

Department of Criminal Justice

Mission Statement

The Department of Criminal Justice (<https://www.apu.edu/bas/criminaljustice/>) prepares students to apply knowledge of criminal justice and critical analysis of social problems to promote the equitable application of the law for all people and become ethical Christian leaders in public and private organizations that intend to make communities safer. The department provides an academically rigorous focus within a liberal arts education, developing criminal justice professionals who embody Christian social justice perspectives.

About the Department

Criminal justice is an interdisciplinary social science involving the study of crime and societal responses to it. The department seeks to foster an environment of inquiry, innovation, and lifelong learning in which students learn to recognize, critically examine, and solve social problems related to crime and criminal behavior. By examining the policies and systems designed to control criminality, students learn the sociopolitical context of crime and explore the historical and contemporary theories of violent and antisocial behavior. In addition to learning academic theories and analyzing criminal justice practices, students develop practical skills such as writing for criminal justice audiences, locating relevant laws and regulations, and understanding courtroom procedures.

The department provides foundational courses for understanding contemporary criminological theory and criminal justice practice with scholarly appraisal of law enforcement, the courts, and corrections. The department also offers elective courses that encourage the reflection, critical thinking, and ethical decision making essential to becoming responsible practitioners and leaders in the criminal justice field.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the criminal justice program are prepared to enter a broad range of career paths and/or graduate study in the criminal justice field, including criminology/criminal justice, forensic psychology, forensic science, and law.