

RU Interested in . . .

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

AT A GLANCE . . .

Department at RU:	Criminal Justice
Office Location:	Adams Building (307 Adams Street)
Telephone	(540) 831-6148
Faculty Liaison:	Dr. Mary Atwell
College at RU:	Arts and Sciences
Degree Type:	Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science
Homepage	http://www.radford.edu/~crju-web/

CAREER PATHS

Careers are available in the public sector in law enforcement, corrections (in jails and prisons), probation and parole, victims' services and juvenile justice. The private sector also employs criminal justice majors in private security, loss prevention, and investigation.

QUESTIONS STUDENTS OFTEN ASK

- **Is there an introductory course or experience that you would suggest that will introduce me to the criminal justice field?**

The department offers CRJU 100 -- Introduction to Criminal Justice. In addition to being a prerequisite for all other criminal justice courses, CRJU 100 exposes students to the major issues confronting the criminal justice system in America and to the principal parts of the system--police, courts, and corrections. Students who find the material in CRJU 100 interesting are likely to find the rest of the criminal justice curriculum interesting also.

- **What academic strengths and skills should I possess to be successful in criminal justice?**

Most criminal justice work requires a good deal of interaction with other people within governmental public settings. This makes a basic understanding of human behavior and good oral communication skills helpful. Also, criminal justice personnel engage in a good deal of report writing, which demands good writing skills.

- **What minors or other course work may enhance my career opportunities in criminal justice?**

Given the academic strengths and skills essential to success in the criminal justice system, minors in political science, psychology, or sociology may be helpful. Proficiency in a foreign language, good computer skills, and some business courses can also be valuable.

- **What additional graduate/professional study or certification is commonly required in the criminal justice field?**

Most states require at least certain criminal justice personnel, such as law enforcement officers or prison guards, to be certified. In Virginia, the training required for certification is usually provided by the agency that hires an individual. However, because of the great cost of this training and an increasing turnover in criminal justice personnel, some states now require individuals to obtain certification on their own (and therefore at their own expense) before they can be hired by an agency. Also, while sometimes not required, a graduate degree in criminal justice or a related field is often a prerequisite for supervisory and managerial positions.

- **What experiential opportunities are available for me in criminal justice?**

The majority of criminal justice majors participate in the internship program. Students are placed in unpaid positions with a wide variety of criminal justice agencies where they are exposed to a broad range of activities in which the agency is engaged. Interns must keep a written journal, write a final paper about the internship experience, and may earn up to 15 hours of credit. All internships are supervised by a faculty member in the department.

- **What is the current employment outlook for Criminal Justice majors?**

Although crime rates have been relatively stable or declining in the last decade or so, crime remains a very important issue with the public. Consequently, employment levels in the criminal justice system continue to rise. However, competition for many jobs in the criminal justice system is keen, particularly in the area of federal law enforcement, probation and parole. More and more prisons are being built, leading to an obvious need for more corrections personnel. Competition for these jobs does not appear to be as keen as for law enforcement positions and probation positions.

- **What is the placement rate for Criminal Justice graduates from Radford?**

Students who do internships as part of their academic coursework have very high placement rates with criminal justice agencies after graduation. Alumni surveys suggest that those students wishing to become employed in criminal justice agencies are successful in obtaining professional positions if they are focused in their job search, realistic regarding their expectations, and flexible about location.

- **Where can I obtain more information about careers in the field of criminal justice?**

- RU Department of Criminal Justice
- U.S. Government Manual
- RU Career Services Center
- RU McConnell Library
- RU Center for Counseling and Student Development
- RU Advising Centers

**For an application to Radford University
contact the RU Admissions Office**



Radford University Office of Admissions
Martin Hall
P.O. Box 6903
Radford University
Radford, VA 24142

Phone: (540) 831-5371 or (800) 890-4265
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