DEPARTMENT OF Justice Systems

Curriculum

- Justice Systems is the name of Truman's criminal justice program. The name connotes our liberal arts and sciences mission, to cultivate integrity, critical thinking, and skill in problem-solving, writing, and speaking. Our goal is to prepare our students for graduate school and leadership positions.

- We offer a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Justice Systems, a minor in Justice Systems, and an interdisciplinary minor in Forensic Science.

- Our curriculum provides a solid disciplinary foundation with integrated development of knowledge and skills feeding into a method and theory core and a chance to explore a range of special topics in upper level courses.

- Our largest courses have less than 35 students; the average class size is 27 students.

Beyond the Classroom

- Our students enjoy internships locally and in their hometowns in places such as police departments, prosecuting attorney offices, juvenile centers, and drug rehabilitation centers.

- Students compete at local, regional, and national levels in places such as police departments, prosecuting attorney offices, juvenile centers, and drug rehabilitation centers.

- The Justice Systems chapter of Lambda Alpha Epsilon competes in academic, physical agility, crime scene investigations, and marksmanship competitions at regional and national conferences.

- The Truman chapter of Alpha Phi Sigma, the national honor society for students of criminal justice, hosts visiting professionals in the field, visits prisons, and sponsors charitable events.

- Pre-Law Club offers LSAT test preparation, and weekly activities including local and out of town guest speakers.

- The department annually hosts The Court of Appeals for the Western District of Missouri on Truman’s campus.

- We provide numerous opportunities for students to conduct undergraduate research on-campus, either with a Truman faculty member or as an independent research project. Students are also invited with faculty to present at regional and national conferences.

- Student Initiated Courses are for those highly motivated students who wish to propose and even teach a course in their area of interest under the guidance of a faculty member.

Students

- Nearly 170 students are majoring in Justice Systems; another 70 are Justice Systems minors.

- Approximately 40% of our graduates attend graduate or law school and the other 60% enter the work force.

- Examples of graduate schools and law schools currently attended by our graduates include: Baylor University, Florida State University, Saint Louis University, University of Indiana, University of Iowa, University of Missouri-Columbia, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Washington University in St. Louis.

- Examples of doctoral and masters programs in which Justice Systems alumni have enrolled include: Criminal Justice PhD, Sociology PhD, Psychology PhD, Doctor of Jurisprudence, Masters of Criminal Justice, Masters of Social Work, Masters of Forensic Science, Master of Arts in Psychology.

Faculty

- The Justice Systems Department faculty includes members with experience in policing, corrections, offender treatment, forensic science, juvenile justice, prosecution, and courts-martial.

- We have a diverse faculty who received their degrees from both private and public institutions.

- Faculty members are professionally active at the local, state, and national levels. For example, they are or have been members of: Alpha Phi Sigma, The American Board of Criminalistics, The American Corrections Association, The Clandestine Laboratory Investigating Chemists Association, The Illinois, Missouri, and Adair County Bar Associations, Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists, Missouri Assoc of Crime Lab Directors, Missouri Assoc of Prosecuting Attorneys, Missouri Juvenile Justice Association, The National Coalition of Juvenile Justice, Western Society of Criminology.

Facilities and Technology

- Our teaching laboratory is adjacent to a functional crime lab equipped for chemical analyses, latent print work, and microscopic examination.

- A student-centered area near the department offices includes an open computer lab and a convenience store with tables and chairs where students and faculty can gather, study, and socialize.

http://justicesystems.truman.edu

“It still amazes me how many professors treat you as a peer.”

—MATT CARBERY, ’10