

CRIMINAL JUSTICE - ASSOCIATE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The Criminal Justice Associate degree program prepares students for a career in the multifaceted criminal justice system. The curriculum, which covers a variety of topics in criminal justice, focuses on developing the ability to recognize and apply pertinent concepts and techniques while stressing the practical skills necessary to deal with complex social, political, and organizational factors. This program is structured around core courses, allowing students to acquire the basic knowledge and skills needed to work in law enforcement, private security, corrections, probation, and other related areas of criminal justice.

The Criminal Justice Associate degree program includes the study of substantive law, criminal justice, social sciences, humanities, behavioral sciences, natural sciences, and general education courses. The degree can be applied toward a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice or other majors at New Mexico State University.

60 credits

The Associate in Criminal Justice introduces students to three areas of the Criminal Justice system: police, courts, and corrections. This degree is interdisciplinary in nature. Studies include the humanities, law, natural, behavioral and social sciences. The curriculum seeks to balance theoretical inquiry with applied knowledge.

This Associate degree satisfies the first two years of the Bachelor of Criminal Justice for both the NMSU Las Cruces and Global campuses.

Students must complete all University degree requirements, which include: General Education requirements and elective credits to total at least 60 credits. Developmental coursework will not count towards the degree requirements and/or elective credits, but may be needed in order to take the necessary English and Mathematics coursework.

Note: A grade of C- or better is required in all Criminal Justice courses and any courses filling the Arts & Sciences Core Requirements.

The New Mexico General Education (<https://catalogs.nmsu.edu/grants/general-education/>) course list can be found here.

Prefix	Title	Credits
General Education		
<i>Area I: Communications</i>		
<i>English Composition - Level 1</i>		
ENGL 1110G	Composition I	4
<i>English Composition - Level 2</i>		
Select one from the following:		
ENGL 2210G	Professional and Technical Communication	3
<i>Oral Communication</i>		
COMM 1115G	Introduction to Communication	3
or COMM 1130G	Public Speaking	
<i>Area II: Mathematics</i>		
Select one from the following:		
MATH 1220G	College Algebra ¹	3
or MATH 1350G	Introduction to Statistics	
<i>Area III: Laboratory Science Course</i>		

Select one course from Area III: Laboratory Science ³		4
<i>Area IV: Social/Behavioral Sciences</i>		
CJUS 1110G	Introduction to Criminal Justice	3
Select an additional Area IV course ³		3
<i>Area V: Humanities ³</i>		
Recommended to select one of the following: ²		
PHIL 1120G	Logic, Reasoning, & Critical Thinking	
PHIL 1145G	Philosophy, Law, and Ethics	
PHIL 2110G	Introduction to Ethics	
PHIL 2230G	Philosophical Thought	
<i>Area VI: Creative and Fine Arts</i>		
Select one course from Area VI: Creative & Fine Arts ³		3
<i>General Education Elective ³</i>		
ENGL 2221G	Writing in the Humanities and Social Science	3
Core Requirements		
CJUS 1120	Criminal Law	3
CJUS 2220	The American Law Enforcement System	3
CJUS 2120	Criminal Courts and Procedure	3
CJUS 2150	Corrections System	3
<i>Second Language Requirement</i>		
Select 8 credits from NMSU College of Arts and Sciences second language requirements.		
SPAN 1110	Spanish I	4
SPAN 1120	Spanish II	4
<i>Other Course Requirements</i>		
OECS 105	Introduction to Information Technology	3
or FYEX 1110	First-year Seminar	
Electives, to bring the total credits to 60		
Select 5 credits of electives to bring total credits to a minimum of 60. Math prerequisites may satisfy electives however developmental MATH is not included.		5
Total Credits		60

¹ MATH 1220G College Algebra or MATH 1350G Introduction to Statistics are preferred but any Mathematics course that is numbered higher than MATH 1220G is also accepted. Note: Students may need to take prerequisite courses prior to enrolling in the required Mathematics course.

² For those students planning to complete the Bachelor of Criminal Justice through NMSU Las Cruces, the Criminal Justice Department prefers a Philosophy course to satisfy the Humanities course.

³ See the General Education (<https://catalogs.nmsu.edu/nmsu/general-education-viewing-wider-world/>) section of the catalog for a full list of courses.

Second Language Requirements

The College of Arts & Sciences requires completion of a second language through the 2120 level for the Bachelor of Criminal Justice degree. See the NMSU Catalog for Criminal Justice degree (<https://catalogs.nmsu.edu/nmsu/arts-sciences/criminal-justice/criminal-justice-bachelor-criminal-justice/>) for additional information on how to satisfy this requirement.

Second Language Requirements:

1. Completion of a second language through the 1120 level
2. Completion through the 2130 level for native speakers

A Suggested Plan of Study

This roadmap assumes student placement into ENGL 1110G Composition I and a College level MATH, such as MATH 1220G College Algebra, and demonstrates how to complete an Associate degree in two years. The contents and order of this roadmap may vary depending on initial student placement in mathematics and English. It is only a suggested plan of study for students and is not intended as a contract.

Course availability may vary from fall to spring semester and may be subject to modification or change. Students are advised to earn a C or better in courses to avoid repeating courses

First Year		Credits
Fall		
CJUS 1110G	Introduction to Criminal Justice	3
ENGL 1110G	Composition I	4
MATH 1220G	College Algebra	3
or MATH 1350G	or Introduction to Statistics	
AREA V: Humanities ¹		3
OECS 105	Introduction to Information Technology	3
or FYEX 1110	or First-year Seminar	
Credits		16
Spring		
CJUS 1120	Criminal Law	3
ENGL 2210G	Professional and Technical Communication	3
AREA III: Laboratory Science ¹		4
AREA IV: Social/Behavioral Science ¹		3
Credits		13
Second Year		
Fall		
COMM 1115G	Introduction to Communication	3
or COMM 1130G	or Public Speaking	
AREA VI: Creative and Fine Arts ¹		3
CJUS 2150	Corrections System	3
CJUS 2220	The American Law Enforcement System	3
SPAN 1110	Spanish I	4
Credits		16
Spring		
CJUS 2120	Criminal Courts and Procedure	3
ENGL 2221G	Writing in the Humanities and Social Science	3
SPAN 1120	Spanish II	4
Electives		5
Credits		15
Total Credits		60

1. Describe the history, structure, and function of the criminal justice system in the United States.
2. Discuss the role of law enforcement, court systems, corrections, and security in maintaining social order.
3. Identify and describe crime-causation theories, various measures of crime and their reliability, and victimization theories.
4. Describe fundamental principles, concepts, and terminology used in the criminal justice system.
5. Apply basic analytical and critical-thinking skills to the evaluation of criminal justice issues, policies, trends, and disparities.

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Learning Outcomes