

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE SYSTEMS

Prepare for an Active Career in Criminal Justice

Join a community of extremely bright and motivated students — the perfect setting to hone your critical-thinking, problem-solving, writing, and presentation skills. In small classes, develop strong relationships with your peers and get to know your professors...your future guides and mentors.

Design and implement research ventures that match your interests. Get hands-on experience through study abroad and internships. You will receive a strong foundation for successful employment or further education, including law school. Pursue a career in juvenile justice, probation or parole, social work, or law enforcement at the local, state and federal levels.

Prepare for a life that matters.

JUSTICESYSTEMS.TRUMAN.EDU



“The Justice Systems program has not only provided me with a great education, but with many life experiences that have made me the person I am today. During my senior year, I had the opportunity to intern with the STL County Public Defender’s Office working side by side with attorneys on a murder trial. Without the help of the faculty and the incredible advising I had, this opportunity might not have been provided for me. I have never had more faith and hope for my future than now, and it’s all because I choose Truman and to be a part of the Justice Systems program.”

Stephanie (Agre) Skarvan, Class of 2013
Pursued at Truman: Justice Systems
Pursuing after Truman: Master of Arts in Criminal Justice at Arizona State University (online)
Undergraduate internship: St. Louis County Public Defender’s Office
Hometown: St. Charles, MO; currently residing in Panama City Beach, FL

PURSuing JUSTICE SYSTEMS

BS
DEGREE OFFERED

MAJOR OFFERED
Justice Systems

MINORS OFFERED
Justice Systems & Forensic Science

150

approximate number of students pursuing this major

75

approximate number of students pursuing this minor

4 full-time faculty members

4 part-time faculty members

DEPARTMENTAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS
Alpha Phi Sigma, Lambda Alpha Epsilon and Mock Trial

Faculty

- Justice Systems faculty have experience in policing, corrections, offender treatment, forensic science, juvenile justice, prosecution, and courts-martial.
- Our diverse faculty have 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:
 - Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
 - Alpha Phi Sigma
 - The American Corrections Association
 - American Society of Criminology
 - The Missouri and Adair County Bar Associations
 - Missouri Assoc of Crime Lab Directors
 - Missouri Juvenile Justice Association
 - The National Coalition of Juvenile Justice
 - The National Gang Survey Advisory Board
 - Western Society of Criminology

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. Receive great preparation for graduate school and leadership positions.
- Be provided with a solid disciplinary foundation with integrated development of knowledge and skills feeding into a method and theory core. Explore a range of special topics in upper level courses.
- Interact in courses that have less than 35 students; the average class size is 25 students.

Beyond the Classroom

- Compete at local regional and national levels as part of the **Mock Trial Team** sponsored by the American Mock Trial Association.
- Compete in academic, physical agility, crime scene investigations, and marksmanship competitions at regional and national conferences with the Justice Systems chapter of **Lambda Alpha Epsilon**.



“Our faculty prepare students for leadership positions by helping develop their innovative, creative and critical-thinking skills. We take your academic and professional growth seriously, aware that excellence is a worthy pursuit.”

Dr. Curtis Blakely
Associate Professor of Justice Systems

- Engage with visiting professionals in the field, visit prisons, and sponsor charitable events through the Truman chapter of **Alpha Phi Sigma**, the national honor society for students of criminal justice.
- Receive LSAT test preparation, and weekly activities including local and out of town guest speakers in the **Pre-Law Club**.
- Help host the annual **Court of Appeals for the Western District of Missouri** on Truman’s campus.
- Conduct **undergraduate research** on-campus, either with a Truman faculty member or as an independent research project. Present at regional and national conferences with faculty.
- Are you highly motivated? Propose and even teach a course in your area of interest under the guidance of a faculty member through a **Student Initiated Course**.

Internships

- Some of the best internship opportunities can be found in your hometown police department, Public Defender’s office, prosecuting attorney’s office, juvenile centers, and drug rehabilitation centers.

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 study area with tables and chairs where students and faculty can gather, study, and socialize.

After the Degree

- Approximately 40% of our graduates attend graduate or law school and the other 60% enter the work force.
- Pursue graduate level programs like: University of Missouri-Columbia, University of Missouri-St. Louis, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, St. Louis University, and Western Illinois University.
- Join alumni who are employed at the following entities: St. Louis County Police Department, Kansas City Police Department, Mark Twain Behavioral Health, Preferred Family Healthcare, Target, U.S. Army, and Missouri Highway Patrol.