“The B.A. program in Criminal Justice views crime as a social problem and seeks to develop in its students the capacity to critically assess the normative structure of the existing criminal justice system with an aim to improving its condition and function. The emphasis of the major is on developing analytical skills, ethical reasoning, and a capacity for solving problems. It aspires to cultivate creative and original thinking about one of the most challenging social problems of our time.”

Skills, Abilities and Objectives for Criminal Justice Majors:
- Analyze and critique social institutions engaged in crime control
- Understand major concepts of crime and the criminal justice system
- Design and carry out research projects
- Engage in critical thinking and problem solving
- Develop analytical and ethical reasoning
- Develop written and oral communication skills
- Gather and interpret diverse data
- Connect theory with practice
- Understand behavior and organizational analysis
- Make empirical observations of human behavior
- Define formal and informal social controls

Transferring Skills to Careers:
The skills above prepare Criminal Justice (BA) majors for a range of professional degrees and career options. The list below does not include all possible professional paths available to students with a Criminal Justice (BA) degree, but gives a sample of careers graduates have chosen to pursue. The communication and assessment skills developed by Criminal Justice (BA) majors are applicable to positions such as:

- Researcher
- Policy Analyst
- Nonprofit Administrator
- Criminal Justice Administrator
- Dispute Resolution Representative
- Public Administrator
- Crime Analyst
- Victim/Witness Advocate
- Law Enforcement Officer
- Investigator
- Corporate Security Specialist
- Loss and Prevention Professional

Strategies for Professional Development:
- Explore minors such as Sociology, Anthropology, English, and Economics to round out your background with both professional and theoretical understandings of people and organizations.
- Look for research or internship/volunteer experiences to help you explore your interests in government, private sector, or nonprofit organizations. For instance, consider internships at think tanks like the Vera Institute of Justice, to learn how research is put to real-world use.
- Develop and emphasize your transferable skills such as:
  - Research and Analysis
  - Problem Solving
  - Communication
  - Strategic Thinking
- Conduct informational interviews with professionals in your 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 your field 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.

- Justice Research & Statistics Association
  www.jrsa.org
- American Society of Criminology
  http://www.asc41.com/about.htm
- National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice
  http://www.nabcj.org
- American Correctional Association
  http://www.aca.org

Additional Resources:
- 10 Fastest-Growing Careers for Criminal Justice Majors
  http://oedb.org/fast-track-careers-criminal-justice
  http://www.bls.gov/ooh/math/operations-research-analysts.htm
- Graduate Programs in Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Related
  http://www.asc41.com/links/gradPrograms.html
- National Criminal Justice Reference Service
  https://www.ncjrs.gov

For more information on this major please visit:
Department of Criminal Justice
899 Tenth Avenue
New York, NY 10019
Room: 422.21T
(212) 237-8389
Evan Mandery, Coordinator: emandery@jjay.cuny.edu
http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/departments/criminal_justice/academics.php

Academic Advising Center
524 West 59th Street
New York, NY 10019
Room: L.73
(646) 557-4872/(646) 557-4816
http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/academics/4032.php