminal Justice (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/business/business-administration-combined-majors/business-administration-criminal-justice-bs/>)
- Criminology and Criminal Justice (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/social-sciences-humanities/criminology-criminal-justice/criminology-criminal-justice-bs/>)
- Computer Science and Criminal Justice (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/computer-information-science/computer-information-science-combined-majors/computer-science-criminal-justice-bs/>)
- Criminal Justice and Journalism (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/social-sciences-humanities/criminology-criminal-justice/criminal-justice-journalism-bs/>)
- Criminal Justice and Philosophy (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/social-sciences-humanities/criminology-criminal-justice/criminal-justice-philosophy-bs/>)
- Criminal Justice and Political Science (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/social-sciences-humanities/criminology-criminal-justice/criminal-justice-political-science-bs/>)
- Criminal Justice and Psychology (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/social-sciences-humanities/criminology-criminal-justice/criminal-justice-psychology-bs/>)
- Criminal Justice and Sociology (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/social-sciences-humanities/criminology-criminal-justice/criminal-justice-sociology-bs/>)
- Cybersecurity and Criminal Justice (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/computer-information-science/computer-science/cybersecurity-criminal-justice-bs/>)
- Data Science and Criminal Justice (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/computer-information-science/computer-information-science-combined-majors/data-science-criminal-justice-bs/>)
- Human Services and Criminal Justice (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/social-sciences-humanities/interdisciplinary/human-services-criminal-justice-bs/>)

Bachelor of Arts (BA)

- English and Criminal Justice (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/social-sciences-humanities/english/english-criminal-justice-ba/>)
- History and Criminal Justice (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/social-sciences-humanities/history/history-criminal-justice-ba/>)
- International Affairs and Criminal Justice (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/social-sciences-humanities/international-affairs/international-affairs-criminal-justice-ba/>)

Minor

- Criminal Justice (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/social-sciences-humanities/criminology-criminal-justice/criminal-justice-minor/>)

Accelerated Programs

See Accelerated Bachelor/Graduate Degree Programs (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/social-sciences-humanities/accelerated-bachelor-graduate-degree-programs/#programstext>)