

CRIMINAL JUSTICE MAJOR MAP

"Springfield College's mission of providing leadership in service to others helped guide me toward the career path I have chosen in criminal justice. My courses provided me with a strong knowledge base in criminal justice and helped me develop interpersonal skills that were invaluable at my internship at Palmer District Court in the Probation Department. The education I received, the relationships I built, and the social skills I developed have set me up for success in the professional world."

- Zachary Wright '19

What Will You Learn?

Critical Thinking and Ethical Decision-Making Skills

- Analyze and evaluate the contemporary response to crime.
- Explain how diverse populations are affected by crime control.

Breadth and Depth of Content Knowledge

- Demonstrate an understanding of the nature and causes of crime.
- Learn about law enforcement, the courts, and corrections.

Written and Verbal Communication Skills

- Write academic papers using proper syntax and formatting.
- Present your work with clarity and confidence.

Where Can You Go?

Law Enforcement

Corrections

Courts

Government

Social Work

Cybercrime

Research

1st YEAR

Pursue Knowledge

Take the Springfield College Seminar (SCSM 101).
Take Introduction to Criminal Justice (CRIM 101).
Take Criminology (CRIM 260).

Gain Experience

Start exploring taking a minor.
Visit the Career Center to start a resume.
Knowing another language is a valued asset in nearly all careers. Build language study into your academic and professional plan.

Build Your Communities

Take care of your spiritual, mental, and physical health.
Attend the Club/Organization Fair.
Get involved with a club, service activity, intramural sports, New Student Orientation (NSO), Residential Life, or Pre-Camp.
Consider a campus job, if you are eligible for work-study, or community-engaged employment opportunities.

Prepare for Life After College

Get involved to develop transferable skills

- Attend departmental and campus events to network and meet faculty, staff, and students.
- Meet with a Career Counselor to explore careers and/or majors.
- Utilize Career Center resources, including Handshake.

2nd YEAR

Take Corrections (CRIM 205).
Take Courts (CRIM 210).
Take Law Enforcement (CRIM 220).
Finish your Wellness Course sequence.
Declare a Themed Exploration.

If you're interested in a semester abroad your junior year, start planning now with your advisor and International Center staff.
Attend networking events.
An internship is one of the most important pre-professional experiences future employers look for. Start planning now with your advisor and the Career Center.

Commit to consistent service.
Become a member of a club.
Get to know the larger Springfield community through service projects with the Center for Service and Leadership.
Build your intercultural competence by getting involved with the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and the International Center.

Develop academic and career-related goals

- Visit the Career Center to research fields of interest.
- Have resumes and cover letters reviewed by the Career Center.
- Now is the time to develop your academic and career goals with your advisor and a career counselor.

3rd YEAR

Take your criminal justice electives.
Get started on your Wellness Passport.

Complete an internship.
Start exploring graduate school.
Continue to develop leadership skills through attending a regional or national conference or becoming an executive board member of your club/organization.

Focus on leadership.
Become an executive member for a club.
Attend a regional or national conference.
Lead a service project.
Explore short-term abroad opportunities with the International Center, as well as service-oriented spring break experiences in the U.S., like Alternative Spring Break.

Gain experiential education in your field

- Attend networking events and job fairs to learn about employment opportunities.
- Plan an internship experience with your faculty internship coordinator and the Career Center.
- Look at graduate school requirements to ensure you are on track.

4th YEAR

Take Senior Seminar (CRIM 494).
Complete your remaining requirements.

Present a paper at Scholars in Action Day, and/or at a regional or national conference in your area of study or activity.
Explore undertaking a second internship.

Mentor others.
Mentor undergraduate students.
Present at a conference.
Explore new activities you haven't tried before.

Apply for jobs or graduate school

- Prepare your applications for jobs and graduate school.
- Ask professionals to serve as references.
- Participate in mock interviews to strengthen skills and build confidence.
- Speak with the International Center about opportunities in the U.S. and abroad.

The map offers suggestions for activities and careers, but everyone's abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. **You don't have to do it all.**