



# Criminology Certificate



Crime and society's responses to it represent core concerns for social scientists, policy makers, civic leaders, community organizations, and citizens across the globe. Criminology is the field of study dedicated to understanding crime as a social phenomenon. Criminologists study the social construction of laws, nature and causes of crime, reactions to the breaking of laws, and the prevention, control and treatment of crime. The Department of Sociology's Criminology Certificate offers an essential foundation for students pursuing careers in criminal justice, victim and community services, criminal law, and non-profit organizations in local and international contexts. The certificate also prepares interested students for law school and graduate programs in sociology and criminology. Students may ultimately use this training to conduct social research on crime, influence public policy, and inform government decisions about crime and law.

Upon successful completion of the certificate, students will:

- Understand the theoretical explanations for the social and behavioral causes of crime and crime reduction
- Possess a fundamental understanding of the criminal-legal and political institutions responsible for crime control and policy
- Be familiar with current trends in criminological thought, research, and activism
- Be able to apply the technical skills of their methodological training to conduct crime analyses and outcomes assessments for programs aimed at crime prevention
- Engage in original research projects involving criminological topics

## Curriculum

To obtain the certificate, students must complete three core requirements and two electives, totaling a minimum of 15 hours. SOCY 3490, Criminology, is required and should be taken prior to the required methods courses because it familiarizes students with key criminological concepts that can be explored hands-on in their methods courses.

**Core Requirements - All courses for certificates must be taken at CU Denver. If any of the following required courses were transferred, an elective from the approved electives below can be substituted for those missing credits.**

- 1) SOCY 3490 - Criminology (3 cr.)
- 2) SOCY 3115 - Quantitative Methods (4 cr.) and SOCY 3119 - Qualitative Methods (4 cr.)

**Or**

A statistics course in a student's major discipline (e.g., PSYC 2090, PSYC 3090, PSCI 3011, PHIL 3440, PHIL 2441, ECON 3801, ECON 3811, GEOG 2080, GEOG 4080) may be substituted for SOCY 3115. A qualitative methods course from the student's major discipline (e.g., COMM 4221, PBHL 4031) may be substituted for SOCY 3119. All methods substitutions must be approved by the certificate administrator to ensure they are equivalent courses to those they are replacing.

- 3) Two related electives from the following approved courses:

SOCY 2440: Deviant Behavior  
SOCY 3040: Drugs, Alcohol & Society  
SOCY 4340: Juvenile Delinquency  
SOCY 4460: Hate Crimes & Group Violence  
SOCY 4690: Crime and Inequality over the Life Course  
SOCY 4700: Sociology of Law  
SOCY 4780: Violence in Relationships  
ANTH 4090: Political Economy of Drug Culture

*Continued on back* →

COMM 4040: Communication, Prisons, & Social Justice [Prereq: COMM 2020, or permission of instructor]  
COMM 4680: Mass Media, Law, & Policy  
ECON 3400: Economics of Sex & Drugs [Prereq: ECON 2022]  
ETST 3704: Culture, Racism & Alienation  
HIST 3231 Famous US Trials  
HIST 4308: Crime, Policing, & Justice in America  
PHIL 3280 War and Morality  
PHIL 4260 Philosophy of Law  
PHIL 4812 Prisons, Punishment, & Social Justice  
PSCI 3034: Race, Gender, Law, & Public Policy  
PSCI 4185: Corruption in the U.S. & Abroad [Prereq: PSCI 1001 or 3022]  
PSCI 4427: Law, Politics, & Justice  
PSCI 4807: Political Violence  
PSYC 3265: Drugs, Brain & Behavior [Prereq: PSYC 1000 and 2220]  
PSYC 3612: Domestic Abuse [Prereq: PSYC 1000 and 1005]

### **Program Requirements**

#### ***Eligibility***

While housed in Sociology, criminology is in fact a multidisciplinary field that draws from diverse liberal arts fields, including Psychology, Political Science, Communications, History, Philosophy, among others. Thus, CU Denver undergraduate students in any discipline can enroll in the program. Additionally, non-degree seeking students who already have a bachelor's degree may pursue this certificate.

#### ***Application Procedures***

Students are encouraged to apply for the Criminology Certificate at any point in their undergraduate studies. More information can be obtained from the Criminology Certificate Administrator, Dr. Keith Guzik, [keith.guzik@ucdenver.edu](mailto:keith.guzik@ucdenver.edu).

#### ***Performance Requirements***

Students must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher and earn a minimum of a "C" in each course applied to the certificate. The certificate will be transcribed when all requirements are completed.

---