

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE, B.A.

## Overview

The B.A. in Criminal Justice prepares students to understand and engage the justice system in a complex, data-driven, and digitally mediated world. Grounded in a Catholic tradition of service and human dignity, the program emphasizes ethical decision making, human rights, and systems-level analysis across policing, courts, corrections, and global justice. Students learn to analyze crime and justice using data, research methods, and develop practical skills in communication, problem solving, and evidence-based reasoning. Coursework addresses contemporary challenges including digital culture, misinformation, mental health, victimization, and institutional accountability. Small class sizes and close faculty mentorship support active learning and applied engagement. Faculty and instructors bring experience from law enforcement, corrections, legal practice, victim advocacy, and research, connecting classroom learning to professional realities. Students may pursue concentrations in cyber crime, law enforcement and corrections, or global justice, and can engage in internships, police academy partnerships, and accelerated graduate pathways.

## Departmental Honors: Criminal Justice

To be eligible the student must have an earned GPA in criminal justice major courses of 3.5 and an overall GPA of 3.5, and have completed at least 5 courses in the major.

To remain in the program the student must maintain an overall GPA of 3.5; attend one conference, seminar, or external event in their senior year or before; and complete an independent research project under the supervision of a faculty member to be submitted for presentation and/or publication.

## Articulation Agreement with Ocean County Police Academy

Graduates of the Ocean County Police Academy (OCPA) will be eligible to receive a maximum of 21 credits for the courses indicated below by meeting the following criteria:

1. Complete the OCPA's Basic Course for Police Officers (BCPO) and submit certification provided by OCPA documenting evidence of completion.
2. Apply for admission to GCU and matriculate at GCU.
3. Enroll in and complete at least 12 credits of GCU college-level (i.e., not skills development) courses with a C or better.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Courses for which OCPA graduates may receive credit</b>		
CJ111	The Criminal Justice System	3.0
CJ210	Introduction to Law Enforcement	3.0
CJ213	Criminal Law & Practice	3.0
200+ level CJ elective		3.0
300+ level CJ elective		3.0
CM251 or CM252	Intercultural Communication Organizational Communication	3.0
300+ level CJ or BU elective		3.0
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>21.0</b>

## Graduate School Partnership with Salve Regina University's M.S. in Criminal Justice & Cybersecurity Program

Georgian Court University has a partnership with Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island, that enables senior GCU undergraduate students to enroll in up to two graduate-level courses in Salve Regina's Master of Science in Criminal Justice and Cybersecurity program. Students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or higher at GCU and meet the admissions criteria for conditional acceptance into the graduate program at Salve Regina. Students must apply and be accepted as conditionally admitted to Salve Regina before enrolling in any Salve Regina graduate courses. Required supporting application materials include a completed online graduate application form, a personal statement, and official transcripts from all degree-granting institutions attended. Upon conferral of the undergraduate degree from GCU, successful completion of the Salve Regina graduate courses with a 3.0 minimum GPA, and matriculation into the Salve Regina graduate program, the student will receive credit at Salve Regina for the courses completed and be fully admitted as a Salve Regina graduate student. Students may take no more than two Salve Regina graduate courses per semester, and no more than two Salve Regina graduate courses in total, while maintaining their undergraduate status at GCU. Students will pay their regular undergraduate tuition and fees to GCU, with no additional tuition charges for the two graduate courses taken at Salve Regina, except any course-specific fees (books, materials, etc.). If a student chooses not to matriculate into the graduate program at Salve within one year of conferral of their undergraduate degree, the courses taken will be treated by Salve Regina as non-matriculated credits. If the student does matriculate into the Salve Regina graduate program within this one year period, the credits earned will be applied toward their graduate degree at Salve Regina.

## Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of studies for Criminal Justice, the student will receive a B.A. in Criminal Justice and will have given evidence of the following outcomes and goals.

- Students will demonstrate knowledge across required content areas: administration of justice, corrections, criminological theory, law adjudication, law enforcement, research methods, and sociological theory and principles through course exams and papers evaluated by a common rubric.
- Students will demonstrate an ability to present work and to collaborate in course presentations evaluated by a common rubric.
- Students will identify and apply ethical decision making as it applies across theory, research, practice, and/or policy in program courses. Students will evidence competency in socially responsible and equitable behavior in case study responses evaluated by a common rubric.

## Requirements

To earn this degree, students must successfully complete at least 120 credits, including General Education (<https://catalog.georgian.edu/undergraduate/academic-programs/bridge-general-education-program-requirements/>) requirements and the major requirements below.

## Major Sequence

A minimum of 45 core credits, plus courses in related areas, is required for the Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice. It is strongly recommended

that students take MA103 to satisfy the General Education Mathematical Reasoning requirement.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Core Requirements</b>		
CJ111	The Criminal Justice System	3.0
CJ167	Race, Ethnicity & Criminal Justice	3.0
or AN112	Cultural Anthropol. What Makes Us Human?	
CJ/SO200	Theories of Crime	3.0
CJ210	Introduction to Law Enforcement	3.0
or CJ212	Introduction to Corrections	
CJ213	Criminal Law & Practice	3.0
CJ320	Mental Health, Neurodiver. & Crim. Just.	3.0
CJ325	Gender & Crime	3.0
CJ331	Research Methods in Criminal Justice	3.0
CJ351	Comparative Criminal Justice Systems	3.0
CJ435	Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice	3.0
SO101	Principles of Sociology	3.0
3 CJ electives. PS320 and PS321 may be used as CJ electives		9.0
CJ202/SO201	Social and Crime Statistics	3.0
<b>General Education Course <sup>1</sup></b>		
World Language <sup>1</sup>		3.0
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>48.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Spanish is strongly recommended to satisfy the Intercultural Understanding & Communication General Education Requirement. Another language or course may be substituted with the approval of the student's advisor.

## Concentrations in Criminal Justice

Criminal Justice majors who would like to focus on courses specific to their career or academic interests may elect to do a concentration in one of three areas: Cyber Crime, Global Justice and Society, or Law Enforcement and Corrections. Students wanting to add a concentration take courses as listed in the groups below or other concentration courses not listed that are offered on a rotating basis, as designated by the department chair each semester. Three of the courses in the concentration may count toward the electives required for the major. Concentrations are an elective part of their major. Students may request to take alternate courses (e.g., in other departments) relevant to the concentration upon department chair and advisor approval.

### Cyber Crime

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Select one of the following:</b>		
CS105	Computer Literacy	
CS111	Foundations Of Computer Science	
CS123	Computer Programming I	
<b>Select two of the following:</b>		
CJ301	Cyber Security & GIS	6.0
CJ302	Cyber Crime	
CJ355	Political Crimes & Terrorism	
CJ398	Selected Topics in Criminal Justice (when approved for cyber crime)	
<b>Select two of the following:</b>		
AC171	Principles of Financial Accounting	6.0

IS122	Introduction to Cybersecurity	
IS320	Management Information Systems	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>15.0-16.0</b>
<b>Global Justice &amp; Society</b>		
<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Select four of the following:		
CJ/PO313	Constitutional Law	
CJ353	Victimology	
CJ/PO355	Political Crimes & Terrorism	
CJ365	International Human Rights Law	
CJ375	Global Justice & Law	
CJ398	Selected Topics in Criminal Justice (dependent on semester, and when designated as concentration course by dept. chair)	12.0
CJ410	Independent Research in Criminal Justice (dependent on research topic; dept. chair approval required)	
SO304	Globalization & Sustainability	
PO211	American National Government	
PO233	Modern Political Thought	
SW253	Human Rights & Social Justice	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>12.0</b>

### Law Enforcement & Corrections

Code	Title	Credits
Select four of the following:		
CJ167	Race, Ethnicity & Criminal Justice (if also taking AN112 as a core CJ requirement)	
CJ210	Introduction to Law Enforcement (if also taking CJ212 as a core CJ requirement)	
CJ231	Juvenile Justice	
CJ301	Cyber Security & GIS	
CJ302	Cyber Crime	
CJ343	Criminal Investigation	
CJ353	Victimology	
CJ398	Selected Topics in Criminal Justice (dependent on semester, and when designated as concentration course by dept. chair)	
CJ401	Sex Crimes	
CJ410	Independent Research in Criminal Justice (dependent on research topic; dept. chair approval required)	
IH335	Integrative Stress Management & Health	
PO211	American National Government	
PO221	State & Local Government in America	
PS320	Forensic Psychology	
PS321	Criminal Profiling	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>12.0</b>

## Transfer Requirements

A minimum of 21 credits in the criminal justice major must be completed at GCU.

## Degree Map(s)

Course	Title	Credits
<b>First Year</b>		
<b>Fall Semester</b>		
GEN101	Pathway to the Bridge <sup>1</sup>	2.0
EN111 or EN221	Writing, Research, and Digital Literacy <sup>1</sup> or HNRS: Rhetoric, Research & Digital Lit	3.0
SO101	Principles of Sociology <sup>1,2</sup>	3.0
CJ111	The Criminal Justice System <sup>2</sup>	3.0
General Education Course or Elective		3.0
<b>Credits</b>		<b>14.0</b>
<b>Spring Semester</b>		
GEN199	WI:Discovering Self in the Universe <sup>1</sup>	3.0
Select one of the following: <sup>2,3</sup>		3.0
AN112	Cultural Anthropol. What Makes Us Human?	
CJ167	Race, Ethnicity & Criminal Justice	
CJ210	Introduction to Law Enforcement <sup>2,4</sup>	3.0
GE – Critical Reading and Analysis <sup>1</sup>		3.0
GE – Intercultural Understanding & Communication <sup>1,5</sup>		3.0
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15.0</b>
<b>Second Year</b>		
<b>Fall Semester</b>		
CJ200	Theories of Crime <sup>2</sup>	3.0
CJ212	Introduction to Corrections <sup>2,4</sup>	3.0
GE - Mathematical Reasoning <sup>1,6</sup>		3.0-4.0
GE – Understanding Human Behavior & Social Systems OR Elective <sup>1,3</sup>		3.0
Elective		3.0
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15.0-16.0</b>
<b>Spring Semester</b>		
CJ202/SO201	Social and Crime Statistics <sup>2</sup>	3.0
CJ213	Criminal Law & Practice <sup>2</sup>	3.0
GE – Scientific Thinking <sup>1,8</sup>		4.0
GE – Religious Studies <sup>1</sup>		3.0
Elective		3.0
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16.0</b>
<b>Third Year</b>		
<b>Fall Semester</b>		
CJ320	Mental Health, Neurodiver. & Crim. Just. <sup>2</sup>	3.0
CJ331	Research Methods in Criminal Justice <sup>2</sup>	3.0
GE – Creative Thinking or Expression <sup>1,7</sup>		3.0
Elective		3.0
Elective		3.0
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15.0</b>
<b>Spring Semester</b>		
CJ325	Gender & Crime <sup>2</sup>	3.0
CJ351	Comparative Criminal Justice Systems <sup>2</sup>	3.0
GE – Ethics <sup>1,8</sup>		3.0
GE – Power & Society <sup>1,8</sup>		3.0
Elective		3.0
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15.0</b>

### Fourth Year

#### Fall Semester

CJ435	Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice <sup>2</sup>	3.0
CJ Elective <sup>2</sup>		3.0
Elective		3.0
Elective		3.0
Elective		3.0
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15.0</b>

#### Spring Semester

CJ Elective <sup>2</sup>		3.0
CJ Elective <sup>2</sup>		3.0
GEN400	WI:Visioning a Future <sup>1</sup>	3.0
Elective		3.0
Elective		3.0
<b>Credits</b>		<b>15.0</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>120.0-121.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Impact General Education Curriculum

<sup>2</sup> Major

<sup>3</sup> AN112 Cultural Anthropology: What Makes Us Human fulfills the Understanding Human Behavior & Social Systems requirement. If both CJ167 Race, Ethnicity & Criminal Justice AN112 are taken, CJ167 will fulfill one of three CJ electives.

<sup>4</sup> Students only need to take CJ210 (<https://catalog.georgian.edu/search/?P=cj210>) or CJ212 (<https://catalog.georgian.edu/search/?P=cj212>). If both courses are taken, one will fulfill one of three CJ electives.

<sup>5</sup> A Spanish course is strongly recommended to fulfill the Intercultural Understanding & Communication requirement. Students should take [https://gcu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1NeckgPVNDIYLvT](https://gcu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1NeckgPVNDIYLvT) ([https://gcu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1NeckgPVNDIYLvT/](https://gcu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1NeckgPVNDIYLvT/)) for correct Spanish placement.

<sup>6</sup> MA103 strongly recommended. Should be taken semester before CJ202.

<sup>7</sup> GE- Scientific Thinking and GE - Creative Thinking or Expression can be taken any semester depending on scheduling needs.

<sup>8</sup> Power & Society and Ethics Courses should be taken after 60+ credits