

General Criminal Justice Employment Suggestions:

- ❑ Criminal justice related jobs often require applicants to be able to pass a criminal background check. Illegal, as well as, irresponsible behaviors can cause a failed background investigation.
- ❑ Be sure to investigate specific state, regional or organizational job qualifications – these can vary dramatically from place to place and/or organization to organization.
- ❑ Take advantage of the various career seminars and job fairs to investigate opportunities and network.
- ❑ Become actively involved in extracurricular activities (which demonstrate leadership and other skills that agencies value), particularly those active within CJ.
- ❑ Many criminal justice organizations and agencies require candidates to possess strong oral and written communication skills and good computer skills. The ability to speak a second language is also desirable. Develop good listening skills and the ability to work well with a wide range of diverse populations.
- ❑ Be willing to start in an entry-level position (perhaps within a law enforcement or social service organization) in order to prepare for more advanced career opportunities.
- ❑ Obtain experience through volunteer, practicum, or internship opportunities. These can be arranged through the Department of Criminal Justice.
- ❑ Supplement program of study with courses in business, political science, philosophy, psychology, anthropology, or sociology. Course work related to the hard sciences (biology, chemistry, or biochemistry) is preferred for career opportunities in forensics. These courses will expand your career opportunities.
- ❑ Depending upon one's career goals, earn a master's degree in disciplines such as criminal justice, forensic science, social work, counseling, or business to obtain positions involving therapy, higher levels of administration, forensics, or research. Earn the doctorate degree for university teaching positions.
- ❑ Conduct informational interviews with professionals in fields of interest to learn more about opportunities and to network with agencies/organizations that appear interesting. These contacts may prove useful in both giving you knowledge about a potential career field and obtaining future employment.

What can I do with a major in CRIMINAL JUSTICE??

AREAS OF EMPLOYMENT	POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS
EDUCATION Teaching Research	Colleges and universities Adult education providers Public and private high schools Public agencies – NIJ, DOJ, OJJDP, etc... Grant funded research organizations	Get a teaching certificate for elementary or secondary education. Gain a dual certification for increased opportunities. Serve as a tutor to other students. Develop strong written and oral communication skills. Assist a professor with research. Take additional coursework related to research and statistics. The doctorate (Ph.D.) is the credential required for university teaching, while community college positions often only require the master's.

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<p>LAW ENFORCEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patrol Investigations Forensics Probation Security Crime and intelligence analysis 	<p>Local Government Organizations including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police departments Correction facilities County sheriff departments Liquor Control Commission <p>State Government Organizations including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State troopers Crime labs Penitentiaries <p>Federal Government Organizations including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> U.S. Customs and Border Protection Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Department of Homeland Security Postal Service Federal Marshals Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks United States Department of Agriculture National Parks Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crime laboratories Colleges and university police departments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain related training or certifications such as CPR, first aid, or EMT. Complete a formal police academy program upon graduation. Maintain a healthy and physically fit lifestyle. Volunteer to work in a police department or campus safety department. Complete an internship in a crime laboratory to gain experience in the forensic application of science. Obtain a double major in criminal justice and a hard science (biology, chemistry, or biochemistry) if interested in a career in forensics or wildlife. Consider earning a master's degree in Forensic Science or related discipline. Become familiar with the government application process. Learn a second language, particularly Spanish, Mandarin, Arabic. Take additional coursework related to crime analysis. Federal agencies often expect competitive candidates to have a graduate degree, and that a graduate degree is beneficial for advancement in many local agencies.
<p>BUSINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private Security Consulting Investigations Systems Integration Global Intelligence Private Investigation Internet Security Loss and Prevention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insurance companies Banks Private security companies Software companies Hotels and resorts Health care facilities Transportation services Nuclear power plants Manufacturers Online companies Other large corporations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor in business or computer science. Seek practicum/internship experiences that include training in the hardware and software of security systems. Maintain good physical fitness. Develop exceptional written and oral communication skills. Attend firearm safety courses. Obtain first aid and CPR certification. Gain military experience and training. Earn a graduate degree in business or law for upper level positions.

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<p>SOCIAL SERVICES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corrections Counseling Juvenile Justice Casework Administration Probations & Parole Victim Advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State and federal correctional facilities County jails Law enforcement organizations Probation/parole organizations Youth correctional facilities Medium-security correctional facilities Voluntary correction facilities Halfway houses and pre-release programs Reintegration programs Juvenile detention centers Juvenile group homes Women's and family shelters Domestic violence agencies Immigration and naturalization services Other nonprofit organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain courses or training in topics such as victimology, social problems, diversity issues. Supplement curriculum with courses in psychology, sociology, or social work. Gain experience working with a juvenile population in any capacity (i.e., sports teams, summer camp counselor, parks and recreation programs, and community/religious youth groups). Gain related experience in employment interviewing, social casework, substance abuse, and rehabilitation. Learn to work well with people of diverse backgrounds. Consider learning a second language, particularly Spanish, Mandarin, Arabic. Maintain a blemish-free driving and criminal record. Gain firearms and self-defense training. Earn a master's degree in social work or counseling for therapy positions. Obtain a masters degree in criminal justice or business for upper-level positions in facilities management or administration.
<p>JUDICIARY AND LAW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Court Reporting Legal Assistance Legal Research Administration Attorney Court Administrator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local, state, and federal courts Law firms Corporate legal departments Public interest law organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a double major or minor in the social sciences such as psychology, anthropology, sociology, or political science. Enroll in classes that will develop reasoning and argument skills, such as, English and philosophy. Attend a postsecondary vocational or technical college that offers court reporting or paralegal certification programs. Obtain a law degree from a law school accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA). Learn to use software packages such as CD-ROM research databases. Develop strong research, computer, and writing skills. Maintain a high grade point average to gain admittance to law school. Participate in mock trial groups.