Study in the field of criminal justice examines the component parts of criminal justice – police, courts, and corrections – and seeks to gain an understanding of the interdependencies among them. Courses emphasize the role of criminal justice agencies in society, particularly in relation to the impact of alternative criminal justice policies on society and social problems. The program prepares students as generalists in criminal justice and is well suited for those who want to pursue graduate work in criminal justice, law, public administration, and the social sciences.

Thousands of our graduates have gone on to careers with the public sector, private sector and non-profit organizations, including jobs such as FBI agent, intelligence analyst, police officer, evidence technician, border patrol agent, computer security expert, probation officer, customs inspector, and private investigator.

Requirements

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General Curriculum Requirements: Social Work and Criminal Justice

For courses that satisfy the distribution requirements in humanities, natural science, and social science, see the GER listing in the current Timetable (http://www4.uwm.edu/schedule). The UWM General Education Requirements (http://catalog.uwm.edu/policies/undergraduate-policies/#generaleducationtext) apply to all students who were not enrolled in an accredited institution prior to 1986.

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Major Requirements

Criminal justice intended majors spend their first two years building a liberal arts foundation and fulfilling proficiency requirements. Freshmen and sophomores may begin to take courses offered in the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare.

Students must complete at least 120 credits to obtain the degree. The major in criminal justice requires a minimum of 39 credits in required courses and electives, and 27 credits in social science courses, for a minimum of 66 credits for the major. The Department requires that students attain at least a 2.0 GPA on all credits in the major attempted at UWM. In addition, students must attain a 2.0 GPA on all major credits attempted, including transfer work, to meet graduation requirements.

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Select 6 credits of General Education-approved natural science courses to include a lab or field course

United States History and Institutions

Select Option 1: History 151 and 152 or Option 2: one 400 level U.S. history course plus one additional course listed below.

Select one of the following:

Option 1:

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Option 2:

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Mathematics

Refer to Proficiency Requirements in General Education Requirements. Contact a school advisor for specific information.

Liberal Arts Foundation

Arts

Select 3 credits of General Education-approved arts course in the history, philosophy, theory, or practice of the creative and interpretive arts

Foreign Language

Completion of two years of high school-level instruction in a single foreign language, or satisfactory completion of at least two semesters of a single foreign language, or approved demonstration of foreign language ability

Humanities

COMMUN 103 Public Speaking

Select 9 credits of General Education-approved humanities courses

Natural Science
Transfer Students

The Helen Bader School of Social Welfare welcomes students from other academic areas on the UWM campus and students transferring to UWM from other institutions. Students planning to transfer into either major from another institution should meet with an academic advisor as soon as they are admitted and the transfer credit evaluation process has been completed. During this meeting, the student and advisor will review transfer course equivalencies, discuss program requirements, and create an academic plan for coming semesters. Students may meet with their advisor in person or by phone. Please call (414) 229-4852 to schedule an appointment or for more information.

Honors in the Major

Honors in the Major are granted to students who have earned a GPA of 3.500 or above in major courses, including social science credits completed at UWM.

Honors in the School of Social Welfare

Dean's Honor List

GPA of 3.750 or above, earned on a full-time student's GPA on 12 or more graded credits in a given semester.

Honors Degree and Honors Degree with Thesis

Granted to graduating seniors who complete Honors College requirements, as listed in the Honors College (http://catalog.uwm.edu/opportunities-resources/honors-college) section of this site.

Commencement Honors

Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.500 or above, based on a minimum of 40 graded UWM credits earned prior to the final semester, will receive all-university commencement honors and be awarded the traditional gold cord at the December or May Honors Convocation. In schools and colleges in which fewer than 15% of the traditional students have a 3.500 GPA, all-university honors will be awarded to approximately the top 15% of graduating students. A criterion GPA (not lower than 3.200) for this 15% will be calculated based on statistics from the previous comparable semester. Please note that for honors calculation, the GPA is not rounded and is truncated at the third decimal (e.g., 3.499).

Final Honors

Earned on a minimum of 60 graded UWM credits: Cum Laude - 3.500 or above; Magna Cum Laude - 3.650 or above; Summa Cum Laude - 3.800 or above.

Contact Information

Office of Student Services
Enderis Hall, 1110
2400 E Hartford Ave.
Phone: 414-229-4852
hbssw@uwm.edu