

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

A successful criminal justice career requires a broad knowledge base for the major elements of police work, criminal law and procedure, risk analysis and response, and investigative processes and procedure. The Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice (BSCJ) program at Los Angeles Pacific University equips students with professional knowledge and practical skills in criminal justice while integrating a Christian worldview.

Students who major in criminal justice learn about the field from both an academic and professional perspective, addressing topics from a theoretical as well as a practitioner viewpoint. With the opportunity to specialize in their field, students are able to pursue personal or specific career interests by choosing to include a concentration.

Careers in the field of criminal justice and law enforcement include the areas of criminology, law enforcement, courts, and corrections. For many occupations within the field, a four-year undergraduate degree is considered to be entry level. Occupations in this rapidly growing field include probation officers and correctional treatment specialists; detective or criminal investigators; forensic science technicians; patrol officers; and paralegals.

Students in the Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice program who intend to apply to the Master of Public Administration have an opportunity to substitute up to three graduate-level classes to satisfy BSCJ major requirements. Allowable substitutions include PUBA 560 for CRJU 350, PUBA 590 for CRJU 380, and PUBA 500 for CRJU 430. Undergraduate students considering substitution courses should work with their success coach to determine whether this option fits with their future goals. In addition, students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and obtain approval from the assistant dean of the graduate program. Please be aware that graduate-level substitution courses have a different tuition rate (<https://catalog.lapu.edu/grad/financial/#costofattendancetext>).

Graduates will also be equipped to continue their studies in graduate programs in criminal justice, criminology, law, public administration, or related fields.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) for the B.S. Degree in Criminal Justice

Graduates of the Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice program will be able to:

- **PLO 1:** Demonstrate the ability to integrate biblical concepts and principles with discipline-specific topics and domains.
- **PLO 2:** Develop professional competencies in criminal justice, including an understanding of the various components of the field.
- **PLO 3:** Demonstrate effective written communication skills.
- **PLO 4:** Utilize appropriate research concepts and processes in the analysis of criminal justice issues, practices, and trends.
- **PLO 5:** Demonstrate critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills.
- **PLO 6:** Apply principles of Christian ethics in response to ethical dilemmas and issues within the field of criminal justice.
- **PLO 7:** Demonstrate effective oral communication skills.

Core

The Los Angeles Pacific University Core comprises the General Education requirements and the LAPU Distinctives. Students are encouraged to complete the Core before beginning their major requirements. General Education requirements may be met by transfer work. The LAPU Distinctives are required for all undergraduate degrees at LAPU.

Requirement	Title	Credits
General Education Requirements		25
LAPU Distinctives		9
Total Credits		34

General Education

Requirement	Title	Credits
English Communication		
COMM 105	Public Communication	3
ENGL 105	Introduction to Academic Research and Writing	3
Arts		
ARTS 110	Introduction to Art	3
Humanities		
ENGL 115	Introduction to Literature	3
or PHIL 205	Introduction to Philosophy	
or PHIL 210	Introduction to Ethics	
Quantitative Reasoning		
STAT 280	Applied Statistics	3
Behavioral Sciences		
ECON 203	Principles of Microeconomics	3
or PSYC 105	Introduction to Psychology	
Social Sciences		
HIST 202	World Civilizations	3
or HIST 204	U.S. History from 1865	
or HIST 420	United States History and the Constitution	
Physical and Biological Sciences		
BIOL 105	General Biology/Lab	4
or BIOL 230	Anatomy and Physiology I/Lab	
or CHEM 115	Chemistry for Health Sciences/Lab	
or NSCI 150	Introduction to Astronomy/Lab	
Total Credits		25

LAPU Distinctives

Requirement	Title	Credits
BIBL 100	Introduction to Biblical Literature: Exodus/Deuteronomy	3
BIBL 230	Introduction to Biblical Literature: Luke/Acts	3
ISTU 101	Success in the University ¹	3
Total Credits		9

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Must be taken at LAPU.

Program Requirements

To earn the Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice, students must complete the following degree components:

Requirement	Title	Credits
Core ¹		31
Program Requisites		12
Major Requirements		45
Electives		32
Total Credits		120

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34 credits total; 3 credits are counted below in Program Requisites.

In order to earn the Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice, students must complete the following required courses while achieving a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 in their major courses:

Requirement	Title	Credits
Core		
Core Requirement ¹		31
Program Requisites		
CRJU 105	Introduction to Criminal Justice	3
CRJU 280	Crime and Criminology	3
CRJU 290	The Police Function	3
STAT 280	Applied Statistics	3
Major Requirements		
CRJU 300	Criminal Justice Research Methodology	3
CRJU 320	Criminal Law, Substantive	3
CRJU 330	Crime and Delinquency	3
CRJU 340	Critical Issues in Criminal Justice	3
CRJU 350	Criminal Justice Ethics	3
CRJU 370	The Adjudication Function	3
CRJU 380	Professional Writing in Criminal Justice	3
CRJU 390	Criminal Investigation	3
CRJU 410	Corrections	3
CRJU 420	Terrorism and Counterterrorism	3
CRJU 430	Principles of Public Administration	3
CRJU 440	Constitutional Law	3
CRJU 450	Forensics	3
CRJU 460	Risk Analysis and Security	3
CRJU 490	Criminal Justice Capstone/Senior Project	3
Electives		
Electives Requirement ²		32
Total Credits		120

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3 credits of the 34-credit Core are fulfilled within the Program Requisites.

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Students may choose from any course in the catalog. If students wish to complete a concentration, they may complete a maximum of two concentrations.

Students may also earn up to 30 credits of electives via Prior Learning Assessment (PLA).

Concentrations

Criminal Justice students are encouraged to explore concentrations that will bring a unique value to their degree program.

Recommended Concentrations

- Clinical Psychology (<https://catalog.lapu.edu/undergrad/programs/conc/clinical-psychology/>)
- Criminal Behavior (<https://catalog.lapu.edu/undergrad/programs/conc/criminal-behavior/>)
- Cultural Psychology (<https://catalog.lapu.edu/undergrad/programs/conc/cultural-psychology/>)
- Human Services (<https://catalog.lapu.edu/undergrad/programs/conc/human-services/>)