

Criminology and Criminal Justice, BS

PPCRIMJBS

Our world needs professionals who seek to understand and appreciate the complexities of why people commit crimes, how society responds, what strategies can be employed to improve outcomes and feasible tactics to prevent crime. Pivot your passion into a dynamic career with a top-ranked program.


Program description

The Bachelor of Science program in criminology and criminal justice is for students who want to understand the causes of crime, the role of criminal justice agencies in the control of crime, and the consequences of crime. This program also provides a solid foundation for those interested in pursuing a prelaw track.

Students learn sociological, psychological, biological and economic explanations for individual crime as well as differences in crime across neighborhoods, states, countries and over time. They also learn about the history, legal issues and current practices of crime control via police agencies, the court system, prisons, probation and parole.

These topics are delivered by top-ranking research faculty who offer students hands-on research opportunities and by experienced criminal justice professionals with intimate knowledge of the daily realities of crime and those who engage in crime. Students are encouraged to take advantage of internship opportunities in more than 200 agencies, study abroad programs and flexible course scheduling offered in-person, online and across multiple campuses.

At a glance

- **College/school:** [Watts College of Public Service & Community Solut](#)
- **Location:** [Downtown Phoenix](#), [West Valley](#) or [Online](#), [ASU Local](#)
- **Second language requirement:** No
- **STEM-OPT extension eligible:** No
- **First required math course:** MAT 142 - College Mathematics or MAT 117 College Algebra
- **Math intensity:** General 

Curriculum

[View 2025 - 2026 curriculum](#)

[View curriculum archives](#)

Concurrent program options

Students pursuing concurrent degrees (also known as a “double major”) earn two distinct degrees and receive two diplomas. Working with their academic advisors, students can create their own concurrent degree combination. Some combinations are not possible due to high levels of overlap in curriculum.

Accelerated program options

This program allows students to choose a 3-year path while participating in the same high-quality educational experience of a 4-year option. Students can opt to fast-track their studies after acceptance into a participating program by connecting with their academic advisor. Fast track options appear at the top of the major map.

This program also allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an [accelerated bachelor's plus master's degree](#) with:

[Crime Analysis, MS](#)

[Criminal Justice, MA](#)

[Criminology and Criminal Justice, MS](#)

[Emergency Management and Homeland Security \(Biosecurity and Threat Management\), MA](#)

[Emergency Management and Homeland Security \(Community Resilience\), MA](#)

[Emergency Management and Homeland Security \(Cybersecurity Policy and Management\), MA](#)

[Emergency Management and Homeland Security \(Emergency Management\), MA](#)

[Emergency Management and Homeland Security \(Homeland Security\), MA](#)

[Emergency Management and Homeland Security, MA](#)

[Program Evaluation and Data Analytics, MS](#)

[Public Administration \(Emergency Management\), MPA](#)

[Public Administration \(Nonprofit Administration\), MPA](#)

[Public Administration \(Public Finance\), MPA](#)

[Public Administration \(Urban Management\), MPA](#)

[Public Administration, MPA](#)

[Public Policy \(Environmental Policy\), MPP](#)

[Public Policy \(Policy Informatics\), MPP](#)

[Public Policy \(Science and Technology Policy\), MPP](#)

[Public Policy, MPP](#)

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. Students typically receive approval to pursue the accelerated master's during the junior year of their bachelor's degree program. Interested students can learn about eligibility requirements and [how to apply](#).

Admission requirements

General university admission requirements:

All students are required to meet general university admission requirements.

[First-year](#) | [Transfer](#) | [International](#) | [Readmission](#)

Transfer admission requirements:

The MyPath2ASU pathway allows Arizona transfer students to complete a prescribed sequence of courses that meet the requirements for the community college's AA degree along with the lower-division requirements for the ASU major.

Students completing their ASU BA degree at Yuma: Once the MyPath2ASU pathway requirements are complete, students complete the remaining requirements for the ASU bachelor's degree at the community college.

Students should visit [Admission Services](#) for more information about ASU degrees offered at local community colleges.

Tuition information

When it comes to paying for higher education, everyone's situation is different. Students can learn about [ASU tuition and financial aid](#) options to find out which will work best for them.

Change of Major requirements

A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00 is required to change to this program.

Students should visit the [Change of Major form](#) for information about how to change a major to this program.

Attend online

ASU Online

ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may [view the program's ASU Online page](#) for program descriptions and to request more information.

ASU Local

It is now possible to earn an ASU degree with [ASU Local](#), an integrated college experience in which students take advantage of in-person success coaching and programming experiences on site while completing one of 130+ undergraduate online degree programs, all of which come with online faculty interaction and tutoring support.

Transfer options

ASU is committed to helping students thrive by offering tools that allow personalization of the transfer path to ASU. Students may use [MyPath2ASU®](#) to outline a list of recommended courses to take prior to transfer.

ASU has [transfer partnerships](#) in Arizona and across the country to create a simplified transfer experience for students. These pathway programs include exclusive benefits, tools and resources, and they help students save time and money in their college journey.

Program learning outcomes

Program learning outcomes identify what a student will learn or be able to do upon completion of their program. This program has the following program outcomes:

- Analyze theories of crime and how the criminal justice system responds to crime.
- Examine fundamental methodological and statistical techniques used in criminology and criminal justice research.
- Leverage an understanding of the systemic inequalities of crime for working in 21st century agencies and organizations related to criminal justice.

Global opportunities

Global experience

With more than 300 [Global Education program opportunities](#) available to them, criminology and criminal justice students are able to tailor their experience to their unique interests and skill sets. Whether in a foreign country, in the U.S. or online, students build communication skills, learn to adapt and persevere, and are exposed to research and internships across the world, increasing their professional network.

The Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions recommends [these programs](#) for students majoring in criminology and criminal justice.

Career opportunities

Graduates of the criminology and criminal justice program find a strong job market in the public and private sectors. Employment opportunities exist in:

- corrections
- courts
- federal agencies
- homeland security
- law enforcement
- legal offices
- parole offices
- private security
- probation offices
- victim advocate agencies

In addition, graduates are able to work in combating bank fraud and domestic terrorism. They also may pursue advanced degrees in law, criminology and criminal justice, and other social science disciplines. Example job titles and salaries listed below are not necessarily entry level, and students should take into consideration how years of experience and geographical location may affect pay scales. Some jobs also may require advanced degrees, certifications or state-specific licensure.

Career	*Growth	*Median salary
<u>Correctional Officer</u>	-7.5%	\$49,610
<u>Corrections Officer</u>	3.3%	\$65,790
<u>Corrections Sergeant</u>	-2.7%	\$63,310
<u>Customs and Border Protection Officer (CBPO)</u>	3.3%	\$65,790
<u>Detective Sergeant</u>	1.5%	\$86,280
<u>Forensic Specialist</u>	1.5%	\$86,280
<u>Fraud Investigator</u> ☀	6.1%	\$73,810
<u>Intelligence Officer</u>	1.5%	\$86,280
<u>Police Sergeant/Detective</u>	3.1%	\$96,290

* Data obtained from the Occupational Information Network (O*NET) under sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration (USDOL/ETA).

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Contact information

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