

Legal Issues in Criminal Justice, Certificate

PPLCRJCERT

A myriad of laws govern the investigation of crime and the prosecution of offenders. In this certificate program, you'll explore a range of issues that affect criminal justice professionals, including the law, crimes and defenses, searches and seizures, interrogations and confessions, and constitutional rights during adjudication processes.

Description

The legal issues in criminal justice certificate program focuses on the intersection of policy and its effects on the criminal justice system. Topics include a focus on law and theoretical perspectives regarding the ramifications of certain policies in the field of criminal justice.

Students seeking more specialized knowledge about legal consequences of policy on the criminal justice system or those interested in careers in the public sector, law or the criminal justice system should consider this certificate program.

At a glance

- **College/school:** [Watts College of Public Service & Community Solut](#)
- **Location:** [Downtown Phoenix](#), [West Valley](#) or [Online](#)

Curriculum

[View curriculum archives](#)

2025-2026 Catalog Year

[Open in separate page](#) [Expand all course lists](#)

Requirement	Minimum Grade	Credit Hours
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At least 12 credit hours must be taken in residence at ASU.



Required Courses

CRJ 203: Courts and Sentencing	C	3
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Requirement	Minimum Grade	Credit Hours
CRJ 260: Criminal Law I: Introduction to Substantive Criminal Law	C	3
CRJ 410: Criminal Procedure I: The Law of Investigations	C	3
CRJ 416: Criminal Procedure II: Adjudication	C	3
CRJ 460: Criminal Law II: Advanced Substantive Criminal Law	C	3

Elective Course

Upper Division Electives Special Topics courses (CRJ 394 and CRJ 494) must be approved legal issues-related topics only.	C	3
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Notes

Prerequisite courses may be needed in order to complete the requirements of this certificate.

Bachelor of Science in criminology and criminal justice majors who are also pursuing the Legal Issues in Criminal Justice certificate may not use CRJ 410, CRJ 416, CRJ 460, and their chosen elective (CRJ 321, CRJ 350, or CRJ 411) towards both their degree and certificate.

Enrollment requirements

Students must complete CRJ 100 Introduction to Criminal Justice with a grade of "C" or better (scale is 4.00 = "A") to be admitted to the certificate program. This course may be taken at ASU or transferred from another institution, including a community college.

Bachelor of Science in criminology and criminal justice majors who are also pursuing the legal issues in criminal justice certificate may not use CRJ 410, CRJ 416, CRJ 460, or their chosen elective (CRJ 321, CRJ 350, or CRJ 411) toward both their degree and certificate.

A student pursuing an undergraduate certificate must be enrolled as a degree-seeking student at ASU. Undergraduate certificates are not awarded prior to the award of an undergraduate degree. A student already holding an undergraduate degree may pursue an undergraduate certificate as a nondegree-seeking graduate student.

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.

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:

- Demonstrate competency in explaining the criminal process and Constitutional rights.
- Demonstrate competency in the historical development of criminal law, and the public policy implications of it.
- Demonstrate competency in explaining how the criminal court systems of the United States apply the law to pretrial, adjudication and sentencing processes.

Career opportunities

Graduates are prepared for employment opportunities in public policy, law enforcement and corrections, law firms and social service agencies. Advanced degrees or certifications may be required for academic or clinical positions.

Contact information

[School of Criminology and Criminal Justice](#) | UCENT 600

SCCJadvising@asu.edu

602-496-1658