Bachelor of Science in
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Come Back Stronger, Ready to Move Your Career Forward

Protecting society is more than a career — it’s a calling. And this is your time to answer the call. From homeland security to the security of our local neighborhoods, schools, and businesses, public safety is a top concern today. Communities depend on dedicated professionals who are skilled in the latest techniques to serve and protect them. The bachelor’s in criminal justice prepares you for bigger, better opportunities in law enforcement, corrections, fraud investigation, and other critical public safety fields.1

Additional academy training and education not provided by Purdue Global may be required for law enforcement positions.
Why Study Criminal Justice at Purdue Global?

Built for Working Adults
Complete courses online, without compromising your work or family schedule.

Backed by the Power of Purdue
Earn a degree you can be proud of — and one that employers will respect. Achieve more in the criminal justice field with a name that opens doors in your career.

Personalized Learning Options
This is your comeback. Earn your degree your way. Stick with our traditional online program, or consider our ExcelTrack® option, which helps you earn your degree faster, for less. With ExcelTrack® you can work at your own pace and take as many classes as you want each term.

Expert Faculty Who Are Active in the Field
Learn from experienced professionals with a variety of backgrounds in criminal justice, who know what it takes to make it in the field. All faculty possess an advanced degree and relevant industry credentials.

Transfer Credits and Savings
Get the recognition you deserve. Use prior coursework, work experience, or military training to cover up to 75% of your degree credits.3 You can also lower your costs with military tuition reductions, employer reimbursements, transfer credit, and more. Our average bachelor’s graduate saves 50% on tuition with credit for prior learning.4 Your experience counts here.

Personal Support
Work directly with faculty through online discussion boards and seminars, and enjoy no-cost individual tutoring. In addition, academic and career advisors are dedicated to helping you balance school with your career and life responsibilities.

Introductory Trial Period
Make sure online learning at Purdue Global is right for you. Enroll in the University and try our classes for 3 weeks — before you owe any tuition. That’s the Purdue Global Commitment.5

An Education That’s Proven and Respected
Purdue Global is backed by Purdue University. One of the most prestigious universities in the world, Purdue ranked #16 overall and #1 in education among Fast Company magazine’s prestigious World’s Most Innovative Companies.6

Take the Next Step in Your Career and Your Education
Prepare for a Diverse Range of Career Opportunities
The program combines professional skills training with courses designed to help you develop a solid foundation of criminal justice knowledge. In addition, you can choose from a wide pool of open electives to gain specialized knowledge in subjects such as legal studies, public administration, and information technology.

Choose a Concentration to Develop Specialized Skills and Knowledge

• Business Foundations: Gain competencies in the fundamental concepts of business administration. Develop an understanding of the four functions of management, the components of a marketing strategy, and the financial performance of an organization.

• Crime Scene Investigation: Learn to locate, collect, and analyze crime scene evidence.

• Forensic Psychology: Study psychology within the context of the criminal justice system.

• Homeland Security: Examine the origins of terrorism, response methods to weapons of mass destruction and other disaster incidents, crisis negotiation, and conflict resolution.

• Juvenile Justice: Study sentencing, risk and needs assessment, psychology, intervention/diversion/prevention programs, communication and relationship building, and case management for juvenile offenders.

• Law Enforcement: Examine contemporary law enforcement organizations, community policing, policing in selected foreign countries, civil liability, and public expectations.

• Social Responsible Leadership: Understand, evaluate, and reflect on leadership, as well as develop your own leadership skills, and explore correctional alternatives, methods and techniques in program evaluation, and crisis intervention.

ACCELERATED MASTER’S DEGREE OPTION
Complete both your bachelor’s and master’s degrees in less time and at a lower cost than completing both programs separately. While you earn your bachelor’s degree, you can work toward a Purdue Global master’s degree in one of the following areas7:

• Applied Behavior Analysis
• Criminal Justice
• Education
• Educational Psychology
• Higher Education
• Homeland Security and Emergency Management
• Human Services
• Instructional Design and Technology
• Legal Studies
• Psychology
• Public Administration
Curriculum

Our comprehensive curriculum is reviewed and revised continually by industry experts to ensure it reflects the most recent developments in the field. It focuses on:

- An overview of the U.S. criminal justice system, its agencies, and the issues and challenges facing the system
- In-depth knowledge of criminology theory, including causes of crime and discipline-specific evaluation of human behavior
- Analytical skills such as the ability to use scientific methods of inquiry to arrive at reasoned decisions
- Knowledge of criminal justice leadership practices, including the role of organizational culture, behavioral theory, planning, and community relations
- An understanding of how new technology is used in criminal investigation, criminal enterprise, and the operations of criminal justice agencies

Core Coursework Topics Include:

- Criminology
- Crime prevention and investigation
- Forensic psychology
- Criminal justice technologies
- Ethics, criminal law, and criminal procedures
- Supervisory and management practices in criminal justice organizations
- Research methods in criminal justice

Capstone Course

Demonstrate your ability to apply the critical thinking skills and concepts you study online to real-world criminal justice scenarios.

Program Detail

Credit Hours: 180
Completion Time: 2–4 years (With transfer credit and other prior experience, the average completion time for Purdue Global bachelor’s degree graduates in 2021–2022 was 2.1 years.)
Course Load: 2–3 courses per term
Terms: 10 weeks long
Start Dates: Throughout the year

Additional Programs

- Bachelor of Science in Fire and Emergency Management
- Bachelor of Science in Legal Studies
- Master of Science in Criminal Justice
- Master of Science in Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Career and Networking Opportunities

Industry Outlook

- Employment in the protective service field is projected to grow from 2022 through 2032, creating more than 409,000 new jobs.
- New opportunities for private detectives and investigators are expected to result from heightened security concerns and the increased need to protect confidential information and property.
- Continued demand for public safety is likely to contribute to the demand for police services.
- As the field becomes more competitive, employers may increasingly look for educated, qualified individuals.
Contact an Admissions Advisor at 844-PURDUE-G or visit PurdueGlobal.edu.