

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
MAJOR PROGRAM INFORMATION

I. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Entry into the Department of Criminal Justice major or minor program is competitive. Students should have a grade point average at West Chester University of at least a 2.3 to apply.

The Department of Criminal Justice accepts major and minor applications during the first three weeks of the spring and fall semesters. See the Department bulletin board for specific dates. Application forms may be obtained in the Department Office at 200 Ruby Jones Hall during regular office hours. Applicants are required to attach an essay so that writing skills can be assessed. Applications should be returned to the Department by the posted deadline. Each application is reviewed by the Department faculty.

Department faculty will review and evaluate each application using the following criteria: grade point average at West Chester University; grade point average at other schools, colleges and universities; rigor of courses taken; writing skills; suitability to the major (employment history, honors and awards, criminal record, behavior in class, commitment to academic excellence, etc.); commitment to the Department Code of Conduct; and other factors deemed relevant to the applicant's suitability to the discipline.

The names of successful applicants are posted on the Department bulletin board. These applicants are then responsible for obtaining appropriate signatures on the Declaration of the Major form, and submitting that form to the Office of the Registrar in a timely fashion.

II. ADVISING

Majors and minors are assigned to a Criminal Justice faculty member for academic assistance. Assignments are made by the first letter of the student's last name, and are posted on the Department of Criminal Justice bulletin board. Students are encouraged to see their faculty advisors each semester.

III. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS (18 CREDITS)

Majors must take six specifically required Criminal Justice courses, eight Criminal Justice electives, and eight pre-approved "related areas". The required courses are CRJ110 (Introduction to Criminal Justice), CRJ 210 (Theories of Crime and Delinquency), CRJ 300 (Criminal Law), CRJ 387 (Criminal Justice Research), and CRJ 400 (Criminal Procedure), and CRJ 490 (The 12 credit summer Practicum). Students must earn a minimum grade of a C in all Criminal Justice courses (C minus will not suffice, nor will a grade of NG). Students must retake any course in which they earn less than a C. The Practicum is offered only in the summer, and requires students to work full time for an approved criminal justice agency for twelve weeks. Students must attend Practicum Preparatory classes and receive the approval of the Practicum Coordinator to enroll in the Practicum.

In addition, students must abide by the course prerequisites. Students may not take CRJ 300 or CRJ 387 until they have earned a C or better in CRJ110, CRJ210, MAT103 and WRT200 or above. Students may not take CRJ400 or CRJ490 until they have earned a C or better in CRJ 300 and CRJ 387.

IV. DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE CODE OF CONDUCT

The Department of Criminal Justice has a zero tolerance policy with regard to academic or other forms of dishonesty. All students are required to abide by the Department of Criminal Justice Code of Conduct: The Department of Criminal Justice Code of Conduct requires all students to possess the highest, most impeccable standards of honesty and integrity. Criminal Justice professionals, in particular, must provide exemplary role models in society. Students are expected to behave at all times in a manner which reflects the highest standards of ethical behavior, and which enhances the Department and the discipline.

(application instruction-major 9/09)