DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
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Mississippi State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation or group affiliation, age, disability, or veteran status.

TO ASSUME POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP
Criminology, as a field, explores the nature and causes of crime. Criminology also examines the impact crime has on society and how in turn society responds to the social problem of crime. The Bachelor’s degree in Criminology emphasizes the study of types, patterns, and trends in criminal behavior, the social etiology of crime, and the social responses to crime and its effects on society. The program also trains students to analyze crime data, test explanations of crime and victimization, and critically evaluate crime theory and policy.

The Criminology program is appropriate for students wishing to pursue career paths in all justice related fields, including: law enforcement, probation and parole, community based prevention and control programs, court based programs, and corrections. Because our program provides for a broad knowledge of the nature and trends of crime and an understanding of crime control policy, along with methodological and critical thinking skills, our students are prepared to assume positions of leadership across a range of career paths or pursue post-graduate studies in Sociology, Criminology, and Law and Legal Studies.

CAREERS IN CRIMINOLOGY

• Homeland Security
• Community Corrections Coordinator
• Police Officer/Police Administrator
• Parole Officer
• Drug Policy Advisor
• Victim Services
• Drug Enforcement Agent

The BA in Criminology is a 36 credit hour major housed in the Department of Sociology. All students complete 18 hours in required course work and 6 hours in each of the three sub-areas of the program: Criminal Behavior and Motivation, Social Dimensions of Crime, and Crime Control Policy and Practice.

Senior Internships are available as an elective for students who have completed 24 hours within Criminology with a minimum 2.5 GPA. Students will complete 150 contact hours within the program approved by the Criminology Program Coordinator.

Senior thesis options are also available for students who have completed 24 hours of coursework within Criminology with a minimum 3.0 GPA. Students work individually with a faculty member to produce a research paper on an approved topic. This is an elective course designed for students wishing to pursue graduate school in Criminology or a related field.