

Approx. program length:

2 years

Credits:

60

Cost per credit:

\$398

[Tuition Guarantee](#)

Format:

Online

Associate of Arts in Criminal Justice

Learn how the criminal justice and corrections systems operate. Our Associate of Arts in Criminal Justice gives you an understanding of the agencies, systems and procedures involved in criminal justice. Courses in this program are just 5 weeks long, so they won't get in the way of your busy life.

You'll learn how to:

- Solve problems encountered by criminal justice system personnel
- Identify law enforcement functions and procedures
- Recognize unique issues inherent to juvenile arrest, sentencing and detention
- Understand sentencing, probation and rehabilitation of prisoners
- Differentiate between various levels of criminal courts, as well as institutional and community corrections

Projected job growth:

According to [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

What can you do with an Associate's in Criminal Justice?

An AACJS can prepare you to be a:

- Correctional officer
- Jail officer

According to the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), job growth for correctional officers is projected to be lower than average between 2018 and 2028.

BLS projections are not specific to University of Phoenix students or graduates.

Institutional accreditation

University of Phoenix is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), hlcommission.org. Since 1978, University of Phoenix has been continually accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and its predecessor.

Total credits required:

60

Requirements and prerequisites

You'll need 60 credits to complete this associate's in criminal justice. Your course schedule may vary based on transferable credits or credits earned through the University's Prior Learning Assessment.

6 Core courses

Here's where you'll pick up the bulk of your program-specific knowledge. By the time you finish these courses, you should have the confidence and skills needed in a criminal justice environment.

- CJS/201: INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE
- CJS/225: CRITICAL THINKING IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE
- CJS/241: INTRODUCTION TO POLICE THEORY AND PRACTICES
- CJS/245: JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES
- CJS/251: INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL COURT SYSTEMS
- CJS/255: INTRODUCTION TO CORRECTIONS

14 General Education courses

These courses lay the foundation for all our degree programs. Because communication, math and writing skills aren't just universally applicable in criminal justice – they're useful in daily life. In addition, 6 of these 14 General Education courses are required Criminal Justice foundational courses: Communications, Ethics, Intro to Forensics, Cultural Diversity, Victimology, and Criminology.

- GEN/201: FOUNDATIONS FOR UNIVERSITY SUCCESS
- PSY/110: PSYCHOLOGY OF LEARNING
- ENG/100: CRITICAL READING AND COMPOSITION
- HUM/115: CRITICAL THINKING IN EVERYDAY LIFE
- ENG/200: RHETORIC AND RESEARCH
- SCI/220T: HUMAN NUTRITION
- CJS/205: COMPOSITION FOR COMMUNICATION IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
- CJS/211: ETHICS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE
- CJS/215: INTRODUCTION TO FORENSICS
- CJS/221: CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE
- CJS/231: CRIMINOLOGY
- CJS/235: VICTIMOLOGY
- MTH/215T: QUANTITATIVE REASONING I
- MTH/216T: QUANTITATIVE REASONING II

Schedule

Your academic counselor will help you schedule your courses.

What you'll learn

When you earn your online associate's in criminal justice, you'll be equipped with a concrete set of skills you can apply on the job.

Download learning outcomes

Topics covered in this degree include:

- Critical thinking
- Police theory and practice
- Juvenile justice systems
- Criminal courts
- Corrections

Program Purpose Statement

The University's Criminal Justice programs are educational degree programs. For those interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement or corrections or as a peace officer with any particular local, state, federal, tribal or international agency, there are numerous additional qualifications (and often disqualifications), depending on the position. Before enrolling in a Criminal Justice program, potential students are highly encouraged to check with the relevant agency for a complete list of position requirements. The University makes no representations regarding whether any particular University program will qualify a graduate for any such position.