

Criminal Justice

Majoring in Criminal Justice isn't like every other major. Just ask Northern's Criminal Justice students. They'll tell you about Northern's approach to education, the small class size with lots of personal attention, the talented faculty, the use of technology in the classroom, the internships, the diverse number of career opportunities, the high job placement rate, the regional police academy, and the Criminal Justice Association. The criminal justice major is designed to ensure your future success.

Northern offers a wide variety of criminal justice courses. You can explore such topics as corrections, the judicial system, investigations, law enforcement, legal issues, criminology, and drug enforcement just to name a few. Many courses are offered via the web.

Skills and Competencies

Like other degrees, you will be exposed to a variety of academic coursework as a Criminal Justice major. In the process, you will acquire new skills. Specifically, your communication, analytical, and technical skills will be challenged and strengthened. Strong communication skills are, after all, necessary in every career field today; Criminal Justice is no exception. You will need to develop effective writing skills, as well as oral presentation, and persuasiveness. Leadership and public relation skills are important to possess. The ability to think critically, solve problems, and negotiate are also important in this field. You can expect to be exposed to academic course work and experiences that challenge and develop these skills. The curriculum at NMU prepares students for the broad professional fields of law enforcement, adult and juvenile corrections, the court systems, or graduate studies.

Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with general education and graduation requirements.

Criminal Justice Core

- CJ110 Introduction to Criminal Justice (4 cr.)
- CJ212 The Law Enforcement Function (4 cr.) or CJ220 The Corrections Function (4 cr.)
- CJ213 The Judicial Function (4 cr.)
- CJ263 Criminology (4 cr.)
- CJ315 Criminal Procedure (4 cr.)
- CJ490 Professional Development/Assess. (2 cr.)

Criminal Justice Electives (20 cr.)

At least 16 cr. must be at the 300 level or above

Minor (16 cr.)

Detailed course descriptions can be found at www.nmu.edu/bulletin.

Career Development

The resume-building process should begin as soon as possible. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your resume and look for jobs related to your field. In the meantime, the more hands-on experience you have, the better the chances are that you will find a job. Becoming involved in a professional related internship and the NMU Chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America is a way to develop your professional skills and gain experience. Your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

Additional Considerations

Most of these occupations require special training after the BA or BS degree is obtained for promotions. Good communication, human relations, and organization skills are beneficial to these occupations. These careers carry great benefits as well as opportunities for rewarding experiences.

Job Outlook

Increased homeland security has led to the creation of many new jobs in the criminal justice field especially at the federal level. Some fields will have up to a 29% increase in new positions. Starting salaries are contingent upon the agency's geographic location and the individual's work experience, and initiative.

Potential Careers

NMU's Criminal Justice Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

- Border Patrol Agent
- Corporate And Industrial Security Officer
- Corrections Officer
- Criminal Justice Professor
- Department of Natural Resources Officer
- Drug Enforcement Agent
- Internal Revenue Service Agent
- Environmental Protection Agency Specialist
- Federal Bureau of Investigation Agent
- Federal Air Marshall
- Immigration & Naturalization Service Agent
- Inspector General Investigator
- Loss Prevention Officer
- Loss Prevention Professor
- National Park Service Ranger
- Occupational Safety & Health Administration
Investigator
- Park Ranger
- Probation/Parole Officer
- Secret Service Agent
- Securities and Exchange Commissions Agent
- State or County Officer
- U.S. Customs Service Agent

Additional Resources and Information

For Career Planning and Opportunities:
Academic & Career Advisement Center
3302.1 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2971
103 Jacobetti Complex
906-227-2283
www.nmu.edu/acac

Department of Criminal Justice
2500 Jamrich
906-227-2660
www.nmu.edu/cj

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:
Career Services
3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2800
www.nmu.edu/careers

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:
Center for Student Enrichment
1206 University Center
906-227-2439
www.nmu.edu/cse

The Criminal Justice Association

Internet Resource Links:
www.careers.org
www.bls.gov

For Career Information with National Organizations:
www.asc.com -The Am. Society of Criminology
www.acjs.org -Academy of CJ Sciences
www.abanet.org -American Bar Association
www.ali.org -The American Law Institute



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY**

MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

The Academic & Career Advisement Center
2021



What to do with
a major in...

Criminal Justice

