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Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Programs

Criminology (BA)

Location Offered:

Nanaimo

Credential:

Bachelor Degree

Options:

Major, Minor

Program Length:

4 Years

The Program

Criminology is an interdisciplinary science that focuses on law and its interpretation by the courts, patterns in crime, the explanation of deviant and criminal behaviour, and society's reaction to law-breaking. The program introduces students to criminal law, the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, and case-law decisions made by the courts. Students will examine in separate courses the three main components of the criminal justice system—police, courts, and corrections—that form an organized response to crime. The program addresses the trends and correlates of crime, including the influences of age, ethnicity, gender, and social class. The major explanations for crime try to account for these patterns by looking at historical, individual, and social causes. The criminological focus is broadened with courses from other disciplines in the Social Sciences and Humanities.

The program aims to provide students with conceptual, critical, and applied skills to work in fields where a legal/justice focus is beneficial. The curriculum emphasizes the development of professional and applied skills through training in professional ethics, conflict mediation, use of information technology for researching relevant topics, writing, presenting data, and working in small groups on specific tasks. In the fourth year, Criminology Majors have the option of either conducting an applied research project or participating in a field placement.

Although the core of the curriculum is centred on justice-related issues, students will find the degree program applies equally to areas in the private sector where research competence, project management, legal analysis, and communication skills are essential.

Students interested in Criminology may apply for admission to the B.A. with a Major in Criminology. Admission to the Major in Criminology is competitive. A Minor will interest students wishing to include a criminological aspect to their declared Major or other declared Minor. The lower level requirements will provide students with a foundation in several key areas of the discipline including criminological theory, Canadian law, and the Canadian criminal justice system. Access to all of the upper-level criminology courses, with the exception of the Field Placement course (CRIM 475), allows students to concentrate their studies in a particular area of interest (e.g., law) or gain exposure to a wide range of topics related to the discipline. Students who successfully complete the requirements for a Minor in Criminology with a minimum program cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.00 will receive a Minor.

Program Outline

Requirements for a Major

Students must fulfil all the Institutional B.A. degree requirements, including Degree English Requirements and the courses listed below:

Program Outline

Year 1	Credits
CRIM 101 - (Intro to Criminology) <i>or</i> <i>three</i> credits from INTR 102 (Intro to Criminology and Sociology)	3
CRIM 103 - (Psycho-social Explanations of Criminality) <i>or three</i> credits from INTR 104 - (Criminological Theory and the Lived Experience) <i>or</i> PSYC 103 - (Psychological Explanations of Criminal and Deviant Behaviour)	3
CRIM 131 - (Intro to the Criminal Justice System)	3
CRIM 135 - (Intro to Canadian Law and Legal Institutions: a Criminal Justice Perspective)	3
Select at least <i>one</i> course from the following list:	
PHIL 100 - (Rhetoric and Reasoning)	3
PHIL 111 - (Intro to Philosophy: Theory of Knowledge)	
PHIL 112 - (Intro to Philosophy: Ethics)	
PSYC 111 - (Contemporary Psychology I)	3
PSYC 112 - (Contemporary Psychology II)	3
SOCI 111 - (Intro to Sociology) <i>or</i> <i>three</i> credits from INTR 102 - (Intro to Criminology and Sociology)	3
Degree English Requirements*	6
Total Credits	30

** Students who achieve a grade of "B+" or better in ENGL 115 do not have to take additional English credits; an elective should be taken in its place.*

Year 2	Credits
CRIM 204 - (Deviance, Crime and Social Control)	3
Select <i>one</i> of the following Research Methods courses: CRIM 220 - (Research Methods in Criminology) <i>or</i> , SOC 250 - (Introduction to Social Research) <i>or</i> , PSYC 204 - (Research Methods) <i>or</i> , SSID 250 - (Introduction to Social Research)	3
CRIM 230 - (Criminal Law)	3
Select at least <i>one</i> course from the following list: CRIM 200 - (Aboriginal Issues in the Canadian Criminal Justice System) CRIM 210 - (Law, Youth and Young Offenders) CRIM 213 - (Gender, Crime and Justice) CRIM 241 - (Intro to Corrections) CRIM 251 - (Intro to Policing) CRIM 290 - (Alternative Conflict Resolution in Criminal Justice Systems) CRIM 299 - (Current Topics in Criminology)	3
Select <i>one</i> of the following statistics courses: MATH 161 - (Intro to Statistics for Social Sciences) <i>or</i> , MATH 181 - (Introduction to Statistics) <i>or</i> , MATH 211 - (Statistics I) QUME 232 - (Business Statistics I)	3
POLI 151 - (Law and Politics in Canada)	3
Select <i>one</i> INDG 200 or 300 level course	3-6
<i>Two or three</i> electives chosen from any 100/200/300/400-level courses	6-9
Total Credits	30

Note: Students who have completed a total of 60 credits and all first and second year requirements for the Criminology Major may apply to receive a Criminology Diploma.

Note for Year 3 and 4 students: Criminology Majors must take all upper-level Criminology courses in the semesters in which they are offered. 300-level CRIM courses should normally be completed in Year 3 and 400-level CRIM courses should normally be completed in Year 4. All third-year CRIM courses and INTP 300 must be completed by Criminology Majors prior to taking CRIM 475. Six of the twenty-four elective credits must be chosen from 300/400 level courses.

Year 3	Credits
CRIM 321 - (Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Policy)	3
CRIM 334 - (Law and Society)	3
CRIM 350 - (Qualitative Research Methods) <i>or</i> , SOC 350 - (Qualitative Research) <i>or</i> , SSID 350 - (Qualitative Research) <i>or</i> , PSYC 304 - (Qualitative Research Methods in Psychology)	3
CRIM 351 - (Quantitative Research Methods) <i>or</i> , SOC 351 - (Quantitative Research and Analysis) <i>or</i> , PSYC 300A - (Statistical Methods in Psychology I)	3
CRIM 360 - (Advanced Criminological Theory)	3
<i>Fifteen</i> credits of electives, with a minimum of six <i>overall</i> elective credits chosen from 300/400 level courses. Suggested electives include: HIST 231* - (First Nations People in Canadian History since 1867) MEDI 200* - (Media, Audience and Society) PSYC 430* - (Abnormal Psychology) SOC 212* - (Race and Ethnicity in the Modern World) SOC 320* - (Families in Today's World)	15
Total Credits	30

* *These courses are recommended electives for Criminology Majors, however students may substitute other electives.*

Year 4	Credits
CRIM 400 - (Law and Human Rights)	3
INTP 300 - (Planning for Upper-Level Internship) <i>or</i> , CRIM 473 - (Capstone Research Preparation)	3
CRIM 475* - (Justice Capstone Tutorial and Field Placement) <i>or</i> , CRIM 476 (Capstone Research Project)	6
Select <i>nine</i> credits from the following list: CRIM 440 - (Alternate Conflict Resolution and Negotiation Skills) CRIM 450 - (Criminal Justice Systems: An International Perspective) CRIM 460 - (Drugs, Crime, and Criminal Justice) CRIM 470 - (Dynamics of Terrorism) CRIM 480 - (Organizational Crime: A Global Perspective) CRIM 499 - (Selected Topics in Criminology)	9
<i>Nine</i> credits of electives, with a minimum of six <i>overall</i> elective credits chosen from 300/400 level courses. Suggested electives include: ANTH 430** - (Forensic Anthropology) PSYC 403** - (Forensic Psychology) PHIL 465** - (Applied Ethics in the Justice System) RELI 112** - (World Religions: The Western Traditions)	9
Total Credits	30

* *Criminology Majors taking CRIM 475 must schedule their classes to allow two free weekdays for working in an agency field placement.*

** *These courses are recommended electives for Criminology Majors, however students may substitute other electives.*

Requirements for a Minor

Students must fulfill all the Institutional B. A. degree requirements, including Degree English Requirements and the courses listed below:

Years 1 and 2	Credits
CRIM 101 - (Intro to Criminology) <i>or</i> , <i>three</i> credits from INTR 102 (Intro to Criminology and Sociology)	3
CRIM 131 - (Intro to the Criminal Justice System) <i>or</i> , CRIM 135 - (Intro to Canadian Law and Legal Institutions: A Criminal Justice Perspective)	3
Two courses from the following list: CRIM 200 - (Aboriginal Issues in the Canadian Criminal Justice System) CRIM 204 - (Deviance, Crime and Social Control) CRIM 210 - (Law, Youth and Young Offenders) CRIM 213 - (Gender, Crime and Justice) CRIM 230 - (Criminal Law) CRIM 241 - (Intro to Corrections) CRIM 251 - (Intro to Policing)	6

Years 3 and 4	Credits
Additional <i>eighteen</i> credits of CRIM courses numbered 300 and above with the exception of CRIM 474 and CRIM 475, which are reserved for CRIM Majors only.	18

Completion Requirements

To receive a Bachelor of Arts, Major or Minor in Criminology, students must successfully complete the degree program with a minimum program cumulative grade

point average (GPA) of 2.00. Additionally, students in the Major in Criminology must receive credit for CRIM 475 or CRIM 476.

Admission Requirements

For admission to first-year university courses, see General Admission requirements.

Admission to Criminology Major

Students may apply for admission to the four-year B.A. with a Criminology Major at all years of the degree, however, we normally admit to years one, two, and three of the degree. Applicants must meet the general admission requirements for VIU's Bachelor of Arts degree in order to be eligible to apply for the Criminology Major.

For first year entry:

- General admission requirements apply.
- English 12 with minimum "C" or equivalent.
- Foundations of Mathematics 11 or Pre-calculus 11 with minimum "C", or equivalent.

For second year entry:

To be eligible for admission to second year, students must have completed a minimum of 24 credits of university courses towards the Bachelor of Arts Criminology Major program. Competitive admission averages will be calculated on the eight most recently completed transferable post-secondary courses (minimum 24 credits).

For third year entry:

To be eligible for admission to third year, students must have completed a minimum of 54 credits of university courses towards the Bachelor of Arts Criminology Major program *or* possess a recognized Criminology diploma including completion of the Degree English Requirement. Competitive admission averages will be calculated on the eighteen most recently completed transferable post-secondary courses (minimum 54 credits).

Additional Requirements for Transfer Students:

The overall GPA of students will be a minimum of 2.33 ("C+"), calculated on the most recent 24 credits completed.

Notes on Admission - Criminology Major

Enrolment in this program is limited. Students who meet or exceed the minimum admission requirements may not necessarily be admitted to the program and students with higher grades will be considered first.

Applicants will be prioritized by overall Grade Point Average. A wait list will be created if required.

Aboriginal students can apply for reserve seats by submitting the Access Initiative for Aboriginal Students form.

Students who wish to take individual courses without being admitted to the program may do so where space is available and when prerequisites have been completed. Students who take courses in Criminology without being formally admitted into the program are not guaranteed entry into the program.

Notes on Progression - Criminology Major

- During the semester when Criminology Majors take CRIM 475, students must schedule their classes to allow two free weekdays for working in an agency field placement.

Start Date and Application Deadline

The program starts in September. Applications will be accepted from October 3 to March 31, however, applicants are encouraged to apply by the early consideration deadline of January 31. The program may fill quickly and early applicants will be given priority. Admission is limited and applicants who meet or exceed the minimum admission requirements may not necessarily be offered admission to the program.

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