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Criminology & Justice Studies, B.A.

Criminology & Justice Studies students find an active and supportive departmental culture that surrounds coursework in social theory, methods, inequalities of crime and justice, law, policy, action. Students learn about the social construction of (il)legalities, how race, class, gender and sexuality impact the criminal justice system, and how much of what they think they know about crime is actually false.

Experience Your Learning

Hands-on learning experiences are built into your core major coursework and you have the opportunity to work with faculty on their research and projects, or develop your own.

Undergraduate students have access to a variety of hands-on learning and research experiences that are typically reserved for grad students at other universities.

In your first year, you will begin working with real data, and use web-based data sources to answer your own social science research questions.

As part of your core service-learning course, and supported by a faculty service learning coordinator, you will pick a site on or off campus that fits with your interests and schedule.

Did you know?

- Faculty members teaching in this major come from multiple disciplines central to addressing current issues facing the U.S. systems of justice and law.
- Our campus provides a sense of care, support and belonging, and better prepares students to approach their chosen fields through a lens of social justice.
- We strive for societal and economic improvement, demonstrated in our personal passions and the professions that we pursue.
- Complete your B.A. plus an M.A. in Public Sociology in as little as five years with our combined degree pathway.



Academics & Options

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Graduates will have a solid foundation to effect social change in legal professions, community activism, research, and the criminal justice system. You'll get hands-on experience throughout your degree. You begin in year one working with real data. In your second year you will learn and work in the community. The third year will include hands-on research, and the fourth year culminates in a capstone internship or research project.

Get Involved

The Sociological & Criminological Student Association is an organization of Sociology and Criminology & Justice Studies undergraduate students, and Sociology graduate students, who work together to plan events and projects that relate to social inequality and justice. The club provides opportunities to network, discuss, and organize around issues that relate to issues like race, class, gender, sexuality, the environment, the prison industrial complex, and policies that relate to social inequality and justice. It also allows opportunities for the students to work together, and get to know each other, as well as faculty, in a more informal atmosphere.



Careers

Graduates have solid skills that look good on a resume, but also have the critical thinking skills to be successful in a wide variety of careers. You will be able to use your sociological imagination to understand issues faced by people and groups that interact with the criminal justice system.

- Attorney
- Community Organizer/Activist
- Conflict Mediator
- Criminalist
- Crisis Response Team Worker
- Domestic Violence Service Provider
- Drug Counselor
- Law Enforcement
- Legal Advocate
- Public Defender



I actively use many of the tools I learned from the Criminology & Justice Studies program currently. Many of the ideologies and theories I learned certainly overlap in my professional life, but also my personal life. This program taught me more about social norms and constructs and really opened my eyes to systems of oppression I was unaware of before attending Cal Poly Humboldt."

Marilyn Villalba ('18 year, Criminology & Justice Studies), Neighborhood Partnership Coordinator at Feeding San Diego