

CRIMINAL JUSTICE (BS)



This program was approved for students entering the university in the Summer 2025-Spring 2026 catalog year. For more information about catalog year, go to Catalog Year Information (<https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/university-wide-unit-specific-policies/catalog-year/>).

Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice

Unit: College of Arts and Sciences (AS) (<http://www.louisville.edu/a-s/>)
 Department: Criminal Justice (<http://louisville.edu/justice/>)
 Academic Plan Code(s): JA_ _BS, JA_ _BS_O

Program Information

This program can be completed 100% online (<https://louisville.edu/online/programs/bachelors/bachelor-of-science-in-criminal-justice/>).

The Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice program is designed to prepare students for a career in the criminal justice system or for further education through a graduate program. Completion of this degree requires work to be submitted for the department's Learning Outcomes Measurement. For details, contact the department.

Degree Summary

Code	Title	Hours
	General Education Requirements (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) ¹	31
	College/School Requirements	13-15
	Program/Major Requirements ¹	54
	Supporting Courses	21-23
Minimum Total Hours		121

¹ Some credit hours from the General Education Requirements may be satisfied by courses defined by the program, in which case additional electives will be required to complete the minimum hours for the degree. See the Degree Requirements tab for specific coursework.

Specific coursework information can be found on the Degree Requirements tab.

Soaring Scholars Program-Accelerated BS/MS in Criminal Justice

Criminal Justice majors who are considering pursuing a master's degree (MS) in Criminal Justice can speed up the process through the Soaring Scholars program. Students accepted into the Soaring Scholars program (Accelerated BS/MS program) can take four graduate courses (12 credit hours) as an undergraduate that would apply toward both the bachelor's degree and the master's degree. An additional benefit of the Soaring Scholars program is that those 12 credit hours would be charged at the undergraduate tuition rate.

Interested students should apply to the Soaring Scholar's program during their Junior year (i.e., when they have accumulated 60-75 hours of credit). Applicants must have at least a 3.0 GPA at the time of application. This program is available to both on campus and online students.

Undergraduate students interested in participating in an accelerated dual bachelor's/master's degree offered through the university's Soaring Scholar Program (<https://graduate.louisville.edu/academics/programs/soaring/>) must first meet with their Academic Advisor to determine eligibility and apply to the program. Once accepted, students will receive an official admission letter outlining program policies and details. They will then work with their department and academic advisor to register for classes each semester, ensuring they meet the milestones and academic progress requirements of the Soaring Scholar Program (<https://graduate.louisville.edu/academics/programs/soaring/>). A Soaring Scholar (<https://graduate.louisville.edu/academics/programs/soaring/>) student is considered an undergraduate student until their bachelor's degree is conferred. In their final undergraduate semester, they are expected to apply for admission to their respective master's program.

Departmental Admission Requirements

There are no specific admission requirements for this degree plan.

The Change Major Request form can be found under the Academic Progress tile on ULink.

Soaring Scholars Program-Accelerated BS-MS in Criminal Justice

Students apply during the first or second semester of their Junior year (usually when they have earned between 60-75 hours) and must have a 3.0 GPA at the time of application.

Students interested in applying to the BS/MS Criminal Justice Soaring Scholars program should follow the application process outlined in the Soaring Scholars Application Checklist (<https://graduate.louisville.edu/academics/programs/soaring/>); minimum requirements for the BS/MS in Criminal Justice Soaring Scholars program are also listed there.

Admission to a Soaring Scholar program does not guarantee admission into the associated master's degree program. Soaring Scholar students must apply to the associated graduate program in their last semester, before graduating with the bachelor's degree, to be considered for the Accelerated Master's graduate program. They must meet all the requirements for admission to the graduate program at the time of application to be admitted. Learn more about the graduate admissions process (<https://graduate.louisville.edu/admission/apply/>) and admission requirements for the Criminal Justice Master's program (insert unique URL for each program).

General Education Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Requirements (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) *		31
The following courses are required by the program and can satisfy the respective General Education Requirement:		
CJ 200	Introduction to Criminal Justice - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) (or CJ 201 or CJ 202)	
CJ 326	Quantitative Analysis in Criminal Justice - QR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	

*All degrees require the completion of the University-wide General Education Program (link provided above). Some General Education requirements may be met in the requirements for the major or supporting coursework, in which case additional electives may be required to complete the minimum hours for the degree.

College/School Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Arts & Sciences Requirements		
GEN 100 or GEN 101	Student Success Center First Year Experience Arts & Sciences First Year Experience	1
	Foreign Language ¹	6-8
	Electives in Humanities or Natural Sciences at 300 level or above ²	6
	WR—two approved courses at the 300 level or above ³	
Minimum Total Hours		13-15

Program/Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Department of Criminal Justice - Required Core Courses		
CJ 200	Introduction to Criminal Justice - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) ⁴	3
CJ 201	Introduction to Law Enforcement - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) ⁴	3
CJ 202	Introduction to Corrections - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) ⁴	3
CJ 305	Theories of Crime and Behavior	3
CJ 306	Criminal Procedure	3
CJ 325	Criminal Justice Research Methods	3
CJ 326	Quantitative Analysis in Criminal Justice - QR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) ⁴	3
CJ 360	Juvenile Justice	3
CJ 395	Criminal Law and Evidence	3
CJ 485	Criminal Justice Senior Seminar - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) ⁵	3
Minimum Total Hours		30

Code	Title	Hours
Supporting Courses		
Criminal Justice Electives (see approved list below) ⁶		24
Minimum Free Electives ⁷		21-23
Minimum Total Hours for Graduation		121

Code	Title	Hours
Culminating Undergraduate Experience (Graduation requirement)		
Requirement fulfilled by completing:		
CJ 485	Criminal Justice Senior Seminar - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) ⁵	

Students must have a minimum of 50 hours at the 300 level or above.

Code	Title	Hours
Approved Criminal Justice Electives		
<i>A minimum 15 hours must be in Criminal Justice</i>		
CJ 299	Criminal Justice Occupational Courses and Learning	
CJ 300	Career Development and Cultural Intelligence - D1 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
CJ 301	Introduction to Digital Forensics and Media Analysis	
CJ 304	Criminal Justice Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)	
CJ 335	Court Administration	
CJ 352	Sex Crimes	
CJ 354	Crime and the Media	
CJ 355	Forensic Science and Investigative Techniques	
CJ 356	Harm Reduction and Public Safety	
CJ 358	Private Security Management	
CJ 365	Community Corrections	
CJ 366	Introduction to Cyber Investigations	
CJ 370	Law Enforcement Administration	
CJ 375	Social and Restorative Justice	
CJ 390	Criminal Court Procedures	
CJ 400	Legal Issues in Corrections	
CJ 403	Institutional Corrections	
CJ 405	Crimes Against Older Adults	
CJ 406	Crime Victims and Victimization	
CJ 415	Drugs and Crime	
CJ 420	Computer Applications in Criminal Justice	
CJ 421	Organized Crime	
CJ 425	Behavioral Analysis of Violent Crime	
CJ 426	Violence in the United States	
CJ 430	Environmental Crime	
CJ 435	Comparative Criminal Justice - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
CJ 440	Human Trafficking	

CJ 445	Computer and Electronic Crime	COMM 312	Group Process
CJ 450	Internship	COMM 313	Organizational Communication
CJ 460	Correctional Rehabilitation	COMM 315	Introduction to Interpersonal Communication
CJ 471	Police Administration	COMM 320	Newswriting - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)
CJ 473	Law and Police Administration	COMM 324	Communication and Gender
CJ 477	Police Organizational Behavior	COMM 327	The Influence of Media
CJ 493	Police and the Community	COMM 328	Introduction to Urban Communication
CJ 495	Directed Studies	COMM 350	Introduction to Intercultural Communication - D2 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)
CJ 496	Special Topics in Criminal Justice	COMM 411	Mass Communication Law
CJ 499	Criminal Justice Honors Thesis - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	COMM 432	Advanced Organizational Communication - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)
CJ 500	Crime and Criminal Justice in Film	GEOG 327	Economic Geography
CJ 505	International Terrorism	GEOG 328	Urban Geography
CJ 509	Crime Analysis	GEOG 331	Population Geography
CJ 510	Managing Conflict, Change, and Justice	GEOG 350	Introduction to Mapping and Geospatial Technologies
CJ 516	Seminar in Juvenile Justice Issues	GEOG 356	Introduction to Spatial Statistics
CJ 517	Gangs in the United States	GEOG 361	Sustainable Human Environments - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)
CJ 519	Domestic and Family Violence	GEOG 367	Applications Development for GIS
CJ 520	Capital Punishment - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	<i>Honors Approved Social Science Seminars</i>	
CJ 521	Corporate and Financial Crime - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	PAS 305	Legal Lynchings: A Survey of Race, Law, and the American Justice System
CJ 522	Serial and Mass Murder	PAS 313	Urban Ritual Violence
CJ 523	Race and Gender in Criminal Justice - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	PAS 322	The History of the Civil Rights Movement, 1900 to Present
CJ 530	Introduction to Homeland Security	PAS 324	Politics, Political Violence and Black Resistance
CJ 576	Managing Organizational Performance	PAS 325	Politics of Black Male Identity in Post-Modern America
CJ 577	Trauma Informed Policing	PAS 326	Black Political Thought: Africa to Afrocentricity
CJ 578	Criminal Justice Leadership - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	PAS 327	Politics of the Black Community - D1 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)
CJ 580	International Service Learning: Criminal Justice Seminar	PAS 338	Race and Economics
CJ 596	Seminar in Criminal Justice	PAS 362	Civil Rights and the Law I
CJ 597	Ethics in Criminal Justice - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	PAS 363	Civil Rights and the Law II
Approved Program Related Electives		PAS 364	Racism and Sexism - D1 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)
<i>Students may supplement the required 15 hours of CJ electives with 9 additional hours from the CJ list above or from the list below.</i>			
ANTH 309	Sex, Gender and Culture	PAS 374	The Black Power Movement
ANTH 310	Race, Culture, Identity	PEAC 325	Peace, Justice & Conflict Transformation
ANTH 327	The Human Skeleton	PEAC 350	Mediation & Conflict Transformation
ANTH 337	Nationalism, Violence, and the State	PEAC 525	Peace, Justice & Conflict Transformation
ANTH 410	Skeletal Forensics	PEAC 545	Basic Mediation & Conflict Transformation
BSW 301	Human Behavior and the Social Environment I		
BSW 302	Social Welfare Policy I		
BSW 307	Diversity, Oppression and Social Justice Practice		
COMM 304	Argument In Everyday Life		
COMM 311	Persuasion		

PEAC 550	Service Learning in Peacebuilding	SCHG 502	Advanced Topics in Social Change: Social Sciences
POLS 302	Urban Political Economy	SCHG 503	Advanced Topics in Social Change: Social Sciences - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)
POLS 304	Comparative Urban Politics	SCHG 510	Managing Conflict, Change, and Justice
POLS 305	Urban Politics	SCHG 513	U.S. Social Justice Movements of the 20th Century
POLS 306	State Government	SCHG 538	Critical Social Theory
POLS 312	Constitutional Law	SOC 305	Urban Sociology
POLS 313	Constitutional Law	SOC 320	Social Theory - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)
POLS 314	Judicial Politics	SOC 323	Diversity and Inequality
POLS 315	Race, Law and Politics - D1 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	SOC 329	Sociology of Families
POLS 316	Gender, Sexuality & Law	SOC 334	Sociology of Deviant Behavior
POLS 320	Civil Rights and the Law II	SOC 337	Motherhood and the Law
POLS 325	Public Administration	SOC 339	Black Women and the Criminology System
POLS 326	Public Policy - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	SOC 340	Mental Health and Illness
POLS 327	Black Politics & Democracy - D1 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	SOC 416	Sexual Assault and the Legal System
POLS 332	International Law - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	SOC 418	Domestic Violence
POLS 333	American Foreign Policy	WGST 300	Sex, Gender and Culture
POLS 444	Law, Diplomacy and Power: The Foreign Relations of the U.S.	WGST 301	Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Studies
POLS 338	National and International Security: Issues and Policies	WGST 316	Gender, Sexuality & Law
POLS 339	Terrorism	WGST 337	Motherhood and the Law
PSYC 305	Brain and Behavior	WGST 347	Racism and Sexism - D1 (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)
PSYC 306	Life Span Developmental Psychology	WGST 416	Sexual Assault and the Legal System
PSYC 308	Foundations of Psychopathology	WGST 418	Domestic Violence
PSYC 310	Psychology of Diversity	WGST 513	U.S. Social Justice Movements of the 20th Century
PSYC 312	Social Psychology		
PSYC 315	Personality		
PSYC 342	Drugs and Behavior		
PSYC 318	Forensic Psychology		
SCHG 302	Topics in Social Change: Social Sciences		
SCHG 303	Topics in Social Change: Social Sciences - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)		
SCHG 305	Hip-Hop and Social Movements - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)		
SCHG 323	Modern American Social Movements		
SCHG 333	Globalizing Inequalities - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)		
SCHG 375	Social and Restorative Justice		
SCHG 399	Lectures in Social Change		
SCHG 401	Social Change Community Internship		
SCHG 453	Social Change		

- ¹ Completion of the second semester of a single foreign language; hours will vary depending on language taken
- ² In addition to courses counted toward General Education
- ³ May be incorporated into other degree requirements
- ⁴ Fulfills General Education requirement.
- ⁵ Fulfills 3 hours of the 6 hour 300+ WR requirement.
- ⁶ Criminal Justice electives must be from approved departmental list at the 300 level or above. A minimum of 15 hours must be in Criminal Justice, but may not exceed 30 hours
- ⁷ Students who satisfy General Education Requirements by courses defined by the program will require additional electives to complete the minimum hours for the degree.

Flight Plan

Year 1

Fall		Hours
GEN 100 or GEN 101	Student Success Center First Year Experience or Arts & Sciences First Year Experience	1
ENGL 101	Introduction to College Writing - WC (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
CJ 200	Introduction to Criminal Justice - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3

General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences - S	3
Foreign Language (students who take 3 credits will require additional elective credits)	3-4
General Education: Cardinal Core U.S. Diversity - D1	3
Hours	16

Spring		
CJ 201	Introduction to Law Enforcement - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
ENGL 102	Intermediate College Writing - WC (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3

General Education: Cardinal Core Arts & Humanities - AH	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Natural Sciences with Lab - S & SL or B	4
Foreign Language (students who take 3 credits will require additional elective credits)	3-4
Hours	16

Year 2		
Fall		
CJ 202	Introduction to Corrections - SB (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
CJ 305	Theories of Crime and Behavior	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Arts & Humanities - AH	3	
General Education: Cardinal Core Social & Behavioral Sciences Historical Perspective - SBH	3	
General Education: Cardinal Core Oral Communication - OC	3	
Hours	15	

Spring		
CJ 306	Criminal Procedure	3
CJ 325	Criminal Justice Research Methods	3
General Education: Cardinal Core Global Diversity - D2	3	
General Free Elective	3	
300+ Humanities or Natural Science Elective	3	
Hours	15	

Year 3		
Fall		
CJ 326	Quantitative Analysis in Criminal Justice - QR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	3
CJ 360	Juvenile Justice	3
Criminal Justice Elective	3	
300+ Humanities or Natural Science Elective	3	
300+ WR Course	3	
Hours	15	

Spring		
CJ 395	Criminal Law and Evidence	3
Criminal Justice Elective	3	
Criminal Justice Elective	3	
Criminal Justice Elective	3	
General Free Elective	3	
Hours	15	

Year 4	
Fall	
Criminal Justice Elective	3
Criminal Justice or Program Approved Elective	3
Criminal Justice or Program Approved Elective	3
General Free Elective	3
General Free Elective	3
Hours	15

Spring		
CJ 485	Criminal Justice Senior Seminar - CUE (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/), WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/) (WR, CUE)	3
Criminal Justice or Program Approved Elective	3	
General Free Elective	3	
General Free Elective	3	
General Free Elective (if needed)	2	
Hours	14	
Minimum Total Hours	121	

The Flight Plan outlined above is intended to demonstrate one possible path to completing the degree within four years. Course selection and placement within the program may vary depending on course offerings and schedule, elective preferences, and other factors (study abroad, internship availability, etc.). Please consult your advisor for additional information about building a flight plan that works for you.

Degree Audit Report

Degree Audit reports illustrate how your completed courses fulfill the requirements of your academic plan, and which requirements are still outstanding. Degree audits also take transfer credits and test credits into account. "What-if" reports allow you to compare the courses you have completed in your current academic plan to the courses required in another academic plan. Should you have questions about either report, please consult with your academic advisor.

Flight Planner

The Flight Planner tool is available for you to create a personalized Flight Plan to graduation. Advisors have access to review your Flight Planner and can help you adjust it to ensure you remain on track to graduate in a timely manner.

To create these reports:

1. Log into your ULink account.
2. Click on the Academic Progress tile.
3. Select the appropriate report.
 - a. To run a Degree Audit report, click on "View my Degree Audit."
 - b. To create a What-if report, click on "What-if Advisement Report."
 - c. To run a Flight Planner report, click on "Use My Flight Planner."

Click here to run a Degree Audit report, create a What-if report, or run a Flight Planner report. (<https://ulink.louisville.edu>)

Soaring Scholars Program-Accelerated BS/MS in Criminal Justice

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Interested students should apply to the Soaring Scholar's program during their Junior year (i.e., when they have accumulated 60-75 hours of credit).

Applicants must have at least a 3.0 GPA at the time of application. This program is available to both on campus and online students.

Undergraduate students interested in participating in an accelerated dual bachelor's/master's degree offered through the university's Soaring Scholar Program (<https://graduate.louisville.edu/academics/programs/soaring/>) must first meet with their Academic Advisor to determine eligibility and apply to the program. Once accepted, students will receive an official admission letter outlining program policies and details. They will then work with their department and academic advisor to register for classes each semester, ensuring they meet the milestones and academic progress requirements of the Soaring Scholar Program (<https://graduate.louisville.edu/academics/programs/soaring/>). A Soaring Scholar (<https://graduate.louisville.edu/academics/programs/soaring/>) student is considered an undergraduate student until their bachelor's degree is conferred. In their final undergraduate semester, they are expected to apply for admission to their respective master's program.

Accelerated BS/MS in Criminal Justice Option

Students accepted into the Soaring Scholar Program (<https://graduate.louisville.edu/academics/programs/soaring/>) should select up to four (4) classes from the following list to count as Criminal Justice electives for the bachelor's degree and toward the master's degree:

Code	Title	Hours
CJ 621	The Criminal Justice System	3
CJ 625	Legal Aspects of Criminal Justice Management	3
CJ 643	Theories of Crime and Delinquency	3
CJ 649	Applied Statistics in Criminal Justice	3
CJ 650	Research Methods	3