

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

MAJOR to CAREER MAP

How to Use This Map

Use the structure of the map to help you assess where you are and where you would like to go as you prepare for your professional career. The map offers suggestions; you don't have to do it all!

While you will learn a lot from your studies, take time to focus on other things that will help you be more competitive in your job search or graduate school applications. Get relevant experience outside the classroom, build your network, perform service and expand your contributions through leadership, and build the career management skills needed to find a job and move forward in your career.



MERCY COLLEGE

FOR THOSE WITH A PASSION TO GET AHEAD

Plan for Career Success

It is never too early to think about and plan for your future! Take the time to think about the skills you need to develop and experiences you need to have to prepare for your professional career, or move to the next level. Explaining your strengths and experiences with compelling examples will be an important step as you apply for jobs and further education. Use this map as a guide, and see the [Career & Professional Development website](#) for additional resources.

Build Skills and Experiences Employers Look For

Employers seek a variety of skills, knowledge and experience when hiring for professional roles. While specific needs vary by industry and employer, recent surveys* indicate the top skills they seek are as follows:

- 1 Strong oral and written communication skills
- 2 Ability to work in diverse teams and collaborate
- 3 Critical thinking, problem solving, and analytical skills
- 4 Professionalism and work ethic

Employers also look for job-specific knowledge, relevant technology skills, and the ability to apply knowledge and skills to real world settings. These are learned through internships, volunteer leadership roles and relevant jobs related to your career interests.

* Hart Research Associates, 2018. What Really Matters for Employment? Retrieved from Association of American Colleges & Universities Website: https://www.aacu.org/liberaleducation/2018/fall/watson_mcconnell; National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), 2016. Career Readiness Defined. Retrieved from NACE website: www.naceweb.org/career-readiness/competencies/career-readiness-defined/

Get the Help you Need

Mercy College provides you with a large number of support services from the time you enter the college through graduation. We offer a personalized learning experience that includes the College's Personalized Achievement Contract (PACT) program. PACT is a nationally recognized mentoring program that serves as a model for student success. Your PACT mentor is your point person who helps you navigate college life.

Mercy College promotes student learning and holistic development by offering programs and services that support students' academic development, inspire personal growth, and foster interpersonal connections and collaboration to prepare students for success in our diverse community and beyond. Check out the [Division of Student Affairs website](#) for available resources.

The Career and Professional Development team at Mercy College offers tools, training, and exposure to opportunities that empower our students to take ownership of their career success. Attend our events, career fairs and programs to learn and practice career skills, or see a counselor to get tips on finding internships or jobs, to practice interviewing, or to hone your professional resume. Our [website](#) also contains videos, resume formats and other useful tips to help our students prepare for their professional careers.

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE

THE STUDY OF CRIME PREVENTION, ENFORCEMENT, JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS

The Criminal Justice degree program contains a comprehensive combination of theoretical and practical courses to prepare students to enter the profession, to advance in the profession if already in it, and/or prepare the individual to pursue a graduate degree. The greatest strength of the Criminal Justice program at Mercy College is the academic and professional diversity of the faculty. The full-time faculty have doctoral degrees in Criminal Justice, Sociology, Psychology, and Law. The program also has a team of dedicated part time faculty from the New York metropolitan area who have hands-on experience in the criminal

justice system as attorneys, law enforcement officers, judges, probation and corrections officers, and more. Students in the program will learn in-depth about the theories and practices of the main components of the Criminal Justice System: police, courts, and corrections. In addition, students can select from a variety of courses (offered by Criminal Justice, Psychology, Sociology, and Legal Studies) in areas such as family violence, organized and white-collar crime, ethics, law of evidence,

juvenile justice, psychology and law, crime scene investigation, and law of evidence, among others, so they can learn more about areas that are of interest to them. Classroom learning is enhanced by the variety of internship opportunities the program encourages students to pursue. Students completing internships can earn academic credits at a variety of agencies in Westchester, Manhattan, and the Bronx while they practice hands-on learning in the field of their choice.

Degree OPTIONS

Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice

Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice; Specialization in Forensics

WHY STUDY CRIMINAL JUSTICE?

A Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice provides the educational background for any individual who wants to work (or is already working) in a variety of public and private fields that make up the vast operations of managing and providing services related to social behavior within a legal context. The field of Criminal Justice is for individuals who want to help others by serving their community in the areas of crime prevention, law enforcement, legal processing of defendants, and in correcting/rehabilitating of offenders for a better society. The field of Criminal Justice offers job stability, among the best health and retirement benefits offered, and plenty of opportunities for advancement. Work in Criminal Justice is exciting, requiring fast thinking and problem solving from one situation to another. The critical and creative thinking of Criminal Justice personnel is always being put to the test: from the Police Officer improvising to de-escalate a confrontation, to the public defender who has to develop the best argument to defend their client, or the rehabilitation worker who must motivate youth away from substance use/abuse. A career in Criminal Justice offers personal and financial benefits, and experiences, that one cannot find in any other field.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE - MAJOR to CAREER MAP

DEGREE OPTIONS: Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice
Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice; Specialization in Forensics



FOR THOSE WITH A PASSION TO GET AHEAD

CAREER EXAMPLES

Where could I go after graduation?*

- Public Service, Law & Government**
Law Enforcement & Security
- I.E., Police Officer, Deputy Sheriff, State Trooper, Court Officer
- Corrections, Probation & Parole Officers
Corporate & Homeland Security
Field Forensics
Court Administrators
Lawyers, Paralegals & Clerks
- I.E., Public Defender, District Attorney, Judge
- Community Education/
Crime Prevention
Political Offices & Campaigns
Public Policy & NGOs
Government Offices & Agencies
- I.E., FBI, CIA, ATF

- Human Services & Education**
Community Mental Health Services
Substance Abuse Counseling*
Education*
Social Justice
Social Work*

With appropriate coursework, students may also expand their Criminal Justice education to the following career fields:

- Media, Marketing & Communications**
Communications & Broadcasting
Corporate Communications
Marketing
Public Relations

- Business**
Business Management/
Non-profit Management
Entrepreneurship
Human Resources/
People Operations/Talent

*Some careers may require further education/training/certifications

	1st PHASE	2nd PHASE	3rd PHASE	4th PHASE/FINAL YEAR
TAKE THE COURSES YOU NEED CRIMINAL JUSTICE Consult academic program sequence map CRIMINAL JUSTICE/FORENSICS Consult academic program sequence map	Meet with your PACT Mentor to discuss your major interests. Use the Academic Program Sequence map to create your academic plan. Impress your faculty in class – later on they may be able to connect you to a job. + CRJU 102, PSYN 101, SOCL 101 CRJU 102, PSYN 101, SOCL 101	Explore elective courses in Criminal Justice, Psychology, Sociology, or Corporate & Homeland Security that are related to your interests. Participate in class discussions and presentations to build valuable workplace skills. + CRJU 204, CRJU 212, CRJU 236, CRJU 253 CRJU 204, CRJU 212, CRJU 236, CRJU 253	Continue to enroll in Criminal Justice, Psychology, Sociology, or Corporate & Homeland Security courses related to your career interests. Continue strong academic performance to connect what you are learning to your career plan. + CRJU 396 Three approved electives within the CJ major CRJU 255, CRJU 256, CRJU 396, LAW 203, SINC 161 (Fall), SINC 162 (Spring)	Check in with your PACT Mentor to ensure all course requirements are met. Stay committed and finish strong! You are almost there! Apply to graduate! Degree conferral application deadlines are listed in the Undergraduate Catalog . + CRJU 401 Two approved electives within the CJ major CRJU 401, PSYN 209
	GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE AND MAKE PROFESSIONAL CONNECTIONS If not already working, get a job to gain experience. It is best if the job is in Criminal Justice but all work experience has value. If applicable, apply for Federal Work Study jobs in Handshake to start building good work habits right on campus.	Start learning about internships and how to secure one. See a career counselor to learn more. Schedule an appointment with Program Director, Dr. Mary Cuadrado, to discuss internships in your area of interest. Try to get work experience in a field of interest. See Handshake for opportunities.	Complete an internship for credit in your field (CRJU 399). Apply for an internship grant if unpaid. Conduct research with a faculty member to deepen your understanding of a relevant topic. Create your LinkedIn account and ask a Career Coach to review it.	Complete a second internship if possible. Present your research at a conference. Update your LinkedIn account and join relevant groups. Attend Mercy College career fairs and events to learn about opportunities, and connect with employers looking for talent.
CONNECT WITH OUR MERCY COMMUNITY Join Career Communities to explore & start learning about industries of interest. Attend Career & Professional Development events to start learning early. Join a club on campus such as the Behavioral Sciences Club or the Psychology Club. Join Student Government! Employers love to see campus involvement.	Take on more responsibility within your clubs or organizations. Attend workshops and events to learn and network with staff and other students. They will become part of the network you are building. Volunteer to help with planning of events and outreach for your career community .	Join an Honor Society such as Alpha Phi Sigma and get involved. Make yourself known to your Professors (who you are, your skills and interests, etc.) Later on, they may be willing to serve as a professional reference for you.	Join the Mercy Alumni LinkedIn Group to connect with alumni in your major and career interest groups. Attend senior events held by Student Life and Career & Professional Development to celebrate your upcoming graduation and career next steps. Touch base with your Professors and key staff to ask for reference letters, if needed. Thank them!	
GAIN LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE EXPERIENCE Volunteer for events such as fundraising for causes, or assist with a community event for a youth group, a political group, or a religious organization. You will build skills, connections and make a difference. Apply to become a Mav Team member, as a Resident Assistant, Orientation Leader or Peer Mentor. Contact studentlife@mercy.edu	Make a commitment to an organization that helps others. A few examples are Police Athletic League, Boys & Girls Clubs, or community outreach groups. Apply to become a Mav Team member!	Apply what you have learned in a leadership role in an organization. Help organize events, fundraising efforts, volunteers, budgets and other resources.	Increase your contribution through a leadership role in an organization. You will build skills you will use in leadership roles in your career, and meet people who will help you as your career develops. People you meet early in your career often want to help students, and may play an important role in your professional career.	
GET READY FOR YOUR PROFESSIONAL LIFE AFTER GRADUATION See your PACT Mentor to discuss your major to career interests. Check out Focus 2 , the free Mercy College career exploration tool. Make an appointment with a Career Coach to establish or update your career plan (CPD@mercy.edu). Build a professional resume and cover letter and upload them to Handshake .	Continue to update your resume. Create your elevator pitch, a 30-second speech that summarizes who you are, what you do and why you would be a perfect candidate. Learn how to interview successfully. Review the many career resources available on the Career & Professional Development website . Note that most positions in the Criminal Justice field require background checks.	Get help thinking about graduate school from a faculty member. Research education requirements for careers of interest. If needed, prepare for required tests (GRE, LSAT, GMAT). Investigate requirements for full time jobs in your career areas of interest. Be proactive; this depends on you! Practice mock interviews using Big Interview , or meet with a Career Coach.	Apply to jobs or higher education programs or make other plans. Do not wait until after graduation! Practice interviewing! Learn to convey your own skills and experiences in relation to what employers are looking for.	