

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The criminal justice curriculum at West Chester University is a broad-based, interdisciplinary program that combines theory with application. Courses that deliver applied knowledge complement a solid core curriculum of theory, philosophy, and analysis. The program is designed to fulfill your needs as a student within the following four categories:

1. A carefully planned, four-year program of study to prepare you for a career in criminal justice;
2. Those from two-year colleges who seek bachelor's degrees;
3. Criminal justice professionals who want to increase professional competencies;
4. Those who wish to pursue master's degrees or law degrees.

The program provides a core curriculum of required courses to ensure a solid working knowledge of the major systems within the discipline, as well as practical experience in a criminal justice setting.

A venue for the development of critical, analytical, and communication skills exists in a variety of elective courses that permit you to tailor an academic career to professional goals. These primary programmatic qualities advantageously position you as a graduate for entry-level jobs in criminal justice agencies or for postgraduate studies.

Career Opportunities

Criminal justice graduates have the educational credentials necessary for most positions in the criminal justice system, with the exception of those requiring a law degree. Most positions in the corrections field, such as probation or corrections officers, require a bachelor's degree. More and more law enforcement and security agencies are now requiring a bachelor's degree for entry-level positions as well. Graduates of the program will have sound foundations for continuing academic careers to obtain a postgraduate degree in criminal justice or law.

Some of the organizations the University's graduates have joined include the following:

- City and suburban police departments
- County probation and parole offices
- Department of Homeland Security
- District attorneys' offices
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Insurance and private investigation agencies
- Pennsylvania Department of Probation and Parole
- Pennsylvania State Police
- Private investigation firms
- Private law firms
- Public defenders' offices
- U.S. Border Patrol
- U.S. Marshall's Office

Undergraduate Degree

Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. This degree provides you with the required background for most areas of the criminal justice field.

Minor

Criminal justice

Typical Courses

A wide variety of courses are available within the undergraduate and graduate curriculums. These include courses concerning theory, research methods, law and procedure, investigation, criminal behavior, organized crime, and corrections. In addition, senior courses address special contemporary criminal justice issues.

Practicum Opportunities

A primary feature of the program is the summer practicum served at a criminal justice agency. It is designed to give you the opportunity to apply acquired theoretical knowledge and to learn from direct professional experience in the field. You may serve in several areas of the

UNDERGRADUATE FACT SHEET

criminal justice system: police departments, investigation units, district attorneys' and public defenders' offices, probation/parole offices, private investigation agencies, retail security departments, and some federal agencies (U.S. Marshall's Office, U.S. Bureau of Prisons).

Related Student Activities

Criminal Justice Association (Sigma Tau Omicron)

Criminal Justice Honor Society (Alpha Phi Sigma)

The Law Society

Advanced Degree

Master of Science in Criminal Justice

Faculty

You can obtain a complete listing of faculty and their academic qualifications for this program from the University's website: www.wcupa.edu.

For More Information

Dr. Mary Brewster, Chairperson

Department of Criminal Justice

200-A Ruby Jones Hall

West Chester University

West Chester, PA 19383

610-436-2647

Web page: www.wcupa.edu/_academics/sch_sba/u-cj-i.html

Undergraduate Catalog: http://www.wcupa.edu/_information/official.documents/undergrad.catalog/

About West Chester University

A comprehensive, public institution, West Chester University offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate degree programs in more than 100 subject areas, as well as certification

and certificate programs. As one of the largest members of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition.

With a rich heritage dating back to the 19th century, West Chester University was founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal School for the purpose of training teachers for the Commonwealth's newly established public schools. In 1960, West Chester State Teachers College expanded its programs to include liberal arts and graduate degrees and, as a result, dropped "Teachers" from its name. In 1983, West Chester State College became one of the 14 institutions in the State System of Higher Education. Along with its university status, the school acquired a new system of governance and the opportunity to expand its degree programs.

Today, more than 15,400 graduate and undergraduate students, along with 1,500 faculty and staff, study and work on the 406-acre campus. Situated in the Borough of West Chester, the campus is a picturesque mix of Gothic, Victorian, and modern architecture with pleasant, tree-shaded walks.

Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor between New York City and Washington, D.C., West Chester is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington.

Information on Admission

Office of Admissions

Emil H. Messikomer Hall, 100 West Rosedale Ave.

West Chester University, West Chester, PA 19383

610-436-3411 • Toll-free: 1-877-315-2165

E-mail: ugadmiss@wcupa.edu

WCU home page: www.wcupa.edu

Facebook: www.facebook.com/wcupa

