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CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDIES SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE



BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- [Degree Requirements - Criminal Justice | SIUE](#)
- Required: CJ 111, 202, 206, 208, 273, 302, 303, 366, 488
- 15 hours of CJ Electives
- Students are encouraged to complete CJ 111, 202, 206, and 208 with a C or better grade before enrolling in any 300- or 400-level CJ course. Students are also encouraged to complete CJ 302 and 303 before enrolling in 400-level CJ courses.
- Completion of CJ 302: Research Methods, with a grade of C or better is required for enrollment in the supervised internship.
- [Sample Curriculum - Criminal Justice | SIUE](#)

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY GRADUATE PROGRAM

CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY (MS)

ACCELERATED COMBINED DEGREES - CRIMINAL JUSTICE | SIUE

CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY MS DEGREE

Curriculum

The two-year online program offers six consecutive semesters of classes, including summers. The one-year online program offers four consecutive semesters of classes, including summers. Students receiving Prior Learning Assessment credit will reduce the program by one summer semester. Each cohort would begin in the fall semester.

The program requires 30 credit hours. Students are required to take 15 credits of required core credits, 0-6 hours of exit requirement coursework (6 hours for the thesis or capstone option or 0-3 hours for the exam option, depending on the exam option chosen), and 9-15 hours of electives, for a total of 30 hours. All 500-level courses are eight weeks in duration. All 400-level elective courses are 16 weeks in duration and may be offered online or in a physical classroom. Offerings of elective courses rotate. Contact the Graduate Program Director to determine elective availability.

See the [graduate course descriptions](#) for details.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY MS DEGREE

- **Required Core Courses (15 Hours)**
 - CJ 502 Applied Research in Criminal Justice
 - CJ 505 Criminological Theory
 - CJ 513 Criminal Justice Statistics
 - CJ 515 Criminal Justice Planning and Budgeting
 - CJ 517 Policy Analysis
- **Exit Requirement Coursework (0-6 Hours)**
 - Thesis Option: CJ 599 Thesis I and II (6 hours)
 - Capstone Option: CJ 598 Capstone I and II (6 hours)
 - Exit Exam Option:
 - Directed Exit Exam = CJ 596 Readings in Criminal Justice (3 hours)
 - General Exit Exam = 0 credit hours
- **Elective Courses (9-15 Hours, depending upon exit requirement chosen)**

ACCELERATED DEGREE MASTER'S PROGRAM

During your undergraduate senior year, you may take approved 400 level courses that will count as electives in the Graduate Program of Criminal Justice Policy.

Process:

- Junior year, second semester, apply for the Master's program and choose accelerated degree (<https://www.siue.edu/apply/index>)
- Upon acceptance, you may take 400 level courses as graduate electives

The following are approved CJ 400 level graduate electives*

- CJ 408 Critical Issues in Law Enforcement
- CJ 410 Judicial Process in Criminal Cases
- CJ 420 United States Drug Policy
- CJ 464 Criminal Justice and the Mental Health System
- CJ 465 Theories of a Just Society

* If you already took any of these courses as an undergraduate (i.e. prior to acceptance into the graduate program), you may not retake for graduate credit

ACCELERATED DEGREE MASTER'S PROGRAM

Other Electives

-You may also take 400 level electives in the Department of Public Administration and Policy Analysis (PAPA) that will count towards graduate degree electives
As a reminder, you must be accepted into the accelerated degree program for these courses to count as graduate electives

Questions? You may also contact the Graduate Program Director, Dr. Heil, at erconle@sive.edu



INTERNSHIP

DEGREES & PROGRAMS - CURRENT STUDENTS | SIUE

All students must successfully complete CJ488 which includes the internship and a senior assignment project with a grade of C or above. Students will work in a criminal justice agency during their last year of undergraduate work. However, arranging the internship can take some time, so students are strongly encouraged to begin discussion of their internship with criminal justice studies faculty members one full year before the intended semester. Email Dr. Petrocelli (mpetroc@siue.edu) to begin this discussion.

INTERNSHIP

Students complete internships at agencies that have formal agreements with SIUE for undertaking these internships. We have partnerships with over 185 agencies. We have internship opportunities at the federal, state, county and local levels, in the public and private sectors, in law enforcement, probation, secure facilities, treatment, community corrections and courts. There is something for nearly every interest area, so consider your own interests and develop a "top three" list of interest areas before getting started.

Students should never contact any agency about an internship without the clear support of the Supervised Internship faculty. For that reason, the first step in securing an internship must be a discussion with the faculty member who will be the instructor for the section in which you intend to enroll. Failure to follow this requirement may result in your inability to use that site for your internship experience.

Students are not placed into agencies by SIUE faculty members. They must apply to and be accepted for an internship by the agency of choice. However, no student should contact any agency until given approval to begin the application process.

Most agencies will require you to undergo a criminal background check. Many agencies will disqualify you with a misdemeanor conviction, so you need to be honest both with SIUE faculty and the agencies up front.

INTERNSHIP PROCESS

- Email the internship coordinator one year before you wish to take the CJ488 class. You will be placed on their list for a future semester. The course is offered every Fall, Spring, and Summer. Watch for announcements on the Criminal Justice Resource Center in Blackboard as a reminder.
- Approximately 6 months prior to the start of CJ488, the internship coordinator will contact you to give approval to begin the application process. Some federal agencies can take more than six months to complete the application process so if you wish to apply for a federal internship, indicate that in your initial email. *The FBI only does internships during the summer term with applications due at least 12 months prior.
- You must attend a mandatory meeting concerning CJ 488 in the semester PRIOR to the one in which you wish to enroll. The internship coordinator will email when the meeting is to occur.
- It is a University requirement that all students who do a face-to-face internship as part of their course curriculum have (at a minimum) catastrophic health insurance (proof will be requested). If a student cannot secure health insurance, please contact the internship coordinator to discuss options for completing the course.
- The internship coordinator will register you for the class in Cougarnet. The Academic Advisors do not do this.

INTERNSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- Completion of CJ302 with a C or better prior to the start of the internship. Completion of CJ303 preferred.
- 140 hours of work that each student completes at their assigned agency, the schedule to complete the hours is arranged between you and the agency. Field notes for the 140 hours are also required.
- Complete assignments designed to assess skills in the four assessment areas for the Criminal Justice major. These four assessment areas are: (1) critical thinking; (2) reviewing scholarly Criminal Justice literature; (3) analyzing diversity issues within the Criminal Justice system and workplace; and (4) oral communication.
- Record a five-to-eight-minute Oral Presentation that will be reviewed/graded by Faculty.

COLD CASE INVESTIGATIONS



Fall 2026



Spring 2027

The Cold Case Project is a collaboration between the Illinois State Police and SIUE's Criminal Justice Program. The program allows students to review real homicide case investigations and to organize, review and evaluate the case. In this course, students complete an asynchronous training course in the first few weeks, then work assigned shifts in Collinsville at the Illinois State Police building, which is near the Gateway Convention Center. Students then present their work to a team of investigators, forensic scientists and a prosecutor with the goal of inviting renewed investigation into the case.

No prior knowledge is required, as you will be trained on everything you need to know prior to beginning case reviews. The course gives each student access to one real homicide case file that has gone cold. The job is to warmup the cold case and present it to the police for the purpose of renewing the investigation and bringing to justice someone who committed a heinous crime.

Direct questions to Dr. Oberweis at toberwe@siue.edu

COLD CASE REQUIREMENTS

- Students must apply for the class. Look for announcements in the Criminal Justice Student Resource Center on Blackboard and by email from Dr. Oberweis approximately six months prior to the start of the class.
- Students from criminal justice, biology, chemistry, forensic chemistry, forensics minors, or process-related fields like computer science are encouraged to apply. Students from other disciplines may apply as well.
- Preferred students have been at SIUE for at least two semesters and have strong GPAs of at least 3.0. The course is a 3-credit hour CJ elective with course number CJ475.
- The work will require that you be available with no conflicts either 9am-1pm or 12pm-4pm on Tuesday/Thursday for most of the semester.
- Reliable transportation to the Illinois State Police building in Collinsville is required.
- You must be confident that viewing and deeply engaging with homicide investigative materials will be manageable.
- You must be able to pass a thorough background check.

COLD CASE IN THE NEWS

SIUE homepage:

<https://www.siu.edu/news/2025/08/InTheNewsSIUReceivesNationalRecognitionforStudentAchievementandCommunityImpact.shtml>

KMOX Chris and Amy Aug 4 10 am

<https://www.audacy.com/podcast/the-chris-and-amy-show-on-kmox-1da3d/episodes/siue-students-are-working-on-cold-cases-6a8f4>

CNN: [CNN This Morning Weekend - ABIGAIL KELLER/TRISH OBERWEIS](#)

St. Louis Post-Dispatch: https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-courts/article_3b76dab3-ce6a-42c8-a94c-1c5f9c7f7d75.html

KTVI Fox 2 News: <https://fox2now.com/news/fox-files/unlikely-crimefighters-how-college-students-helped-crack-cold-cases/>

KSDK: <https://www.ksdk.com/article/news/crime/siue-students-help-solve-cold-cases/63-6bcd28ee-70d3-418d-ac9a-d57357991cb9>



CENTER FOR CRIME SCIENCE AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The primary focus of the Center for Crime Science and Violence Prevention is to assist all stakeholders in the criminal justice field in their efforts to reduce crime and violence. The Center collaborates with criminal justice agencies, community organizations, vendors, faculty, and students to enhance public safety in the St. Louis and Southern Illinois regions. Some of the services provided by the CCSVP include grant development, data analytics, crime analysis, mapping, dashboard development, and evaluation research. CCSVP's main roles are to assist communities with data-informed policy development, crime analysis, grant writing, training and technical assistance (TTA), consulting and (evaluation) research.

Whether you are an undergraduate or graduate student, if you have an interest in applied data science and/or GIS, we will have occasional opportunities available, including funded opportunities. Contact us for more information ccsvpbelleville@sive.edu.

STUDY ABROAD

- Second half of May for 11-14 days
- Led by Dr. Cannon
- The location every year rotates: Past trips have been to Ireland/Northern Ireland, Amsterdam, Greece, and Germany/Czech Republic.
- Cost: Varies by trip, but approximately \$4500-\$5000, but that covers flights, hotels/hostels, transportation, field excursions, and some meals. Passport, personal expenses, and other meals are extra.
- All students of any major can go as well as friends and family that do not attend SIUE.
- Apply in the fall semester at SIUE Study Abroad [Home](#)

STUDY ABROAD



Trinity College, Dublin



Northern Ireland
House of Parliament



Amsterdam



Crumlin Road Goal, Belfast

STUDY ABROAD



Prague

Greece



Brandenburg Gate, Berlin

Greece

CRIMINAL JUSTICE CLUB

- A student led organization that gives students opportunities to have experiential learning outside of the classroom. The club invites speakers on campus, takes tours of local CJ agencies, assists the department with the career fair, and usually does one fundraiser per year to benefit a local agency

- Past speakers and tours have included the FBI, Metro-East Every Survivor Counts, Madison Co. Juvenile Detention Center, Eagleton Courthouse, Greenville Federal Prison, SWIC Police Academy, Pere Marquette Youth Center, Active Shooter

- Trainings and more!



Madison County Juvenile Detention Center



SWIC Police Academy

CRIMINAL JUSTICE CLUB

-Request to join on SIUE's Get Involved.

[Explore - Get Involved at SIUE](#)

-Complete our club application and t-shirt form

-All majors are welcome! You can join anytime during the school year

-Forms can also be found on the bulletin board to the left of Peck Hall 1201

-Elections held every year for the positions of President, Vice President, Administrative Officer, Financial Officer, and Public Relations Officer



“In the Criminal Justice System, Forcible Felonies are considered especially heinous. At SIUE, the dedicated students who study these vicious felonies are members of an elite squad known as the Criminal Justice Club. These are their stories.”



Eagleton Federal Courthouse



Eagleton Federal Courthouse



Trooper Hopkins Fundraiser



Pere Marquette Illinois Youth Center



Pere Marquette IYC



Trooper Hopkins Fundraiser



Child Advocacy Center Fundraiser



Greenville Federal Prison

CRIMINAL JUSTICE CAREER FAIR

-Held every year on the last Thursday of March in the Goshen Lounge of the MUC from 11am to 2pm

-At least 35 agencies attending from the federal, state, and local levels representing a variety of law enforcement, corrections, juveniles, law, social services, and victims

-A great place to figure out the career you want, make connections for future jobs, and ask about internships





RYAN MARTEN SCHOLARSHIP

- **Ryan Marten Outstanding Criminal Justice Student Award**
- The Department of Criminal Justice Studies is honored to announce that its Outstanding Criminal Justice Student Award is now named in honor of Ryan Marten.
- Marten, an alumnus of Criminal Justice Studies, earned a co-op internship position with the United States Marshal's Eastern District of Missouri office for his senior assignment. He performed at an excellent level and was offered a position with the U.S. Marshal's. He was an excellent deputy marshal and an excellent representative of SIUE's criminal justice studies program.
- The entire department was saddened to learn of Marten's passing, and we could think of no better honor than remembering him each and every year by awarding the Ryan Marten Outstanding Criminal Justice Student Award to deserving criminal justice seniors. The award comes with a monetary stipend. Together, department faculty select the awardee(s) at the conclusion of each academic year.
- Our friend and colleague Ryan Marten will be sorely missed.

RYAN MARTEN SCHOLARSHIP

-Applications can be submitted starting December 1st at [All Opportunities - Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Scholarships](#)

-Criteria for selection is as follows:

- Junior or Senior majoring in Criminal Justice with a strong interest in entering Local, State or Federal law enforcement upon completion of their degree
- Good academic standing
- Cumulative GPA of 2.5 or above
- Must provide a 500-word essay on their long-term goals for a career in law enforcement and how they feel contributions can be made to make a difference in the profession;
- Must provide two letters of recommendation from either a previous or current educator or law enforcement officer or a combination thereof

Preference will be given to currently employed law enforcement officers and military veterans. Preference will also be given to students that show outstanding drive and motivation for law enforcement as a profession.

Recipients will be selected by a committee of Criminal Justice faculty assigned by the Department Chair. It is anticipated the award shall be \$2,500 annually but shall be dependent on funds available.