

CRIMINAL JUSTICE (INSTITUTIONAL THEORY AND PRACTICE) (BS):

<http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/academics/630.php>

“The B.S. in Criminal Justice is intended for students who seek a career in criminal justice and would like to explore the field from a broad perspective. It is devoted to understanding criminal justice institutional theory and practice in the context of diverse multicultural societies. The major underscores the rule of law as the glue, which holds together the arenas of police, courts, and corrections that along with other social institutions and the public are the co-producers of justice.”

Skills, Abilities and Objectives for Criminal Justice Majors:

- Understand major concepts, case law, theoretical perspectives, and empirical findings
- Understand basic structures involved with law enforcement and the criminal court system
- Develop written and oral communication skills
- Learn computer applications
- Work in a diverse environment
- Connect theory with practice
- Develop critical evaluation and application skills
- Improve critical thinking and analytical ability
- Develop probing questions
- Define problems and investigate alternatives
- Develop and apply hypotheses

Transferring Skills to Careers:

The skills above prepare Criminal Justice (BS) majors for a range of professional degrees and career options. ***The list below does not include all possible professional paths available to students of the Criminal Justice (BS)*** but gives a sample of careers graduates have chosen to pursue. The critical thinking and analytical skills developed by *Criminal Justice (BS)* majors are applicable to position like:

- Research Assistant
- Nonprofit Administrator/Program Coordinator
- Criminal Justice Administrator
- Public Administrator
- Higher Education Associate
- Victim Advocate
- Law Enforcement Officer
- Mediation Services Specialist
- Investigator
- Corporate Security Specialist
- Consultant
- Security Management
- Teacher/Professor
- Journalist/Writer

Strategies for Professional Development:

- Explore minors in Sociology, Anthropology, English, and Economics to round out your background with both professional and theoretical understandings of systems and organizations.
- Look for internship/volunteer experiences to help you explore your interests in government, private sector, or nonprofit organizations.
- Develop and emphasize your transferable skills such as:
 - Research
 - Investigative Techniques
 - Communication
 - Cultural Competence
- Conduct informational interviews with professionals in a field of interest.
- Get involved in student organizations such as the **International Criminal Justice Club**.
- Create a LinkedIn account to connect with individuals and organizations in fields of interest.
- Consider pursuing a master’s degree in a related career field.

Professional Associations/Organizations:

A professional association is an organization formed to promote and support the development, growth and work efforts of individuals in a particular career field. Membership benefits include networking, continuing education, mentoring programs, meetings/conferences and exclusive access to information regarding career opportunities.

There is often a fee for joining professional organizations; however, most associations offer discounts to students, including graduate school students, recent graduates, and young professionals. All or a portion of associations' fees are tax deductible. To learn more about professional associations, see the *National Trade and Professional Associations Directory*, the *American Society of Association Executives* or *Encyclopedia of Associations: Volume I- National Organizations of the U.S.* is available in the Reference section of John Jay College's Lloyd Sealy Library.

- **American Society of Criminology**
<http://www.asc41.com/about.htm>
- **American Jail Association**
<http://www.aja.org>
- **American Society for Industrial Security International**
<http://www.asisonline.org>
- **National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice**
<http://www.nabcj.org>
- **National Association of Hispanics in Criminal Justice**
<http://www.nohcj.org>

Additional Resources:

- **10 Fastest-Growing Careers for Criminal Justice Majors**
<http://oedb.org/fast-track-careers-criminal-justice>
- **Occupational Outlook Handbook – Police & Detectives**
<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/Protective-Service/Police-and-detectives.htm>
- **Graduate Programs in Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Related**
<http://www.asc41.com/links/gradPrograms.html>

For more information on this major please visit:

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http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/departments/criminal_justice/about_us.php

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<http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/academics/4032.php>