



Significant Change to an Undergraduate Major

Catalog Title of Major: Justice and Law (BA)

Name and contact information for future correspondence:

Bill Davies (davies@american.edu); Sarah Adler (sadler@american.edu)

Academic Unit - School/College:

CAS KSB SOC SIS SPA SPExS Other:

Teaching Unit – Department or Program: Justice, Law & Criminology

Date effective:

Required Signatures	Name	Signature	Date
Teaching Unit Chair or Director	Joe Young		1/23/17
EPC Chair	Susan Glover		2/2/17
Primary Academic Unit Dean	Paul Vukobratovic		2/6/17
Second Academic Unit Dean (if applicable)			
Faculty Senate Chair			
Provost			

Date sent to the Office of the University Registrar:

I. Identifying Information

- a. **Academic unit:** School of Public Affairs
- b. **Teaching unit:** Justice, Law & Criminology
- c. **Degree affected:** Justice and Law (BA)
- d. **Proposed effective date:** AY 2017-2018

II. Rationale

- a. **Please describe the significant change that you are proposing:** We are reducing the major from 51 credit hours to 36 credit hours. We are also altering the number of credit hours and specific courses within the required section, removing the Law & Society requirement, changing the number of credit hours required in the concentrations, and adding new courses into the concentration options.
- b. **What is the rationale behind the change?** This is part of the university-wide effort to reduce the number of credits required for majors to accommodate new university requirements. We are also taking this opportunity to introduce new courses and revise requirements to ensure students are receiving important knowledge in the field.
- c. **Please list all of the courses required for completion of the major and indicate whether each course is unchanged, has a minor change, has a significant change, or is a new course.**
 - JLC-103 Critical Issues in Justice (unchanged)
 - JLC-104 Introduction to Systems of Justice (unchanged)
 - JLC-205 Introduction to Criminology (unchanged)
 - JLC-280 Introduction to Justice Research (minor change – new pre-requisites of JLC-104 and JLC-205 added)
 - JLC-309 Justice and Public Policy (unchanged)
- d. **After the change is implemented, will the resulting major affect any other programs now offered by your teaching unit? By other teaching units? By other members of Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area? Explain.**

We do not foresee these changes having any substantial effect upon any other programs or units. Removing SPA-220 The American Constitution from the required courses may result in a negligible reduction in enrollment for that course.
- e. **After the change is implemented, compare the resulting major's requirements to the requirements of similar majors at other institutions nationally.**

University of Maryland, College Park's Criminology and Criminal Justice major requires 54 credits, but the core requirement of 33 credits in CCJS courses is similar to the proposed change's total major requirements in both credit hours and substance.

University of Louisville's Criminal Justice major requires 54 credits, but the core requirement is 30 credits in criminal justice courses, which is similar to the proposed change's total major requirements in both credit hours and substance.

University of Alabama's Criminal Justice major requires 36 credits, which is similar to the proposed change's total major requirements in both credit hours and substance.

Georgetown University's Justice and Peace major requires 33 credits, which is similar to the proposed change's total major requirements in both credit hours and substance.

- f. **Please include statements from the deans of the other academic units if the change affects majors or courses within their units and a statement from the University Librarian if the change affects library resources.**

III. Student Interest

- a. **What impact is the proposed change expected to have on student interest?**

We predict increased student interest due to the reduction in credit hours required as well as the inclusiveness of the concentrations, allowing students to choose courses that especially appeal to them and apply to their career goals.

IV. Resources available to support this program

- a. **Will the proposed change have an impact on the resources needed to support this major?**

No.

- b. **In all of the above cases in part IV, what are the resource plans if the major exceeds its projected growth as a result of this change?**

Should the number of majors increase in the Justice and Law program, we will work with our academic unit to request resources according to standard procedure.

V. Implementation plans

- a. **In what year will the changed major take effect?** Academic Year 2017-2018

- b. **How will current students be accommodated?** Current students will remain under the catalog requirements during the year in which they entered the program. Any exceptions required will go through the standard academic advising channels.

VI. Enrollment projections

- a. **Will the change impact enrollment?** No

- b. **Will the period of study (in semesters) change for full-time students and part-time students?** The time to complete the major will be reduced by approximately one semester; however, the new university requirements will negate this change.

- c. **On the basis of the above, estimate the total number of students who will be actively taking courses in the major each year during the first five years.** We estimate no substantial change in enrollment from the current Justice and Law major.

- d. **What is the timing and sequencing for all required and elective courses?**

What will be done if enrollments exceed projections? The timing and sequencing will remain unchanged. The only possible difference will be that students will not be able to take JLC-280 Introduction to Justice Research until at least their second semester, which was always the recommendation. Should enrollments exceed projections, we will work with our academic unit to request further resources according to standard procedure.

VII. Financial considerations

- Will the proposed change impact the major's budget and/or finances?** No.

VIII. Assessment

- a. Does this significant change in the major affects learning outcomes, including the competencies that students are expected to demonstrate? No.
- b. If applicable, what are the learning outcomes for the new major? N/A
- c. If applicable, what qualitative criteria and evidence should be used to assess learning outcomes for students who complete this major? N/A
- d. Provide some examples of methods you plan to use to assess the program's learning outcomes. Learning outcomes will remain unchanged and assessment will continue to be performed based on our Middle States assessment criteria.

IX. If applicable, list any new courses or changed courses including a brief description.

New courses (electives):

- JLC-432 Concepts of Punishment – a new course that examines the philosophical issues associated with punishment, who we punish, and how.
- JLC-469 Terrorism and Homeland Security Policy Practicum – a new course that was formerly offered as a JLC-485 topic in which students apply skills to real world applications through a partnership with the Department of Homeland Security

Courses with minor changes (electives):

- JLC-280 Introduction to Justice Research – added prerequisites
- JLC-332 Corrections and the Constitution – removed prerequisites
- JLC-342 Judicial Administration – removed prerequisites
- JLC-401 Criminal Behavior: A Psychosocial Analysis – removed term language
- JLC-426 Domestic Violence – removed term language
- JLC-444 Topics in Criminal Justice – removed term language
- JLC-445 Topics in Criminology – removed term language
- JLC-458 The Juvenile and the Law – removed prerequisites
- JLC-483 Cyber Threats and Security – removed term language
- JLC-484 Intelligence Analysis – removed term language
- JLC-485 Topics in Terrorism – removed term language
- JLC-491 Internship in a Justice/Legal Setting – name changed

X. Catalog Copy

- a. Please attach a revised program listing for the major as it is to appear in the University Catalog.

Offered by the Department of Justice, Law and Criminology, School of Public Affairs.

Admission to the Program

New freshman and transfer students are admitted through the Office of Admissions. Current students who wish to transfer into the department or develop a double major should have a grade point average of 2.50 or higher and the approval of the undergraduate academic advisor.

University Requirements

120 credit hours with a cumulative GPA of 2.00 or better

Completion of college writing requirement

Completion of university mathematics requirement

General Education Requirements

A total of ten courses, consisting of two courses from each of the five foundational areas

At least one course from Area Five: The Natural and Mathematical Sciences must include a laboratory science component

No more than two courses may be taken in the same discipline

Major Requirements

36 credit hours with grades of C or better

Course Requirements

Required (15 credit hours)

JLC-103 Critical Issues in Justice (3)

JLC-104 Introduction to Systems of Justice (3)

JLC-205 Introduction to Criminology (3)

JLC-280 Introduction to Justice Research (3)

JLC-309 Justice and Public Policy (3)

Concentration (21 credit hours)

Complete 21 credit hours in one concentration with a minimum of 12 credit hours at the 300-level or above:

Criminal Justice

JLC-200 Deprivation of Liberty FA4 (3)

JLC-210 Policing in America: An Introductory Survey (3)

JLC-211 Contemporary Issues in American Law Enforcement (3)

JLC-230 Corrections in America (3)

JLC-332 Corrections and the Constitution (3)

JLC-342 Judicial Administration (3)

JLC-368 Juvenile Delinquency: Causes, Prevention and Treatment (3)

JLC-402 Comparative Systems of Law and Justice (3)

JLC-422 Justice Workshop (3)

JLC-431 The Prison Community (3)

JLC-432 Concepts of Punishment (3)

JLC-444 Topics in Criminal Justice (3)

JLC-491 Internship in a Justice/Legal Setting (1-6)

JLC-496 Selected Topics: Non-Recurring (1-6)

Or other courses (JLC-xxx) with permission from the department.

Criminology

- JLC-206 Justice and Deviant Behavior (3)
 - JLC-215 Violence and Institutions FA4 (3)
 - JLC-245 Cities and Crime FA4 (3)
 - JLC-313 Organized Crime (3)
 - JLC-315 White-Collar and Commercial Crime (3)
 - JLC-368 Juvenile Delinquency: Causes, Prevention and Treatment (3)
 - JLC-401 Criminal Behavior: A Psychosocial Analysis (3)
 - JLC-417 Victimology (3)
 - JLC-422 Justice Workshop (3)
 - JLC-426 Domestic Violence (3)
 - JLC-445 Topics in Criminology (3)
 - JLC-451 Drugs, Crime, and Public Policy (3)
 - JLC-454 Violence, Justice and the Law (3)
 - JLC-458 The Juvenile and the Law (3)
 - JLC-491 Internship in a Justice/Legal Setting (1-6)
 - JLC-496 Selected Topics: Non-Recurring (1-6)
- Or other courses (JLC-xxx) with permission from the department.

Terrorism and Security Studies

- JLC-469 Terrorism and Homeland Security Policy Practicum (3)
 - JLC-470 Causes of Terrorism and Political Violence (3)
 - JLC-471 Evolution of Global Jihad (3)
 - JLC-474 Domestic Terrorism and Political Violence (3)
 - JLC-475 Terrorism and Counterterrorism in Practice (3)
 - JLC-478 Investigating Terrorism (3)
 - JLC-479 Prosecution of Terrorism (3)
 - JLC-482 Crime and Conflict Nexus (3)
 - JLC-483 Cyber Threats and Security (3)
 - JLC-484 Intelligence Analysis (3)
 - JLC-485 Topics in Terrorism (3)
 - JLC-491 Internship in a Justice/Legal Setting (1-6)
 - JLC-496 Selected Topics: Non-Recurring (1-6)
- Or other courses (JLC-xxx) with permission from the department.

Combined Justice and Law (BA) and Justice, Law and Criminology (MS)

American University offers students the opportunity to earn both undergraduate and graduate degrees through its combined bachelor's/master's programs. See [Combined Bachelor's and Master's Degrees](#) for more information.