

Criminal Justice

Majoring in Criminal Justice isn't like every other major. Just ask Northern Michigan University's Criminal Justice students. They'll tell you about NMU'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 Michigan University 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, you 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.)

Criminal Justice Electives (16 cr.)

General Electives (4 cr.)

General Education (32 cr.)

- EN111 College Composition I (4 cr.)
- EN211 College Composition II (4 cr.)
- Quantitative Reasoning and Analysis Elective (4 cr.)
- Social Responsibility in a Diverse World Elective (4 cr.)
- Integrative Thinking Elective (4 cr.)
- Human Expression Elective (4 cr.)
- Perspectives on Society Elective (4 cr.)
- Scientific Inquiry Elective (4 cr.)

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

Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advice 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 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

The Criminal Justice Associate's degree is intended to allow students to find a job while still being able to return to Northern for a Baccalaureate degree in Criminal Justice. Most professions will require the BA or BS degree as an initial launch point.

Some of the careers listed require special training after the BA or BS degree is obtained. Good communication, human relations, and organizational 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. Starting salaries are contingent upon the agency's geographic location and the individuals applicants work experience, and initiative.

Potential Careers

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

- Border Patrol Agent
- Canine Unit
- Corporate/Industrial Security Officer
- Corrections Officer
- Crime Scene Specialist
- Department of Natural Resources Officer
- Deputy
- Environmental Protection Agency Specialist
- Fish and Wildlife Officer
- Liquor Control Commission Officer
- Local/State/Federal Police Officer
- Loss Prevention Officer
- National Park Service Ranger
- Park Ranger
- Probation/Parole Officer
- State Bureau of Investigations
- State or County Officer
- Town Marshall

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 Jarmich
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**

The Academic & Career Advisement Center
2020



What to do with
a major in...

Criminal Justice
Associate's Degree

