

Important Facts About the Justice Studies Major...

Justice Studies is not Criminal Justice

Criminal Justice as it is taught in most colleges, whether as a major or a minor, tends to have a pre-professional focus. Course work is on such subjects as criminal procedure and criminal investigation. That is the case with JMU's criminal justice minor. Our Justice Studies program has a different focus. In it, we are concerned more with treating justice issues as a general class of social and political problems to be understood rather than as applied problems to be solved. Neither approach is better than the other. It is a matter of personal preference and you should make sure that you go into a program that fits with how you want to study these issues.

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Limited course transfer policy

Many students looking to transfer into the Justice Studies major or the Criminal Justice minor have already taken a lot of criminal justice courses at the school they are currently attending. We will limit you to a maximum of **two** courses that can be transferred into the major for credit. The rest will count as general credits toward graduation. The rationale is simple and direct. It involves "truth in advertising." If you are going to graduate with a degree from our program at JMU, we want to be able to tell potential employers and graduate programs the type of course work you have had with us and the nature of the assignments you have had. We cannot do this when too much course work is transferred in.

Progression through the Major

Please keep the following requirements in mind as you select courses to progress through the justice studies major. Students should expect to take at least 4-5 semesters to finish the major. We offer very little in the summer so students should not expect to use summer school to reduce this time schedule.



EFFECTIVE FOR STUDENTS DECLARING THE MAJOR IN THE SUMMER OF 2011 AND BEYOND

- **JUST 200 is a prerequisite for all JUST courses.**
- **JUST 200 may NOT be taken during the same semester as any other JUST designated course.**
- **You may enroll in a 200 level JUST foundation course(s) for the following semester while you are enrolled in JUST 200.**
- **JUST 200 and a track foundation course are requirements for all 300 level courses.**
- **All majors must complete 6 elective courses designation for their track. Only two of these electives may be non-JUST designated courses.**

DOES NOT APPLY TO MAJORS WHO DECLARED BEFORE THE 2011/2012 ACADEMIC YEAR.

Information for Transfer Students

A limited number of students are admitted each year to the Justice Studies major at JMU. Transfer students are not admitted at mid year. Please check with the admissions department for guidelines, deadlines, and procedures for applying to JMU (see JMU Admissions). If you are transferring into JMU with the Associate in Arts, Associate in Science or the Associate in Arts and Sciences degree from a community college, you can declare Justice Studies as a major.

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What courses should I take before coming to JMU?

Certainly if you are interested in criminal justice or think you might be, you should take some CRJU courses. But, remember that we limit how many we accept to **two**. What would be most beneficial would be to take the equivalents of MATH 220 and GWRIT 103 before coming to JMU since this would speed up your entry into the major. Even if you are admitted directly to the major you will still need to take MATH 220 because it is the prerequisite course for our required research methods course. Also, be aware that courses taught at the 100 or 200 level at community colleges and elsewhere that are taught at JMU at the 300 level are unlikely to be accepted.

Major Requirements



CRIMINAL JUSTICE MINOR

Justice Studies also administers the Criminal Justice Minor. The interdisciplinary minor in criminal justice is designed for students who are preparing for careers in law enforcement, corrections, judicial administration or other areas related to the study or management of crime, either directly upon graduation or after further graduate training. The requirement for a minor in criminal justice is 21 credit hours.

Justice Studies majors may only double count two courses from the major in the criminal justice minor.

A maximum of two courses may be transferred into the criminal justice minor from other institutions. No transfer credit will be given for any course offered at the 300 or 400 level.

The criminal justice minor is a high demand program. Periodically waiting lists for entrance are established. Juniors and Seniors should consult with advisors in the Justice Studies Department in considering entering or applying for admission to it.

*Inquiries about the minor should be directed to the CJ minor coordinator.
Dr. Peggy S. Plass
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Students in the Justice Studies major can earn a B.S. or B.A. degree

Bachelor of Arts	Credit Hours
General Education	41
Philosophy course (Except GPHIL 120A)	3
Foreign Language courses (intermediate level required)	1-14
Major requirements	38
Electives	24-37
Total	120

Bachelor of Science	Credit Hours
General Education courses	41
Quantitative requirement (In addition to General Education courses)	3
Scientific Literacy requirement (In addition to General Education courses)	3-4
Major requirements	38
Electives	34-35
Total	120

JUSTICE STUDIES MAJOR

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REVISED 05/11

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DEGREE AND TRANSFER INFORMATION

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