

Criminology and Criminal Justice (Policing), BS

PPCRJPOLBS

In a world where the news cycle is filled with content regarding issues of criminal justice and policing, there are few more critical endeavors than professions that seek to improve those facets of society. In this top-ranked program, you'll develop expertise to fuel a career in an in-demand sector.


Program description

The concentration in policing in the Bachelor of Science program in criminology and criminal justice provides students with knowledge on policing strategies, police management, police accountability, crime analysis and procedural criminal law. This program also provides a solid foundation for those interested in pursuing a prelaw track.

Students who complete the concentration have a better understanding of how police organizations operate and are led; effective strategies for reducing crime, building trust and increasing accountability; improving police-citizen community relations (especially in communities of color); how the Constitution protects the rights of individuals in interactions with law enforcement; and techniques for analysis and mapping of crime and other police data.

After finishing the concentration in policing, students are better prepared for future employment in law enforcement and to contribute to the future of policing in the United States.

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 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](#)

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 enter 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.
- Synthesize material on approaches for accountability and fairness in 21st century police organizations.

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

Career opportunities for graduates of the policing program include work:

- at the local level in sworn positions in police departments and sheriff's offices
- at the state level in trooper and investigator roles in state agencies
- at the federal level in agent and officer positions in federal law enforcement agencies
- in crime and intelligence analysis
- in private security

Graduates of the criminology and criminal justice program with a concentration in policing can also continue to graduate studies in criminology, related fields or law school.

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
Corrections Officer	3.3%	\$65,790
Customs and Border Protection Officer (CBPO)	3.3%	\$65,790
Detective Sergeant	1.5%	\$86,280
Forensic Specialist	1.5%	\$86,280
Intelligence Officer	1.5%	\$86,280
Police Sergeant/Detective	3.1%	\$96,290
Train Police Officer	3.2%	\$69,150

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

Contact information

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