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Bachelor of Arts, Majors and Minors

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Criminology

- [A Major and Minor are offered](#)
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VIU also offers a [Diploma in Criminology](#).

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 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 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 centered 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 pursuing a B. A. with a Major in Criminology will be required to submit an

application to enter the third year of the degree program, once a [Diploma in Criminology](#) or the equivalent is complete. Students who successfully complete the first two years of the diploma program with a minimum "C+" average and a minimum "C" grade for each required course, may apply to receive a diploma. Admission to the Major in Criminology is competitive and based on GPA in the Diploma.

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, the Canadian criminal justice system, and criminological research. Access to all of the upper level criminology courses, with the exception of the Field Placement courses ([CRIM 474](#) and [CRIM 475](#)), will allow students to concentrate their studies in a particular area of interest (e.g. law) or gain exposure a wide range of topics related to the discipline. Students who successfully complete the requirements for a Minor in Criminology with a minimum "C+" average and a minimum "C" grade for each required course will receive a Minor.

Admission Requirements

For admission to first year university courses, see [General Admission requirements](#).

Admission to Criminology Major - Year 3

- VIU's 2-year [Criminology Diploma](#) program, or equivalent courses from B.C. post-secondary institutions such as [Camosun College](#).
- Students in the second year of the Diploma in Criminology program may apply, conditional on successful completion of the required courses by June 1.
- Enrolment in this program is limited. Students who meet or exceed the minimum admission requirements may not necessarily be admitted to the program.

Notes on Admission - Criminology Major

- Applicants will be prioritized by overall Grade Point Average. A wait list will be created, if required.
- Criminology Majors taking [CRIM 475](#) 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 and applications are accepted between October 3 and March 31. For further information regarding late applications and program contacts check the [Program Availability List](#).

Completion Requirements

To receive a Bachelor of Arts, Major or Minor in Criminology, students must successfully complete the degree program with a minimum grade of "C" for each required course and a minimum "C+" average overall. Additionally, students in the Major in Criminology must receive credit for [CRIM 475](#).

Requirements for a Major

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

Program Outline

YEAR 1	Credits
CRIM 101 - (Intro to Criminology)	3
CRIM 103 - (Psycho-social Explanations of Criminality)	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:	3
PHIL 100 - (Rhetoric and Reasoning)	
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
SOCL 111 - (Intro to Sociology)	3
Degree English Requirements*	6
Total Credits	30

* Students who achieve a grade of "B+" or better in one of [ENGL 115](#), [125](#), or [135](#) 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
CRIM 220 - (Research Methods in Criminology) <i>or</i> , SOCL 250 - (Introduction to Social Research) <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:	3
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)	
Select <i>one</i> of the following MATH courses:	3
MATH 161 - (Intro to Statistics for Social Sciences) <i>or</i> , MATH 181 - (Introduction to Statistics) <i>or</i> , MATH 211 - (Statistics I)	
POLI 151 - (Law and Politics in Canada)	3
Four electives chosen from any 100/200-level courses	12
Total Credits	30

Note: A total of 60 credits is required for the Criminology Diploma.

Note for Year 3 & 4 students: Criminology Majors must take all upper-level Criminology courses and [PHIL 465](#) 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, [CRIM 474](#), and [PHIL 465](#) must be completed by Criminology Majors prior to taking [CRIM 475](#).

Year 3	Credits
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CRIM 321 - (Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Policy)	3
CRIM 330 - (Advanced Topics in Criminal Law and Procedure)	3
CRIM 334 - (Law and Society)	3
CRIM 350 - (Qualitative Research Methods) <i>or</i> , SOCI 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> , SOCI 351 - (Quantitative Research and Analysis)	3
CRIM 360 - (Advanced Criminological Theory)	3
Twelve credits of electives such as: HIST 231 * - (First Nations People in Canadian History since 1867) MEDI 200 * - (Media, Audience and Society) PSYC 430 * - (Abnormal Psychology) SOCI 212 * - (Race and Ethnicity in the Modern World) SOCI 320 * - (Families in Today's World)	12
Total Credits	30

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

Year 4	Credits
CRIM 400 - (Law and Human Rights)	3
CRIM 474 - (Field Placement Preparation)	1
CRIM 475 * - (Applied Research/Field Placement)	5
PHIL 465 - (Applied Ethics in the Justice System)	3
Select six credits from the following list: CRIM 440 - (Alternate Conflict Resolution and Negotiation Skills) CRIM 450 - (Criminal Justice Systems: An International Perspective) CRIM 470 - (Dynamics of Terrorism) CRIM 480 - (Organizational Crime: A Global Perspective) CRIM 499 - (Selected Topics in Criminology)	6
Twelve elective credits. Of the twelve elective credits six credits may be chosen from the following: ANTH 430 ** - (Forensic Anthropology) PSYC 403 ** - (Forensic Psychology) RELI 112 ** - (World Religions: The Western Traditions)	12
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 highly recommended electives reserved for Criminology Majors. Students may substitute other electives.

Requirements for a Minor

Students must fulfill all the [Institutional B. A. degree requirements](#), including [Degree English](#)

[Requirements](#) and courses listed below:

Years 1 & 2	Credits
CRIM 101 - (Intro to Criminology)	3
CRIM 131 - (Intro to the Criminal Justice System)	3
CRIM 135 - (Intro to Canadian Law and Legal Institutions: A Criminal Justice Perspective)	3
CRIM 220 - (Research Methods in Criminology) <i>or</i> , SOCJ 250 - (Introduction to Social Research) <i>or</i> , SSID 250 - (Introduction to Social Research)	3
Years 3 & 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

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