The University of Miami's Department of Sociology & Criminology allows for students to explore both criminology and criminal justice within the larger contexts of sociology—particularly issues related to race, ethnicity, immigration, and equity. Miami is a living laboratory for students to engage and learn with some of the nation’s top scholars, and to contribute to this important discussion on both domestic and international levels.
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Sample Courses
- The Criminal Justice System
- Social Inequities
- Violence in America
- Juvenile Delinquency
- Introduction to Social Research
- Criminology
- Theories of Deviant Behavior
- Crime and Public Policy
- Police and Community
- Race, Ethnicity, and Criminal Justice

Undergraduate
- Major: 30 credits
- Minor: 15 credits
- Dual Major: Criminology & Sociology: 45 credits
- Dual Minor: Criminology & Sociology: 27 credits

Degree Programs

Graduate
- Master of Science in Criminology & Criminal Justice: 30 credits
- Certificate in Criminology & Criminal Justice: 15 credits
- Master of Arts in International Administration (Concentration in International Crime & Justice): 30 credits
- PhD in Sociology (Concentration in Criminology) 49 credits

Dual Degree
- Dual MS in Criminology & Criminal Justice/ Master of Public Administration (MS/MPA): 60 credits

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Scan here to learn more
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At the University of Miami, you can prepare yourself to bring evidence-based practices into crime and justice policies, making a difference in this changing and complex social landscape.

At the Intersection of Theory, Policy, and Methods

Miami is a vibrant, diverse, and growing metropolis with deep history and new opportunities. But, it is not without its challenges, be they environmental, economic, socio-cultural, and political. What better place to consider studying a field at the epicenter of conversations about race, equity, inclusion, and justice?

Criminology and Criminal Justice is a serial pairing of two complimentary fields: crime and the justice system. Criminology is the study of the biological, psychological, and social causes of criminal behavior. Criminal Justice gives students an understanding of the three main elements of the justice system: the courts, policing, and corrections.

Our program provides students with deep history and new opportunities. By studying a field at the epicenter of conversations about race, equity, inclusion, and justice, students will have advanced knowledge of the U.S. criminal justice system including tools to evaluate policy and practice throughout the criminal justice process. Courses are designed to provide the foundational knowledge necessary for research methods. We aim to provide a well-rounded understanding of the etiology, control, and prevention of crime.

Examples of past internships:
- Coral Gables Police Department
- Coral Gables Fire Department
- Tobacco, and Firearms Enforcement
- Coral Gables School District
- United States Pre-trial Services
- Silent Victims of Crime
- Public Defender’s Office
- Miami-Dade Juvenile Detention Center
- International Association of Chiefs of Police
- The University of Miami’s Toppel Career Center
- Florida Department of Children and Families
- Florida Department of Corrections
- Coral Gables Youth Detention Center
- National Institute of Justice
- St. Vincent De Paul Center
- Miami-Dade Police Department
- Florida Department of Corrections
- United States Pre-trial Services
- United States Fire Services
- Silent Victims of Crime
- United States Public Defender

Both undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to take advantage of the department’s wide range of internship placements opportunities from government entities to private organizations.

The University’s Toppel Career Center is also available to provide students with career services, including resume preparation, interviewing opportunities, and professional development.

Graduate Certificate:

For students who wish to add a professional credential in a shorter time frame, the Graduate Certificate in Criminology & Criminal Justice can be completed in just 15 credits. A bachelor’s degree in any field is required to apply, and certificate credits can count towards the MS degree.

Majors:

Criminology offers a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology as well as a combined major in criminology and sociology. Our program provides students with opportunities to gain hands-on experience, such as working on research supervised by a member of our faculty or by completing a community-based internship in the greater Miami area. Many of our undergraduate majors also participate in research sponsored by the honors society for criminal justice, as well as the Sociology and Criminology Student Organization, which provides many opportunities to engage in activities related to their areas of study.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

The Department of Sociology & Criminology offers both a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology as well as a combined major and minor in Criminology. Our program provides students opportunities to gain hands-on experience, such as working on research supervised by a member of our faculty or by completing a community-based internship in the greater Miami area. Many of our undergraduate majors also participate in research sponsored by the honors society for criminal justice, as well as the Sociology and Criminology Student Organization, which provides many opportunities to engage in activities related to their areas of study.

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, job opportunities are expected to increase 15% over the current decade. Education is a fast growing field, with nearly 66% of jobs expected to grow overtime.

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Elective courses offered across the university allow graduate students to deepen their knowledge and take classes from the distinguished faculty in the following fields: Behavioral, Psychological, and Social Sciences; Psychology, Geography, Global Health, International Administration, Education, Communication, Business, and Law.

Specialization areas:
- Leadership and Management
- Criminal Law
- Research Methods and Statistics

INTERNSHIPS

The Master of Science program focuses on both criminology and criminal justice, and elements of both disciplines combined. Students who complete our programs will have advanced knowledge of the U.S. criminal justice system including tools to evaluate policy and practice throughout the criminal justice process. Courses are designed to provide the foundational knowledge necessary for research methods. We aim to provide a well-rounded understanding of the etiology, control, and prevention of crime.

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CRIMINOLOGY FACULTY

Dr. Alexis Piquero
Department Chair
Arts & Sciences
Distinguished Professor
PhD, University of Maryland-College Park

Dr. Olena Antonaccio
Professor & Director of MS/Certificate Programs in Criminology & Criminal Justice
PhD, North Carolina State University

Dr. Roger Dunham
Professor
PhD, Washington State University

Dr. Amie Nielsen
Associate Professor
PhD, University of Delaware

Dr. Kathryn Nowotny
Associate Professor
PhD, University of Colorado-Boulder

Dr. Nicole Leeper Piquero
Professor
PhD, University of Maryland-College Park

Dr. Nick Petersen
Associate Professor
PhD, University of California-Irvine

Dr. Jan Sokol-Katz
Senior Lecturer
Director of Undergraduate Studies
PhD, University of Miami

The Honorable Ellen Venzer
Judge-in-Residence
JD, University of Miami

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