What Can I Do With A Major In: Criminal Justice

Western Carolina University Center for Career and Professional Development
828.227.7133, careers.wcu.edu

DESCRIPTION:
The goal of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice is to provide you, the future professional, with a strong interdisciplinary foundation so that you can respond appropriately and ethically in challenging “real world” situations.

WHAT JOBS ARE AVAILABLE?

Correctional Officer  FBI Agent  Juvenile Court Counselor
EMTs and Paramedics  Media Criminologist  Law Clerk
Firefighter  Park Ranger  Secret Service Agent
Private Detective and Investigator  Coroner  Social Worker
Probation Officer  Drug Enforcement Agent  Substance Abuse Counselor
Correctional Treatment Specialist  Military Officer  Postal Service Investigation
Security Guards  Deportation Officer  Paralegal
Gaming Surveillance Officers  Contracts Administrator  Warden
Airport Security  US Marshall  Bailiff
Criminologist  Penologist  Customs Agent

WHO EMPLOYS STUDENTS WITH THIS MAJOR?
Local Government | State Government | Federal Government | Courthouses | Police Stations |
Federal Bureau of Investigation | Parks | Security Agencies | Businesses (for security) | Airports | Prisons

INTERNSHIP INFORMATION
At Western Carolina University there are numerous internship opportunities for students. In some cases internships are established through a faculty member in the student's major. Oftentimes students find part-time jobs in an area related to their field of study. When this happens, students should discuss with their academic advisor the possibility of receiving college credit. Generally, three hours of general elective credit can be earned for a minimum of 200 hours of experience.

Western Carolina University has an internship opportunity for the advanced student (juniors and above) to gain experience in various agencies in the criminal justice system. It is a chance for students to both learn about their chosen field and to clarify their plans for the future. Most importantly, it is a time for students to learn something about themselves. Students are placed in state, federal and local agencies, as well as in publicly-funded counseling and consulting firms. If you are interested in this internship please contact Fredrick Hawley, director of internships, at hawely@email.wcu.edu.
WHAT SKILLS ARE LEARNED IN THE CLASSROOM?
- ability to cope with unknown future problems
- know how to deal with current situations
- rational understanding of the criminal justice system

KNOWLEDGE
1. Students will be knowledgeable of a diverse range of explanations for criminal and deviant behavior.
2. Students will have a sound working knowledge of principles at the foundation of criminal law, important case precedents and historical knowledge of the evolution of criminal law in America.
3. Students will demonstrate a familiarity with the history and nature of the major components of the criminal justice system (police, courts, and corrections).
4. Students will be able to understand and apply the principles of research methods, including how to locate relevant information, operationalize concepts, collect data, conduct basic statistical analyses, interpret findings, and present information in a professional manner.
5. Students will hone critical and original thinking to evaluate problems and issues concerning criminal behavior and the criminal justice system.
6. Students will integrate personal and professional values as evidenced by the ability to write and speak about ethical arguments regarding criminal justice policy.

PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES
- American Correctional Association: http://www.aca.org/ACA_Prod_IMIS/ACA_Member/Home/ACA_Member/Home.aspx
- American Jail Association: http://www.americanjail.org/

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
- Correctional Education Association: http://www.ceanational.org/index2.htm
- Institute for Criminal Justice Ethics: http://johnjayresearch.org/cje/
- American Society of Criminology: http://www.asc41.com/

CONTACT INFORMATION
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