

Bachelor of Arts in Justice & Law

FOUNDATIONAL JUSTICE & LAW COURSES

Introduction to Systems of Justice

An overview of the formal mechanisms of social control as manifested by the components of the criminal justice system (legislatures, planning agencies, law enforcement, courts, and corrections), civil justice systems, and such other mechanisms as civil commitment. Alternatives to formal processing including diversion, pretrial screening and dispute-settlement programs.

Critical Issues in Justice

Political, legal, economic, and social problems of justice emphasizing crime, deviance, and other conduct resulting in such socially disapproved labels as mentally ill, delinquent, and criminal. Moral and theoretical issues involved and mechanisms for remedying injustice and controlling socially disapproved behavior.

Introduction to Criminology

Development of theories of criminology and criminal justice over the course of history with special attention to the period from 1700 to the present. Review and evaluation of contemporary knowledge and theories of crime.

Introduction to Justice Research

This course focuses on the scientific study of people and their interactions, in particular questions related to crime, justice, and political violence. Researching these topics in a rigorous way is difficult, but also uniquely interesting and exciting. The course gives students the tools to analyze and understand social science research (i.e., be a consumer of research). It also provides quantitative skills in game theory, probability, statistics, and programming to serve as a foundation to becoming a producer of social science research.

Justice and Public Policy

This course examines criminal justice policies and introduces skills to understand policy processes and their intended or unintended consequences. While learning how to identify and analyze a social problem and its causes, students practice setting policy goals and designing policies. Students dive deep into the role of politics, government, and informal actors in policymaking and implementation. Beyond gaining substantive knowledge of key issues in these fields, students learn how scientific research can be used to understand the causes of a particular problem and find effective and equitable solutions. Students develop these skills through readings, discussions, presentations, and argumentative writing assignments.

SPA's BA in Justice & Law, with concentrations in criminal justice, criminology, or terrorism and security studies allows students to analyze the foundations, functions, policies, and procedures of justice. Crime and terrorism are serious public policy concerns in American society. The systems of justice provide the means to formally respond to crime and terrorism issues. Local, national, and international perspectives are utilized to assist students in gaining relevant and current insights on the nature of crime and terrorism and the workings of the justice system.

Read on to find out if this undergraduate major can help you work towards your career goals.

SCHOOL *of* PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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Students engage in meaningful discussions during class on a regular basis.

Study Abroad Opportunities

- Students may study abroad between their second semester of sophomore year through their senior year.
- Justice & Law majors can count up to 6 credit hours of preapproved study abroad courses, toward their upper-level major course requirements.
- It is strongly recommended that students complete the majority of their university requirements before studying abroad.
- Some popular study abroad destinations are: Australia » China » Denmark » England » Italy » Netherlands » New Zealand

Internship Opportunities

- Students can earn up to 12 credits from internships toward their degree.
- Students can apply a maximum of 6 credits to their major requirements.
- Students must complete at least 30 credit hours at AU before registering an internship for credit.
- Sample internships include: » National Institute of Justice » FBI » American Bar Association » D.C. Courts » U.S. Customs » Public Defender Service » Secret Service » Department of Homeland Security

Scholarly Research Opportunities

- Take Introduction to Justice Research before moving into more advanced upper-level courses.
- Students learn research design, quantitative analysis, and how to apply analytical and statistical techniques to contemporary problems.
- Students have opportunities to work with faculty mentors on their original research projects.
- Students will present their original research through research symposiums on campus or at national conferences.

WE KNOW SUCCESS

Graduates from Public Affairs have gone on to employers and graduate/ law schools like:

- **American Gaming Association**
- **American University Washington College of Law**
- **Campaign Legal Center**
- **Columbia University**
- **DC Public Schools**
- **Fordham University**
- **George Washington University**
- **Georgetown University**
- **Goldman Sachs**
- **Harvard University**
- **Johns Hopkins University**
- **London School of Economics**
- **National Republican Congressional Committee**
- **National Wildlife Federation**
- **NBCUniversal, Inc.**
- **NJI Media**
- **Pennsylvania State University**
- **Public Defenders**
- **The Washington Post**
- **U.S. Department of Defense**
- **U.S. Department of Justice**
- **University of Chicago**
- **University of Virginia**

QUESTIONS?

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