



Skills and Competencies

Like other degrees, you will be exposed to a variety of academic course work as a criminal justice major. In the process, you will acquire new skills. Specifically, your communication, analytical, and technical skills will be challenged and strengthened. Strong communication skills are, after all, necessary in every career field today; criminal justice is no exception. You will need to develop effective writing skills, as well as oral presentation, and persuasiveness. Leadership and public relation skills are important to possess. The ability to think critically, solve problems, and negotiate are also important in this field. You can expect to be exposed to academic course work and experiences that challenge and develop these skills. The curriculum at NMU prepares students for the broad professional fields of law enforcement, adult and juvenile corrections, the court systems, or graduate studies.



Career Development

You must begin the resume building process as soon as you can--do not wait until you are a junior or a senior to begin considering what your post-graduation plans are. NMU is here to help. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine-tune your resume and search for field-related occupations. In the meantime, the more hands-on experience you have, the greater your employment opportunities. Field studies, internships and/or volunteer experiences are excellent ways to develop skills and practical knowledge. Contact the Criminal Justice Department for more details. (906) 227-2660 Your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.



Additional Resources and Info

For Career Planning and Opportunities:

Academic & Career Advisement Center
3302 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2971
www.nmu.edu/acac

Department of Criminal Justice
110 Gries hall
906-227-2660
www.nmu.edu/cj

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:

Career Services
3502 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2800
www.nmu.edu/careers

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:

Center for Student Enrichment
1206 University Center
906-227-2439
www.nmu.edu/cse

The Criminal Justice Association-

Internet Resource Links:

www.careers.org
www.careerresource.net
www.bls.gov/oco Occupational Outlook Handbook

For Career Information with National Organizations:

www.abanet.org American Bar Association
www.ali.org The American Law Institute
www.acjs.org Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
www.asc41.com The American Society of Criminology

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What To Do With A Major In....

Criminal Justice





Majoring in criminal justice isn't like every other major. Just ask Northern's Criminal Justice students. They'll tell you about Northern's approach to education, the small class size with lots of personal attention, the talented faculty, the use of technology in the classroom, the internships, the diverse number of career opportunities, the high job placement rate, the regional police academy, and the Criminal Justice Association. The criminal justice major is designed to ensure your future success.

Northern offers a wide variety of criminal justice courses. You can explore such topics as corrections, the judicial system, investigations, law enforcement, legal issues, criminology and drug enforcement just to name a few. An introductory course, CJ110 Introduction to Criminal Justice, is available to decide whether criminal justice is the right major for you. Many courses are offered via the web.

Internships are great opportunities to apply learned knowledge and skills in a professional setting. The experience and valuable references improves your employment potential and the opportunity to develop new job related skills. A criminal justice internship is a planned program of observation, study, and work in a criminal justice agency. It broadens the educational experience by working closely with practitioners in the field and completing assignments given by a supervisor. Contact the Criminal Justice Department (906-227-2660) for more details.



Potential Careers

NMU's Criminal Justice Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

Occupations

Air Transport Association
Border Patrol
Bureau of Land Management
Corporate and Industrial Security
Department of Corrections/Prisons
Department of Natural Resources
Drug Enforcement Administration
Internal Revenue Service
Environmental Protection Agency
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Graduate School
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Inspector Generals
Law School
Loss Prevention
National Park Service
Occupational Safety & Health Administration
Private Security
Probation/Parole
Secret Service
Securities and Exchange Commissions
State or County Police Department
U.S. Customs Service

Job Outlook

Increased homeland security has led to the creation of many new jobs in the criminal justice field. Some fields will have up to a 29% increase in new positions. Starting salaries are contingent upon geographic location and the individual applicants work experience and initiative.

Additional Considerations

Most of these occupations require special training after the BA or BS degree is obtained. Good communication, human relations and organizational skills are beneficial to these occupations. These careers carry great benefits as well as opportunities for rewarding experiences.