Why study criminal justice?

The nature of and responses to crime are important social phenomena that affect all of our lives. The criminal justice program at Southeastern Oklahoma State University (SOSU) provides students with a critical analysis of all facets of crime and crime control. Students who choose this program study the development, functions and structure of the criminal justice system. They examine the role of law enforcement, courts, correctional, and juvenile agencies. The in-depth study of criminal and social justice issues is designed to foster the capacity for balanced and critical evaluation of criminal justice problems, including the role of the criminal justice system as it relates to other institutions in society.

Career Opportunities

The Criminal Justice program at SOSU has graduated students who have pursued criminal justice careers in local, state and federal agencies throughout the United States. The program is designed so that our graduates will succeed in both initial employment and advancing their criminal justice careers. In a field as diverse as criminal justice, there is a wide array of possible career paths. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the government agency that tracks criminal justice agencies, the need for professionals with a background in criminal justice is predicted to show continued growth for the foreseeable future. That means that the starting salaries in criminal justice will be competitive to keep up with demand. The following is a list of possible criminal justice related careers/fields:

- Federal, State, County, and Municipal Law Enforcement including FBI, DEA, BATFE, Park Ranger, County Sheriff, IRS, Immigration, Customs Enforcement, and U.S. Marshal’s Service
- Correctional agencies
- Probation and parole
- Justice agency administration and planning
- Youth Services
- Loss Prevention
- Victim assistance coordinator
- Private security
- Insurance claims agent
- Law School
- Graduate School
Why choose Southeastern to study criminal justice?

We have a low student to faculty ratio and we provide excellent teaching, research and practical expertise related to many issues in criminal justice. Our program, the Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice, is designed to acquaint students with the principles and practices of criminal justice in America. Although the program's curriculum (see the current course catalog) allows for the development of depth in one of the subject's substantive subsystems (i.e., law enforcement, courts or corrections), the overriding objective is to familiarize students with activities in all the above areas.

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