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B.A. in Criminology

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Criminology Overview

The value set characterizing all the activities of the Department of Sociology and Criminology is **a belief in the basic dignity of every human being**. The study of crime extends far beyond basic detailing of information regarding crime rates, trends, and the function of the justice system. Criminology, at its core, is concerned with the dignity of the person, inclusiveness, and service.

The department offers a variety of elective courses that explore the dynamics of various topics within this fascinating field of study. Areas of study include law and society, cybersecurity, family violence, terrorism, addiction, and investigative psychology.

Advisement

The Criminology program is **committed to helping students prepare for a career after graduation** through advisement, internships, and career seminars. Your adviser will help you tailor your course selection to fulfill graduation requirements, while you satisfy your individual interests and career preparation needs, and pursue your academic activities to get the most out of your college experience.

Opportunities for Students

Internships afford majors in the Department of Sociology and Criminology the opportunity to experience how the social sciences are related to a variety of careers. By participating in one or more of the internships offered in the department, students can gain firsthand information on how certain occupations function, including social work, human services, and criminal justice. This may help students decide on a career after graduation.

Student Research

The department's senior capstone course requires an original research project in which students develop, implement and analyze data. The project will be guided

and mentored by a professor. The student is required to present the results of the research and to complete a formal written thesis.

Career Prospects

Those who earn a Criminology degree are well positioned to pursue a wide range of employment opportunities. Among the more common and attainable careers are police officer, detective, corrections officer, crime scene investigator and probation or parole officer.

Other work can be found in federal agencies such as the Postal Inspection Service, Secret Service, Department of Homeland Security, and the FBI, among many others. Keep in mind that federal positions typically require additional expertise, such as language proficiency or accounting.

In addition, there are numerous ancillary job opportunities that exist outside the more "traditional" roles one typically imagines when considering criminology. Some of these include work in the industrial security and cybersecurity fields and fraud investigators with financial institutions, as well as military police and intelligence officers. Academic and legal careers are available for those wishing to continue their studies beyond the undergraduate level.

Recent Graduates

Matthew Salewski, '24

Graduate studies in Terrorism and Homeland Security Policy at American University (Washington, D.C.).

Therese Osborn, '24

Involved with Peaceprints, a nonprofit correctional reentry organization.