

Mission Statement

The Department of Criminal Justice at Lock Haven University is dedicated to providing students with the education, skills, perspective and judgment that result from a disciplined program of study covering core content and competencies in the subject matter of crime and justice. Students pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree or an Associate of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice will develop knowledge of issues in the field of criminal justice through a balanced presentation of student learning and program objectives to include; 1) knowledge of the nature and causes of crime and deviance; 2) knowledge of the history and practices of the major organizational systems in criminal justice; and 3) the ability to analyze and critique emerging research and current trends in criminal justice. The criminal justice curriculum will prepare and empower students to be critical thinkers, responsible citizens and to employ ethical perspectives and judgments. Graduates of the Criminal Justice Program will be prepared for professional entry into occupations in the criminal justice system or placement in criminal justice or related graduate programs.

Criminal Justice Department Student Learning Outcomes

Specialized Knowledge: Students identify important criminal justice vocabulary, theories, and practices and applies that knowledge to justice administration, corrections, criminological theory, law adjudication, law enforcement, and research methods in criminal justice.

Ethical Reasoning: Students recognize different ethical perspectives, evaluate their own ethical values and the social context of problems, and apply different perspectives to ethical dilemmas in the criminal justice system.

Engaging Diverse Perspectives: Students explain diverse positions, including those representing different cultural, economic and geographic interests on a contested criminal justice issue, and evaluates the issue using evidence drawn from journalism and scholarship.

Critical Thinking: Students access and select evidence for evaluating approaches to criminal justice issues or problems, formulate solutions to problems (synthesis), and defend solutions by differentiating the likely impact on criminal justice policy and/or practice.

Communicative Fluency: Students construct coherent arguments, narratives, or explications of issues, problems or processes to achieve shared understanding of meaning depending on the effective use of language across multiple expressive modes including digital platforms.

Quantitative or Qualitative Reasoning: Students use data to define real world problems, conduct accurate and relevant quantitative or qualitative evaluation of data, and apply basic statistics skills to interpret data, draw conclusions, and solve problems within the criminal justice system.