

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Ranked in the top 6% in the United States, our interdisciplinary criminal justice program prepares students for success after graduation in any justice-related field. The criminal justice system is an intricate web made up of law enforcement, attorneys, courts, and corrections. Whichever path you choose, you will learn not only how the legal process works, but also how to communicate and work side-by-side with the public to guide them through the system.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Learn and Do More at RWU

With a focus on experiential learning at RWU, criminal justice majors can:

- Experience the criminal justice system up close through field visits. For example, RWU students have toured all areas of the Louisiana State Penitentiary, the world's largest prison, which included speaking with inmates and prison staff.
- Present research at conferences on topics like eyewitness testimony, how police departments work with their communities, and the systems for juveniles under court supervision.
- Participate in the Cultural and Legal Studies summer program, which explores how the historical cities of London and Paris were critical to the early concepts of law and justice.

- + Have you always enjoyed watching the detectives on TV shows like *Law & Order* and *NCIS*?
- + Do you want an interdisciplinary study including law, psychology, and sociology?
- + Would you like to intern at a police department, courthouse, social service agency, or prison?

CAREER OUTLOOK

RWU **criminal justice** alumni are working in roles as:

- Police officers
- Court system advocates
- Family support services caseworkers
- Correctional officers
- Child Protective Services workers

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



I had the opportunity to work with faculty on different projects and focus on other areas I was interested in. Getting that experience in the undergraduate level put me a step ahead of people applying to master's programs.



Joseph McKenna '11,
Director of Safety & Security at Comal
Independent School District



Get a Great Internship

Criminal justice students complete a variety of internships with agencies and organizations at the local, state, and federal levels. Examples include: police departments, courthouses, corrections facilities, U.S. Marshals, and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

CURRICULUM

Structure

You'll begin your study with an introduction to criminal justice, policing, research methods, and the connection between criminal justice and law. You will take introductions to psychology, sociology and political science, and will then choose one of those areas to complete your free electives.

Special Courses

In addition to the required criminal justice courses, students can choose from a variety of electives according to their interests. Examples include:

- Sports and Crime
- Crime Prevention
- Homeland Security
- Gangs
- Legal Advocacy
- Social Justice
- Juvenile Justice

Whether it's working to train police officers on interview techniques or researching responses to opioid use, the **Justice Studies Capstone** project gives students the chance to apply their classroom learning to real-world issues. This final project combines knowledge of writing, theory, and research methods.

Faculty

Our faculty are comprised of experts in areas such as police culture and behavior, investigative interviewing and interrogation, violence reduction, youth gangs, the juvenile system, and domestic violence. Through one-on-one faculty advising over the course of your four years at RWU, your advisor will get to know you on an academic, personal, and professional level. Many faculty members have lasting connections with industry professionals and work to connect students with internships and jobs in their areas of interest.

4+1 Criminal Justice Program

This program allows undergraduate criminal justice majors the opportunity to earn six graduate credits during their senior year. They then complete the remainder of the course requirements for the Master of Science in Criminal Justice in a single, post-graduate year. This is an accelerated program for students who intend to study criminal justice full-time at the graduate level.

Resources

Roger Williams University is home of the Justice System Training & Research Institute (JSTRI), which provides professional development training to justice system practitioners and fosters government and community partnerships. This provides RWU students the ability to network with professionals in the field from all justice disciplines, and across the country.

**OVER 80% OF
RWU STUDENTS
GRADUATE WITH
MORE THAN JUST
A SINGLE MAJOR**

RWU students have paired **criminal justice** with:

- Psychology
- Anthropology + sociology
- Political science
- Foreign language