

# DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY, LAW AND SOCIETY

Phone: 703-993-8315

Website: [cls.gmu.edu/](https://cls.gmu.edu/)

Criminology, Law and Society is a dynamic, multidisciplinary unit. Students at the graduate and undergraduate level develop strong foundations in research, methods, theories and systems of justice, criminology and crime policy, security, and law and society. They graduate with the knowledge and skills needed to understand the causes and consequences of crime and injustice, the responses by criminal and civil justice institutions, and what works to improve social conditions among affected individuals, communities, organizations, and countries.

## Undergraduate Programs

### Criminology, Law and Society, BS

The bachelors of science in criminology, law and society provides students with a focused study of criminology, law and society and the social, human, and moral problems raised in the justice field. The BS degree prepares students for careers in law enforcement, corrections, the courts, investigations, juvenile justice, private and homeland security, and related social and human services. Students who earn the BS degree either gain work experience in a criminal justice agency, or complete a minor, second major, or dual degree in a related field to enhance their study of justice.

### Criminology, Law and Society, BA

The bachelors of arts in criminology, law and society provides students with the opportunity to acquire a broader liberal arts education while studying criminology, law and society. The BA degree prepares students for careers in a range of justice, social service, and human services fields. It also provides a strong background for law school or graduate study in criminal justice or criminology.

### Internships

The department supports an active internship program, which places students in justice and related organizations throughout the Washington metropolitan area. Students can gain valuable work place experience while earning credit toward their degree.

## Graduate Programs

The department offers a master's and a doctoral degree in criminology, law and society and a master's degree in criminal justice. These degrees draw on a strong multidisciplinary faculty who teach a wide range of courses in their specialties. These programs take advantage of Mason's proximity to the many justice organizations at the federal, state, and local levels. The curriculum is structured to give students the skills they need to do policy-relevant research. They will be able to work with local and national agencies concerned with justice and security to put those skills to use.

### Funding

The department offers graduate teaching and research assistantships awarded on a competitive basis. Other sources of funding such as grants, loans, and employment on campus are also available. Students awarded assistantships must register for a minimum of six credits a semester and, like all graduate students, show satisfactory progress toward their degree.

## Faculty

### Department Faculty

#### Distinguished University Professors

Cynthia Lum (<https://cls.gmu.edu/people/clum/>)  
Allison D. Redlich (<https://cls.gmu.edu/people/aredlich/>)  
David Weisburd (<https://cls.gmu.edu/people/dweisbur/>)  
David B Wilson (<https://cls.gmu.edu/people/dwilsonb/>)

#### Professors

Christopher Koper (<https://cls.gmu.edu/people/ckoper2/>)  
Cesar J. Rebellon (<https://cls.gmu.edu/people/crebello/>)  
James Willis (<https://cls.gmu.edu/people/jwillis4/>)

#### Emeritus Professors

Catherine Dobson (<https://cls.gmu.edu/people/cdobson2/>)  
Stephen D Mastrofski (<https://cls.gmu.edu/people/smastrof/>)  
Laurie O. Robinson (<https://cls.gmu.edu/people/lrobin17/>)  
Allan Turner (<https://cls.gmu.edu/people/cturner2/>)

#### Associate Professors

Beidi Dong (<https://cls.gmu.edu/people/bdong/>)  
Catherine Gallagher (<https://cls.gmu.edu/people/cgallag4/>)  
Charlotte Gill (<https://cls.gmu.edu/people/cgill9/>)  
Terry Gudaitis (<https://cls.gmu.edu/people/tgudaiti/>)  
Devon Johnson (<https://cls.gmu.edu/people/djohns22/>)  
Marie Mele Thomas (<https://cls.gmu.edu/people/mmeletho/>)  
Linda M. Merola (<https://cls.gmu.edu/people/lmerola/>)  
Robert J. Norris (<https://cls.gmu.edu/people/rnorris4/>)  
Andrew Novak (<https://cls.gmu.edu/people/anovak2/>)  
Sue-Ming Yang (<https://cls.gmu.edu/people/syang10/>)

#### Assistant Professors

Parwez Besmel (<https://cls.gmu.edu/people/pbesmel/>)  
Yasemin Irvin-Erickson (<https://cls.gmu.edu/people/yirviner/>)  
Jin R. Lee (<https://cls.gmu.edu/people/jlee331/>)  
Evan Marie Lowder (<https://cls.gmu.edu/people/elowder/>)  
Auzeen Shariati (<https://cls.gmu.edu/people/asharia/>)  
Janani Umamaheswar (<https://cls.gmu.edu/people/jumamahe/>)

#### Professor of Practice

Gwen Udell (<https://cls.gmu.edu/people/gudell/>)

#### Senior Instructor

Heather Toronjo (<https://cls.gmu.edu/people/htoronjo/>)

## Programs

- Criminal Justice, MS
- Criminology, Law and Society Minor
- Criminology, Law and Society, BA
- Criminology, Law and Society, BS
- Criminology, Law and Society, MA

- Criminology, Law and Society, PhD
- Intelligence Studies Minor