Criminal Justice

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Program Description

Criminal Justice is the application of law, and the social and natural sciences to the societal phenomenon of crime and delinquency. The discipline addresses definitions, causation, prevention, legal processes, and treatment of offenders.

Many career opportunities for students trained in Criminal Justice are available. Opportunities exist in various law enforcement and governmental agencies including DEA agent, FBI agent, corrections officer, security officer, private investigator, game law enforcement officer, immigration officer, Alcohol/Tobacco/Firearms inspector, United States trustee, Internal Revenue officer, Border Patrol agent, Consumer Safety inspector, and other related fields.

The Criminal Justice program offers baccalaureate degrees with emphases in Criminology or Digital Forensics. Both emphases are available in either a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science. In addition, students may pursue an Associate of Science in Criminal Justice degree, a Criminal Justice emphasis as part of the Integrated Studies baccalaureate degree, or a Certificate of Completion in Computer Forensics.

Dixie State University Digital Forensics Crime Lab (http://dsu-cci.com)

The Dixie State University Digital Forensics Crime Lab is a unique enterprise providing oversight to operations, projects, and finances involving DSU Criminal Justice faculty and students interfacing with local, state, regional, and national law enforcement officers and programs to educate traditional Criminal Justice majors and provide a new Criminal Justice focus on high tech crime. The Crime Lab educates consumers, law enforcement, and criminal justice students (future law enforcement officers) on identify theft and computer related crimes. The Digital Forensics Crime Lab includes a cyber crime lab that is used to train DSU students and Utah’s local and statewide law enforcement officers in modern techniques necessary for combating the growing incidences of computer-based crime. They learn how to collect online evidence, dissect and analyze storage disks, keep detailed logs, protect the “chain of custody” and present expert testimony in court.

The Crime Lab facilitates cooperation between law enforcement and academia that strengthens the region’s and Utah’s crime fighting efforts. The Crime Lab also provides scholarships for top students and coordinates internships with law enforcement agencies targeting Utah computer crime. This real-life hands-on experience provides DSU students with experience for high level private and government jobs upon graduation. The goal is to provide the criminal justice field with focused graduates who have sufficient computer science skills to effectively meet and stay ahead of the threat.

What is the study of Criminal Justice?

The contemporary field of Criminal Justice is diverse; topics of study include law enforcement, criminal investigation, causes of criminal behavior, corrections, and more. Whether a student desires to enter law enforcement or to pursue a graduate degree in the behavioral sciences, this program intends to offer the appropriate education.
Course Prefixes

- CJ

Clubs

The Criminal Justice Club is an active group of students who engage in social and service activities.

Degrees & Certificates

- Bachelor of Arts/Science in Criminal Justice - Criminology Emphasis (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/criminaljustice/bachelor_of_artsscience_in_criminal_justice__criminology_emphasis)
- Bachelor of Arts/Science in Criminal Justice - Digital Forensics Emphasis (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/criminaljustice/bachelor_of_artsscience_in_criminal_justice__emphasis_in_digital_forensics)
- Bachelor of Arts/Science in Integrated Studies - Criminal Justice Emphasis (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/interdisciplinaryartsandsciences/bachelor_of_sciencebachelor_of_arts_in_integrated_studies__criminal_justice_emphasis)
- Associate of Science in Criminal Justice (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/criminaljustice/associate_of_science_in_criminal_justice)
- Certificate of Completion in Computer Forensics (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/criminaljustice/certificate_of_completion_in_computer_forensics)
- Certificate of Proficiency in Digital Forensics Basics (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/criminaljustice/certificate_in_proficiency_in_digital_forensics_basics)
- Minor in Criminology (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/minor_in_criminology)
- Minor in Digital Forensics (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/minor_in_digital_forensics)
- Minor in Social Justice (catalog.dixie.edu/programs/minor_in_social_justice)

Program Learning Outcomes

DSU Criminal Justice graduates will be able to:

- Define the major components of the Criminal Justice system and the fundamental processes that take place therein.

Criminology emphasis graduates will be able to:

- Select primary criminological theories and outline their causal arguments.
- Employ correct criminological theory to address criminal behavior, crime trends, or Criminal Justice policy/practice.
- Characterize basic methodological techniques employed in past and current criminological research.
- Appraise research that illuminates the strengths and weaknesses of current criminal justice policy or research that attempts to reveal the causes of criminal behavior.
- Apply appropriate research methods to analyze varying criminal behaviors or functions within the Criminal Justice system.

Digital Forensics emphasis graduates will be able to:

- Understand current technologies, and how these are misused to commit cyber-crime.
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of the underlying hardware that facilitates criminal activity in cyber-crime.
- Apply an understanding of different digital forensic methodologies to the appropriate environments and situation.
- Identify each phase of the digital forensic process and apply each phase with current technologies in such a manner that will result in admissible evidence.
- Explore the problems faced by criminal justice professionals through the examination of the yet to be solved challenges resulting from the emergence and proliferation of cyber-crime, and develop plausible solutions.

Criminology Career Information

Career Strategies

In addition to the required coursework in criminal justice, students can do the following to enhance their career opportunities:

- Learn to work well with people of diverse backgrounds.
- Consider learning 2nd language.
- Maintain a good driving record and a blemish free criminal record.
- Gain firearms and self-defense training.
- Develop strong interviewing, research, computer, and writing skills.
- Obtain training or certifications in first aid, CPR or EMT.
- Maintain a healthy and physically fit lifestyle.
- To work with juveniles, gain experience working with youth through sports teams, as a summer camp counselor, in parks and recreation programs or community/religious youth groups.
• Become familiar with the legal system and observe courtroom proceedings. Obtain experience through volunteering, practicum and/or internship opportunities.

**Career Opportunities**

Career opportunities include local and federal law enforcement, corrections, and the courts. Criminal justice studies can also assist students in pursuit of graduate degrees that include other disciplines such as psychology, sociology, public administration, social work, counseling, and law.

**Job Outlook**

Employment opportunities in law enforcement and corrections are very competitive on the local, state and Federal level. Career opportunities for attorneys will be competitive for the next several years.

**Salary Range**

Salaries vary by geographic location, years of experience, and career specialty. For example, Police and detectives have median annual wages of $60,270, but salaries differ in various regions. Median annual wages of correctional officers and bailiffs are $41,670.

**Digital Forensics Career Information**

**Career Strategies**

• Maintain a good driving record and blemish-free criminal record.
• Develop strong research and writing skills.
• Develop excellent computer skills in networking, programming, or system administration
• Become familiar with the legal system, observe courtroom proceedings.
• Obtain experience through volunteering, practicum and/or internship opportunities.
• Keep up-to-date on current technology.

**Career Opportunities**

Essentially all criminal activity, in one way or another, will at some point produce evidence. Business and industry use digital forensics to identify property theft, fraud, network and computer intrusions and unauthorized use of computers and other digital media. Law enforcement agencies use digital forensics to gather digital evidence for a variety of crimes including child pornography, fraud, terrorism, extortion, cyber-stalking, money laundering, forgery, and identity theft. The military and government intelligence agencies use digital forensics in internal investigations and to gather intelligence information from computers captured during military actions.

**Job Outlook**

Employment of forensic science technicians is expected to increase by 27% from 2014 to 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations.

**Salary Range**

Median annual wages of salaried private detectives and investigators were $45,610 in May 2015. The median annual wage for digital forensics specialists was $56,320 the same year. Wages of private detectives and investigators vary greatly by employer, specialty, and geographic area.

* From the Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2015