

# Criminal Justice

## Where can you go with a Criminal Justice Degree?

A degree in Criminal Justice can take your career in many directions. Most students choose to enter the workforce right after graduation, and many continue their education after a few years in the workforce. Our students are equipped with a strong foundation for a career as a(n): Corrections Worker, Homeless Outreach Specialist, Law Enforcement Officer, Probation Officer, Juvenile Corrections, Restorative Justice Practitioner, Victim Advocate.

## First Year

### Academics

- Start taking **LASC** courses as well as foundational and core Criminal Justice courses.
- Need a little help in your classes? Look into [tutoring with the Academic Success Center](#).
- Look into the many [experiential learning opportunities](#) to help build a well-rounded experience.

### On-Campus Experience

- Sign up to participate in the [Human Service Learning Community](#).
- Join a major or interest-specific student organization such as [the Criminal Justice Association](#). Explore other student organizations to join on [DragonCentral](#)

### Connect to the Community

- Volunteer on or off-campus and attend community events such as [Boys and Girls Club of the RRV](#) and [Big Brothers Big Sisters](#).

### Understand Your Career

- Start researching potential career paths on [O\\*Net](#). Here, you can find valuable information, including typical tasks associated with the profession, the skills and knowledge required, the necessary education and licensures, wages and employment trends, professional organizations, and related occupations. Search for careers such as a [Correctional Officer](#).

## Second Year

### Academics

- Take a deeper dive into the discipline of Criminal Justice and begin considering an emphasis or minor such as **Juvenile Justice** or a certificate in **Law Enforcement Skills**.

### On-Campus Experience

- Find an on-campus job or begin your leadership journey by applying for a student leadership position. Visit [Handshake](#) to see open positions.
- Find time to participate in events and activities. See a list of upcoming opportunities in [DragonCentral](#).

### Connect to the Community

- Join [LinkedIn](#) to begin building your professional network and online presence. Think of your profile as a virtual resume and make sure to update it regularly to reflect jobs, coursework, volunteering, involvement, and skills.
- Attend the on-campus [Employer Visits](#) as often as possible. Make sure to engage with the representatives and collect contact information to follow up.

### Understand Your Career

- Schedule an appointment with the [Career Development Center](#) for career planning to learn how to make the most of your time here at MSUM.

## Third Year

### Academics

- In addition to getting your access code, schedule an appointment with your Academic Advisor to ensure you're on track for graduation.
- Take inventory of your professional goals and decide if your future will need to include graduate school. Take the necessary exams and keep track of application timelines.

### On-Campus Experience

- Begin your leadership journey by running for an officer position in a student organization such as the [Criminal Justice Association](#) or by running for student senate.

### Connect to the Community

- Look into the many [experiential learning opportunities](#) to help build a well-rounded experience.

### Understand Your Career

- [Attend professional development-related events](#) on campus, and connect with faculty to learn more about the field and gain insights on how to be successful in your job search.
- Find an internship or part-time job with a local or regional company or organization to learn the ins and outs of your chosen career. Prepare for the application & interview process by working with the [Career Development Center](#).

## Fourth Year

### Academics

- Participate in the [Student Academic Conference](#) to showcase research, connect with employers, and to boost your resume.
- Ensure you submit your application for graduation on time and complete the graduate follow-up survey, letting us know your career or continuing education plans.

### On-Campus Experience

- Assess what experiences or skills are areas of growth for you and fill in gaps with volunteering, organizations, or part-time employment.

### Connect to the Community

- Join professional organizations such as the [American Society of Criminology](#) to gain access to research, continuing education opportunities, job boards, and message boards. Make sure to join prior to graduation to receive the discounted student rate (when applicable).
- Get involved in a community organization such as the [Young Professionals Network](#) to continue building your professional network.

### Understand Your Career

- Network relentlessly! Attend networking events to get connected to employers looking to hire soon-to-be grads. Check [DragonCentral](#) for more information.
- [Schedule appointments with a Career Coach](#) to go over your professional documents and to prepare for upcoming interviews. And remember, once a dragon, always a dragon. You have access to these services for life.

---

## What skills will you need?

To be successful in the world of Criminal Justice, you will need the following skills: analytical thinking, detail orientation, interpersonal skills, negotiation, decision making, physical strength, and self-discipline.

Thankfully, through coursework, on-campus involvement, part-time employment, and internships, you will be well-prepared for life after graduation.