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.

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. 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. 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.

Nationally Ranked and Respected
Purdue Global is part of the respected Purdue University system. One of the most prestigious research universities in the world, Purdue University is ranked in the top 10 best public universities in the U.S. by The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education.

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 areas:
- Criminal Justice
- Education
- Educational Psychology
- Higher Education
- Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- Human Services
- Instructional Design and Technology
- Legal Studies
- Public Administration
- Psychology
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 2021 through 2031, creating about 73,000 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.
Career Pathways and Outcomes

Roles

- **Police and sheriff’s patrol officer** (additional academy training usually required) — Pursue and apprehend individuals who break the law, and issue citations and warnings or make arrests; work to keep the peace and protect the public.
- **First-line supervisor of police officers and detectives** (additional academy training usually required) — Supervise and coordinate activities of members of a police force.
- **Transit and railroad police officer** — Maintain order; protect and police railroad and transit property, employees, or passengers.
- **First-line supervisor of correctional officers** — Supervise and coordinate activities of correctional officers and jailers.
- **Probation officer** — Gather information about offenders’ backgrounds by talking to offenders, their families and friends, and other people who have relevant information.

Settings/Industries

- Cybercrime
- Counterterrorism
- Crime scene investigation
- Detention
- Fraud investigation
- Homeland security
- Juvenile justice and detention
- Law enforcement
- Parole and probation
- Prisons
- Private investigations
- Public safety

Center for Career Advancement

Our Career Specialists connect you with job and networking opportunities and offer the following assistance:

- Career assessment/exploration
- Resume and cover letter review
- Interview preparation/mock interviews
- Portfolio development to showcase your skills
- Assistance in building an online presence
- Job search and networking support
- Virtual career fairs
- 24/7 online access to job openings and career development tools

Purdue Global Is Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission

The HLC (HLCommission.org) is an institutional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Military Friendly

We offer reduced tuition rates for servicemembers, veterans, and spouses.

Contact an Admissions Advisor at 844-PURDUE-G or visit purdueglobal.edu.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: PLEASE READ

For comprehensive consumer information, visit info.purdueglobal.edu.

1 Purdue Global’s programs are designed to prepare graduates to pursue the stated positions, which have varying responsibilities. However, the University cannot guarantee employment or career advancement. Local, state, and federal law enforcement jobs may require additional training or education including additional state-approved higher education beyond the Purdue Global degree. This program was not designed to meet any specific state’s requirements, and Purdue Global makes no representations or warranties as to whether the degree or any individual courses meet such requirements. Refer to the University Catalog for additional information. Graduates of Purdue Global criminal justice programs are not eligible to attend police academies in Minnesota.

2 ExcelTrack™ is designed to advance your progress based on existing knowledge; however, degree pace and time and cost savings will vary by individual. Students must enroll in a minimum number of credits per term to remain eligible for financial aid. Refer to the Financial Information section of the University Catalog for additional information.

3 Purdue Global does not guarantee transferability of credit. See University Catalog for the Prior Learning policy.

4 Purdue Global online bachelor’s degree students who graduated in 2021–2022 and applied eligible prior learning (transfer, experiential, or credit by exam) credits saved an average of $34,000 toward the total degree. Campus tuition and prior learning savings vary by location. Savings based on overall cost of completion without prior learning credit. Calculation based on total prior learning credit times standard cost per credit in student’s program of study. Individual savings will vary. Calculation includes campus and military students. Purdue Global does not guarantee transferability of credit. See University Catalog for the Prior Learning policy. Source: Office of Reporting and Analysis, July 2022. 2021–2022 academic year.

5 Classes count toward a degree if satisfactorily completed. No credits are earned if the student withdraws during the introductory period (3 weeks for new qualifying undergraduate students), which begins day one of the first term. Students who choose to continue their studies at Purdue Global will need to meet specific requirements. Graduate programs not included. Additional terms may apply to international and non-U.S. citizen students. For further information, see the University Catalog.


7 The University cannot guarantee that students will be granted admission to any future programs. Speak to an Advisor about admissions requirements and transfer credit opportunities and see the University Catalog for the Prior Learning policy.

8 The average completion time for Purdue Global online bachelor’s degree students who graduated in the 2021–2022 academic year was 2.1 years. Source: Purdue Global Office of Reporting and Analysis, July 2022.