

Criminal Justice Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcome Goals

- Content Knowledge
- Research Methodology
- Communication
- Critical Thinking

Content Knowledge

- Recognize and articulate the foundational assumptions, central ideas, and dominant criticisms of theories of crime and criminal justice (e.g., understanding sociological, biological, psychological theories of crime; due process and organizational theory).
- Describe the steps associated with state and federal criminal justice system processing (e.g., arrest procedures, adjudication/prosecution, sentencing and corrections).
- Know the fundamental principles of criminal law and procedure and how the law affects criminal justice operations in law enforcement, courts, and corrections (e.g., rules of evidence, constitutional protections).
- Understand issues of diversity in criminal justice, such as the impact of race, gender, and class on criminal justice processing.

Research Methodology

- Design a research project and intelligently consume the results of criminal justice research conducted and presented by others (e.g., formulate a research question, data collection, coding strategies, descriptive statistics).
- Understand national crime and victimization databases and how crime data are collected and presented to the public (e.g. UCR Reports, NCVS, U.S. Census Bureau, NIBRS).

Communication

- Effectively present ideas using various criminal justice professional writing formats to inform, advise, or summarize (e.g., white papers, arrest reports, pre-sentence investigations).
- Effectively articulate ideas to various criminal justice communities (e.g., policymakers, scholars, practitioners).

Critical Thinking

- Evaluate the validity and reliability of different information sources (e.g., journal articles, UCR, NCVS, self-report surveys).
- Employ ethical perspectives and appropriate judgments to criminal justice problems and situations (e.g., theories of justice relating to distribution of benefits/burdens in society).
- Construct alternative ways of thinking about crime and punishment (e.g., what constitutes deviant or criminal behavior, how should we punish, what counts as cruel and unusual)