

# CRIMINOLOGY, LAW AND SOCIETY, BA

**Banner Code:** LA-BA-CLS

354 Enterprise Hall  
Fairfax Campus

Website: [cls.gmu.edu/programs/la-ba-cls](http://cls.gmu.edu/programs/la-ba-cls)

The BA in Criminology, Law and Society provides a focused study of the justice system and social, human, and moral problems raised in the justice field. This course of study prepares students for careers in law enforcement, corrections, the courts, investigations, juvenile justice, private and homeland security, and related social and human services. The BA in Criminology, Law and Society is well-suited for students who wish to study the field while branching out into related areas of study.

## Admissions & Policies

### Policies

Students pursuing this degree must complete 42 credits within the major, with a minimum GPA of 2.00. Students may apply a maximum of 18 credits of transferable ADJ courses from the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) or comparable courses at another community college to fulfill the degree requirements. Once a student matriculates at Mason, no courses may be taken at another institution without prior written approval from the program and the dean.

No more than 12 credits of CRIM 485 Study Abroad can be applied to the major. No more than 15 credits of CRIM 490 Special Topics can be applied to the major.

For policies governing all undergraduate degrees, see AP.5 Undergraduate Policies.

## Requirements

### Degree Requirements

Total credits: minimum 120

Students should be aware of the specific policies associated with this program, located on the Admissions & Policies tab.

### Core Courses in the Major

Code	Title	Credits
CRIM 100	Introduction to Criminal Justice (Mason Core)	3
CRIM 306	Criminal Justice Ethics	3
CRIM 315	Research Methods and Analysis in Criminology	3
CRIM 424	Constitutional Law: Criminal Process and Rights	3
CRIM 495	Capstone in Criminology, Law and Society (Mason Core)	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>15</b>

### Electives in the Major

Code	Title	Credits
Select nine electives from the following: <sup>1</sup>		
CRIM 210	Introduction to Criminology	3
CRIM 220	Introduction to Law and Society	3
CRIM 230	Introduction to Homeland Security	3
CRIM 301	Public Law and the Judicial Process	3
or GOVT 301	Public Law and the Judicial Process	3
CRIM 302	Delinquency	3
CRIM 304	Computer Crime, Forensics, and Auditing	3
or IT 357	Computer Crime, Forensics, and Auditing	3
CRIM 305	Crime and Crime Policy	3
CRIM 307	Social Inequality, Crime, and Justice	3
CRIM 308	Human Rights and Justice	3
CRIM 310	Introduction to the Intelligence Community	3
CRIM 312	Intelligence Analysis Techniques	3
CRIM 320	Crime and Place	3
CRIM 325	Hate Crime	3
CRIM 350	Counterintelligence	3
CRIM 400	Applied Criminal Psychology	3
CRIM 401	Policing in America	3
CRIM 402	Punishment and Corrections	3
CRIM 403	Community Corrections	3
CRIM 404	Crime Victims and Victimization	3
CRIM 405	Law and Justice around the World (Mason Core)	3
CRIM 406	Family Law and the Justice System	3
CRIM 407	Advanced Topics in Law and Society	3
CRIM 408	Criminal Courts	3
CRIM 409	Community Policing	3
CRIM 410	Criminal Investigations	3
CRIM 411	Innovations in Policing	3
CRIM 422	Controversial Legal Issues	3
CRIM 423	Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties	3
or GOVT 423	Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties	3
CRIM 425	Criminal Justice Management	3
CRIM 430	Criminal Law	3
CRIM 460	Surveillance and Privacy in Contemporary Society	3
CRIM 462	Law Enforcement and Homeland Security	3
CRIM 471	Prevention and Deterrence of Crime	3
CRIM 475	Theory and Politics of Terrorism	3
CRIM 485	Study Abroad	3
CRIM 490	Special Topics	3
CRIM 491	Honors Seminar I	3
CRIM 492	RS: Honors Seminar II	3
CRIM 498	Research Practicum	3

CRIM 499	Independent Study	
Total Credits		27

<sup>1</sup> Students may select an optional concentration to fulfill a portion of this required elective credit.

## Optional Concentration in the Major

Criminology and society majors have the option of obtaining a concentration by completing 15 of their 27 elective credits within one of the following areas. Students can pursue only one concentration. Credits earned in CRIM 490 Special Topics may be applied to a concentration as appropriate for the content of the course, to be determined by the undergraduate director.

### Available Concentrations

- Concentration in Criminal Justice (CJUS)
- Concentration in Law and Society (LAWS)
- Concentration in Homeland Security and Justice (HSJ)

### Concentration in Criminal Justice (CJUS)

Code	Title	Credits
Select 15 credits from the following:		
CRIM 210	Introduction to Criminology	
CRIM 302	Delinquency	
CRIM 304 or IT 357	Computer Crime, Forensics, and Auditing	
CRIM 305	Crime and Crime Policy	
CRIM 307	Social Inequality, Crime, and Justice	
CRIM 320	Crime and Place	
CRIM 325	Hate Crime	
CRIM 400	Applied Criminal Psychology	
CRIM 401	Policing in America	
CRIM 402	Punishment and Corrections	
CRIM 403	Community Corrections	
CRIM 404	Crime Victims and Victimization	
CRIM 408	Criminal Courts	
CRIM 409	Community Policing	
CRIM 410	Criminal Investigations	
CRIM 411	Innovations in Policing	
CRIM 425	Criminal Justice Management	
CRIM 462	Law Enforcement and Homeland Security	
CRIM 471	Prevention and Deterrence of Crime	

### Concentration in Law and Society (LAWS)

Code	Title	Credits
Select 15 credits from the following:		
CRIM 220	Introduction to Law and Society	
CRIM 301 or GOVT 301	Public Law and the Judicial Process	
CRIM 308	Human Rights and Justice	
CRIM 325	Hate Crime	
CRIM 405	Law and Justice around the World (Mason Core)	
CRIM 406	Family Law and the Justice System	
CRIM 407	Advanced Topics in Law and Society	
CRIM 408	Criminal Courts	

CRIM 422	Controversial Legal Issues	
CRIM 423	Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties	
or GOVT 423	Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties	
CRIM 430	Criminal Law	
CRIM 460	Surveillance and Privacy in Contemporary Society	

### Concentration in Homeland Security and Justice (HSJ)

Code	Title	Credits
Select 15 credits from the following:		
CRIM 230	Introduction to Homeland Security	
CRIM 310	Introduction to the Intelligence Community	
CRIM 312	Intelligence Analysis Techniques	
CRIM 350	Counterintelligence	
CRIM 405	Law and Justice around the World (Mason Core)	
CRIM 460	Surveillance and Privacy in Contemporary Society	
CRIM 462	Law Enforcement and Homeland Security	
CRIM 475	Theory and Politics of Terrorism	

## Writing-Intensive Requirement

The university requires all students to complete at least one course designated "writing intensive" in their majors at the 300 level or above. Students majoring in criminology, law and society fulfill this requirement by successfully completing CRIM 495 Capstone in Criminology, Law and Society (Mason Core). Students should complete ENGH 302 Advanced Composition (Mason Core) before taking the writing-intensive course in the major or take the two courses simultaneously.

## Upper Level Requirement

Students seeking a bachelor's degree must apply at least 45 credits of upper-level courses (numbered 300 or above) toward graduation requirements.

## Additional Electives

Any remaining credits may be completed with elective courses to bring the degree total to 120.

## College Level Requirements for the BA Degree

In addition to the Mason Core program, students pursuing a BA degree must complete the coursework below. Except where expressly prohibited, a course used to fulfill a college level requirement may also be used simultaneously to satisfy other requirements (Mason Core requirements or requirements for the major).

### Philosophy or Religious Studies

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credits from the following:		
PHIL <sup>1</sup>		3
RELI		

<sup>1</sup> Note that the following courses may not be used to fulfill this requirement:

- PHIL 323 Classical Western Political Theory
- PHIL 324 Modern Western Political Theory
- PHIL 327 Contemporary Western Political Theory
- PHIL 393 Humanities College to Career
- PHIL 460 Senior Seminar in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

Additionally, PHIL 253 Philosophy and Literature (Mason Core) and RELI 235 Religion and Literature (Mason Core) cannot be used to fulfill both the philosophy/religious studies requirement and the Mason Core literature requirement.

### Social and Behavioral Sciences

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credits of social and behavioral sciences from the following (additional to the Mason Core social and behavioral sciences requirement) <sup>1</sup>		

ANTH		
CRIM		
ECON		
GOVT		
HIST <sup>2</sup>		
LING		
PSYC		
SOCI		
Or choose from the following GGS courses:		
GGS 101	Major World Regions (Mason Core)	
GGS 103	Human Geography (Mason Core)	
GGS 110	Introduction to Geoinformation Technologies	
GGS 301	Political Geography	
GGS 303	Geography of Resource Conservation (Mason Core)	
GGS 304	Population Geography (Mason Core)	
GGS 305	Economic Geography	
GGS 306	Urban Geography	
GGS 315	Geography of the United States	
GGS 316	Geography of Latin America	
GGS 320	Geography of Europe	
GGS 325	Geography of North Africa and the Middle East	
GGS 330	Geography of the Soviet Succession States	
GGS 357	Urban Planning	
GGS 380	Geography of Virginia	

<sup>1</sup> The two courses used to fulfill the combined college and Mason Core requirements must be from different disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences.

<sup>2</sup> HIST 100 History of Western Civilization (Mason Core) and HIST 125 Introduction to World History (Mason Core) may not be used to fulfill this requirement.

### Foreign Language

Code	Title	Credits
Intermediate-level proficiency in one foreign language, fulfilled by: <sup>1</sup>		

Completing a course in a foreign language numbered 202 (or higher level courses taught in the language)

Or achieving a satisfactory score on an approved proficiency test

Or completing the following ASL three course sequence:

EDSE 115	American Sign Language (ASL) I
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EDSE 116	American Sign Language (ASL) II
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EDSE 219	American Sign Language (ASL) III
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<sup>1</sup> Students who are already proficient in a second language may be eligible for a waiver of this requirement. Additional information on waivers can be found at the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (<http://chssundergrad.gmu.edu>).

### Non-Western Culture

Select 3 credits of an approved course in the study of a non-Western culture (additional to the Mason Core requirement in global understanding)

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credits (additional to Mason Core Global Understanding requirement) <sup>1</sup>		
ANTH 114	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 300	Civilizations	3
ANTH 302	Peoples and Cultures of Latin America (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 307	Ancient Mesoamerica (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 308	Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 309	Peoples and Cultures of India (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 313	Myth, Magic, and Mind (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 314	Zombies	3
ANTH 330	Peoples and Cultures of Selected Regions: Non-Western	3
ANTH 332	Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Globalization (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 381	Medical Anthropology	3
ANTH 396	Issues in Anthropology: Social Sciences (Mason Core)	3
ARAB 360	Topics in Arabic Cultural Production	3
ARAB 420	Survey of Arabic Literature	3
ARAB 440	Topics in Arabic Religious Thought and Texts (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 203	Survey of Asian Art (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 204	Survey of Latin American Art (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 206	Survey of African Art (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 318	Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt	3
ARTH 319	Art and Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 320	Art of the Islamic World (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 382	Arts of India (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 383	Arts of Southeast Asia (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 384	Arts of China (Mason Core)	3

ARTH 385	Arts of Japan (Mason Core)	3	HIST 357	Postwar Japan (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 386	The Silk Road (Mason Core)	3	HIST 358	Post-1949 China (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 482	RS: Advanced Studies in Asian Art	3	HIST 360	History of South Africa (Mason Core)	3
CHIN 318	Introduction to Classical Chinese (Mason Core)	3	HIST 364	Revolution and Radical Politics in Latin America (Mason Core)	3
CHIN 320	Contemporary Chinese Film	3	HIST 365	Conquest and Colonization in Latin America (Mason Core)	3
CHIN 325	Major Chinese Writers (Mason Core)	3	HIST 366	Comparative Slavery	3
DANC 118	World Dance (Mason Core)	3	HIST 367	History, Fiction, and Film in Latin America	3
ECON 361	Economic Development of Latin America (Mason Core)	3	HIST 387	Topics in Global History (Mason Core)	3-6
ECON 362	African Economic Development (Mason Core)	3	HIST 426	The Russian Revolution	3
FREN 451	Topics in Sub-Saharan Francophone Literature and Culture	3	HIST 460	Modern Iran (Mason Core)	3
FREN 454	Topics in Caribbean Francophone Literature and Culture	3	HIST 461	Arab-Israeli Conflict	3
GGG 101	Major World Regions (Mason Core)	3	HIST 462	Women in Islamic Society (Mason Core)	3
GGG 316	Geography of Latin America	3	HIST 465	The Middle East in the 20th Century	3
GGG 325	Geography of North Africa and the Middle East	3	JAPA 310	Japanese Culture in a Global World (Mason Core)	3
GGG 330	Geography of the Soviet Succession States	3	JAPA 340	Topics in Japanese Literature (Mason Core)	3
GGG 399	Select Topics in GGS	3	KORE 320	Korean Popular Culture in a Global World	3
GOVT 328	Global Political Theory	3	MUSI 103	Musics of the World (Mason Core)	3
GOVT 332	Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa	3	RELI 211	Religions of the West (Mason Core)	3
GOVT 333	Government and Politics of Asia	3	RELI 212	Religions of Asia (Mason Core)	3
GOVT 338	Government and Politics of Russia	3	RELI 240	Death and the Afterlife in World Religions	3
GOVT 340	Central Asian Politics	3	RELI 272	Islam	3
GOVT 341	Chinese Foreign Policy	3	RELI 313	Hinduism (Mason Core)	3
GOVT 345	Islam and Politics	3	RELI 314	Chinese Philosophies and Religious Traditions	3
GOVT 433	Political Economy of East Asia	3	RELI 315	Buddhism (Mason Core)	3
HIST 251	Survey of East Asian History (Mason Core)	3	RELI 337	Mysticism: East and West	3
HIST 252	Survey of East Asian History (Mason Core)	3	RELI 365	Muhammad: Life and Legacy	3
HIST 261	Survey of African History (Mason Core)	3	RELI 374	Islamic Thought (Mason Core)	3
HIST 262	Survey of African History (Mason Core)	3	RELI 375	Qur'an and Hadith	3
HIST 271	Survey of Latin American History (Mason Core)	3	RELI 379	Islamic Law, Society, and Ethics	3
HIST 272	Survey of Latin American History (Mason Core)	3	RELI 387	Islam, Democracy, and Human Rights	3
HIST 281	Survey of Middle Eastern Civilization (Mason Core)	3	RELI 490	Comparative Study of Religions (Mason Core)	3
HIST 282	Survey of Middle Eastern Civilization (Mason Core)	3	RUSS 353	Russian Civilization (Mason Core)	3
HIST 326	Stalinism	3	RUSS 354	Contemporary Post-Soviet Life (Mason Core)	3
HIST 327	The Soviet Union and Russia Since World War II	3			
HIST 328	Rise of Russia (Mason Core)	3			
HIST 329	Modern Russia and the Soviet Union (Mason Core)	3			
HIST 353	History of Traditional China	3			
HIST 354	Modern China (Mason Core)	3			
HIST 356	Modern Japan (Mason Core)	3			

<sup>1</sup> A course used to fulfill the Mason Core global understanding requirement may not be simultaneously used to satisfy this college-level requirement. A course used to fulfill this requirement may be used simultaneously to fulfill any other requirements (Mason Core requirements, college-level requirements, or requirements for the major). Additional information on waivers can be found at the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (<http://chssundergrad.gmu.edu>).

## Mason Core

Some Mason Core requirements may already be fulfilled by the major requirements listed above. Students are strongly encouraged to consult their advisors to ensure they fulfill all remaining Mason Core requirements.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Foundation Requirements</b>		
	Written Communication (ENGH 101)	3
	Oral Communication	3
	Quantitative Reasoning	3
	Information Technology and Computing	3
<b>Exploration Requirements</b>		
	Arts	3
	Global Understanding	3
	Literature	3
	Natural Science	7
	Social and Behavioral Sciences	3
	Western Civilization/World History	3
<b>Integration Requirements</b>		
	Written Communications (ENGH 302)	3
	Writing-Intensive <sup>1</sup>	3
	Synthesis/Capstone <sup>2</sup>	3
Total Credits		40

<sup>1</sup> Most programs include the writing-intensive course designated for the major as part of the major requirements; this course is therefore not counted towards the total required for Mason Core.

<sup>2</sup> Minimum 3 credits required.

## Honors

### Honors in the Major

Highly-qualified students may pursue advanced work leading to graduation with honors in the major. Students admitted to the honors program in the major take a two-course sequence: CRIM 491 Honors Seminar I and CRIM 492 RS: Honors Seminar II. To graduate with honors in criminology, law and society, students must complete both courses with a minimum GPA of 3.50 in the two courses.