

**CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BS) DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY**

Contact:

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<http://www.uri.edu/artsci/soc/>

The Field

One of the greatest social needs today is public safety and security. The increased complexity and diversity of contemporary society, its technological development and legal evolution, and its interdependence with other societies necessitate that those to whom we entrust our public safety be well-educated. Criminologists working in criminal justice must have excellent communication skills; critical thinking and problem-solving abilities; sensitivity to those of different racial, cultural, socioeconomic, and gender groups; the ability to speak a foreign language; and computer literacy.

It is also important for those working in criminal justice fields to have a good understanding of the operation of the various components of the criminal justice system, the social causes and consequences of crime and victimization, and the role of social policy in shaping our society's response to and control of criminal behavior.

Program of Study

A minimum of 36 credits in sociology must be completed including SOC 100, 230, 274, 301, 370 and 476 (18); two inequality courses selected from SOC 240, 242, 336, 413, 428 and 452 (6); and four elective courses selected from SOC 330, 331, 420 and 497 (12). When appropriate, and by permission of the department chairperson, students may substitute SOC 300, Topics in Sociology, or SOC 498 or 499, Independent Study, for one of the four elective courses listed above. No more than six credits in independent study and/or field experience may be used toward the 36 credits required for the

major. In addition to the required courses, students selecting this major are strongly encouraged to take PSC 288 and PSC 472.

A minimum of 126 credits overall is required for graduation. Students in this major cannot use the cross-cultural competence option to satisfy the foreign language/cross-cultural competence requirement in general education; they must choose foreign language.

Options to Complement the Major

To complement the major, the Department offers its own *internship opportunity* through SOC497. Internships include a variety of experiences such as working in a police department with prosecutors, public defenders, parole officers, or probation officers (see Professor Leo Carroll for details). Another option encouraged for juniors and seniors with a grade point average of 3.0 or better is to pursue *independent study/research* under the supervision of a criminology faculty member in SOC 498 or 499: Independent study.

Additional Options at URI

An additional popular selection for majors is the University's interdisciplinary *minor in Justice, Law, and Society*, as well as a minor in *Criminal Forensic Science*. *Study abroad* opportunities are available as are opportunities to study at another U.S. institution through the *National Student Exchange Program*.

A Typical Program Might be as Follows:

Freshman & Sophomore Years

General Sociology (SOC 100)
Inequality Course (SOC 240 or 242)
Crime & Delinquency (SOC 230)
The Criminal Justice System (SOC 274)

Junior & Senior Years

Inequality Course (SOC 336, 413, 428, or 452)
Theories of Crime & Delinquency (SOC 370)
Sociological Research Methods (SOC 301)
Four of these courses (approved SOC 300, 498, or 499; SOC 330, 331, 420, or 497)
Policy Issues in Criminal Justice (SOC 476)

Application and Admission

All students who wish to graduate with this degree must

1. Acquire "waiting for" status
2. Meet criteria for application
3. Apply & gain acceptance into the major
4. Fulfill all of the major's requirements

1. Acquire "Waiting For" Status

Interested students in any major who currently register through University College (UC)¹ but **have not** completed at least 30 total credit hours should go to the UC Sociology Advisor and declare "waiting for" status for Criminology and Criminal Justice (*Academic Program: "UC_AS" Academic Plan: "AS_APSC_BS" Plan Description: "Sociology" Academic Subplan: "WCRIM_JSTC"*).

Upon completion of 30 credit hours, students should go to the UC Sociology Advisor, the Assistant Dean in A&S, or their faculty advisor in Sociology to transfer to A&S as a BS Sociology major waiting for Criminology and Criminal Justice (*Academic Program: "AS" Academic Plan: "AS_APSC_BS" Plan Description: "Sociology" Academic Subplan: "WCRIM_JSTC"*).

2. Meet Criteria for Application

- Registered in UC or A&S as "WCRIM_JSTC"

¹ Students who are unsure which college they are registered in need to access their unofficial transcripts through e-campus and scroll down to the most recent semester to find out.

- Completed at least 30 total college credit hours
- Completed and passed SOC 100, SOC 230 and SOC 274²
- Have an overall GPA of 2.5 or higher

3. Application & Acceptance into the Major

Applications should include:

- a most recent copy of the student's transcript
- a brief letter of intent that includes the student's current contact information and the name of one faculty member to contact for recommendation who has knowledge of the student's academic ability and performance.

Submit applications to the Department of Sociology & Anthropology Chairperson or Professor Leo Carroll, BS Program Director. Applications are accepted **September 1-30** and **February 1-28** each year.

All applications will be considered together and evaluated by committee according to the same criteria;

- The availability of instructional resources
- Grade point averages, and
- Faculty recommendation.

Students will be notified of their acceptance in October and March each year. Those who fail to gain admission may reapply during subsequent application periods. Once students are accepted into the major, they will be registered in A&S as Bachelor of Science Sociology majors in Criminology & Criminal Justice (*Academic Program: "AS" Academic Plan: "AS_APSC_BS" Plan Description: "Sociology" Academic Subplan: "CRIM_JSTC"*).

4. Fulfill all of the major's requirements

² Students who are enrolled in any of these courses at the time of application are NOT yet eligible to apply.