



Major/Career Connections

Major Profile: Criminal Justice (IES)

School of Public & Environmental Affairs

Investigative Interest Cluster

Is Criminal Justice for me?

Find out by answering the following questions. If you answer yes to most of them, read on to learn more. If not, try one of the other **Major Profiles** (<http://uc.iupui.edu/students/academics/mccs.asp>).

	No	Yes
Are you investigative, enterprising, or social (see Interest Cluster sheets)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have a strong sense of right and wrong? Value justice?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does serving and protecting others appeal to you?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you like reading or watching mysteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have communication, leadership, and decision-making abilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you responsible and like taking ownership?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you objective? i.e. Can you see both sides of arguments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What is Criminal Justice?

Criminal justice is the study of the dimensions and causes of crime and delinquency. It provides students with a sophisticated understanding of the operations of society's system to contain crime. Criminal justice is composed of law enforcement, the courts, and corrections. Another concentration within this major is Public Safety Management which focuses on issues related to homeland security and natural disaster planning and response.

What Courses Will I Take?

- Public Management
- Law & Public Policy
- The American Criminal Justice System
- Public Safety in America
- Criminal Law
- The Criminal Courts
- American Policing
- Emergency Services Management
- Principles of Public Safety
- Criminal Justice Data, Methods, and Resources

What are Some Concentration Specific Skills?

- **Criminal Justice:** explore aspects of crime, the law, and the justice system
 - Projects include reading court cases, learning the law, applying research methods, and understanding theory & policy
- **Public Safety Management:** learn the techniques and develop leadership skills needed to protect against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters
 - Projects include emergency planning, assessing risks, and identifying weapons of mass destruction

What Skills Will I Develop?

In Criminal Justice you will be guided on how to address pressing societal needs related to law enforcement, the judicial system, corrections, and national security. You also will acquire the background needed to pursue a graduate degree in law or criminal justice. In Public Safety Management you will learn principles of public safety and decision-making. You will be trained in management of life-saving public services, disaster preparedness, homeland security, and private-sector security (*IUPUI Department of Criminal Justice, 2008*).

Where Could I Work?

Students that graduate with a criminal justice degree usually take jobs as correction officers in public or private incarceration facilities. Some students may also focus on the criminal justice system and work with police and attorneys to ensure that the law is applied correctly. Others may become criminal scientists who reconstruct crime scenes and analyze physical evidence (Guide to College Majors, 2008). The public safety management major will prepare you for a variety of occupations within public safety organizations at the local, regional, and national level: public safety, emergency management, fire, homeland security, public health, and risk assessment (*IUPUI Department of Criminal Justice*, 2008).

What Job Opportunities Exist?

Related Careers

Some graduates pursue one of the following career options (Guide to College Majors, 2008). Those with an * may require further experience, training, or education.

- Border Patrol Agent*
- Correctional Counselor
- Customs Agent*
- FBI Agent*
- Firefighter
- Interviewer
- Paralegal
- Paramedic
- Parole Officer
- Police Officer
- Social Worker
- Warden

Employment Outlook

Overall employment in the protective-service fields is expected to increase sharply through 2010 with growing homeland security and national security concerns. Projected fastest growing occupations are for corrections officers, police officers, and social workers. Outside of protective services, employment for criminal justice majors is expected to increase at a slower pace (The College Majors Handbook, 2004).

Salary Expectations

According to a survey conducted by the National Association of Colleges and Employers the 2008 average starting salary for criminal justice majors was \$43,217 at the bachelor's level. Police and patrol officers earned average salaries of \$47,460 while detectives and criminal investigators earned \$58,260 (Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-09).

What Graduate/Professional School Opportunities Exist?

Most criminal justice majors do not go on to complete an advanced degree (The College Majors Handbook, 2004). Those that do may choose to pursue one of the following areas of study:

- Business
- Education
- Medicine
- Public Affairs
- Criminal justice
- Law
- Psychology
- Public Administration

Where Can I get More Information?

IUPUI

IUPUI School of Public & Environmental Affairs	http://www.spea.iupui.edu/ Office: BS 3027 Phone: 278-4656
Academic Advising at IUPUI	http://uc.iupui.edu/students/academics/index.asp
Career Counseling at IUPUI	http://uc.iupui.edu/students/career/index.asp
Jobs/ Associations/ Other Resources	http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/criminal.htm

