

# Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice

## Frequently Asked Questions

Prospective students often ask how long the **Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice** takes to complete, what the program costs and if financial aid is available, and if the degree is awarded through USC Upstate.

You can find answers to these questions below.

- Completion time varies based on accumulated credits in general education and other courses required for the major. The degree requires 120 credit hours. It is up to the student and advisor to decide the appropriate number of hours to take each semester.
- Students are eligible to receive applicable federal and state financial aid assistance. Current fees and tuition rates can be viewed at [www.palmettocollege.sc.edu](http://www.palmettocollege.sc.edu).
- The degree is awarded by the University of South Carolina Upstate and meets the same rigorous standards and accreditation as any traditional degree from UofSC.

## Prepare for Your Future

The Criminal Justice Program at USC Upstate is designed to provide current and future criminal justice professionals with the educational background necessary to be successful in a criminal justice career or graduate school.

As a student in the Criminal Justice program, you'll enjoy a well-rounded experience that will empower you with critical thinking, communication, writing, and analytical skills along with comprehensive knowledge and hands-on training in the core principles related to crime and criminal justice, including the study of crime, courts, policing, corrections, offenders and victims. You can also specialize your studies with coursework in crime analysis, which combines data science with policing knowledge to solve problems in communities.

## Why should I complete a bachelor's degree in criminal justice?

Our approach develops criminal justice graduates who are prepared to serve with a much broader and deeper conceptual understanding of how to carry out their duties in law enforcement, corrections, legal settings, academia, and other professions effectively and ethically.

## Why should I complete a degree online from USC Upstate through Palmetto College?

USC Upstate is the #1 ranked public baccalaureate university in South Carolina and the South's best college for veterans. As a Palmetto College student, you'll have access to USC Upstate's academic resources and enjoy a flexible schedule without having to relocate. And best of all, when you're finished with the program, you'll graduate with a degree from a top-notch, nationally recognized university.

## For More Information

### USC Palmetto College Enrollment Services

University of South Carolina,  
Palmetto College  
1600 Hampton Street,  
Columbia, SC 29208

Email: [pcadmissions@sc.edu](mailto:pcadmissions@sc.edu)  
Phone: 888-801-1053



UNIVERSITY OF  
**South Carolina**  
PALMETTO COLLEGE

[palmettocollege.sc.edu](http://palmettocollege.sc.edu)



Careers in criminal justice offer job security, great pay and benefits, and the chance to make a meaningful difference in the world.



**Teena Gooding**

B.S. in Criminal Justice

"The higher I got in rank at my job, the harder it got for me to actually attend classes. So when Palmetto College's online courses became available, I knew that was what I needed to continue pursuing my degree."

## Prerequisites and Requirements

**To apply for this online degree program, students must have:**

- Minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in all previous college-level course work
- Students transferring credits into the program are encouraged to have completed the following courses:
  - Two courses in Composition
  - College Math (or higher) and Statistics
  - Public Speaking or Interpersonal Communication
  - Natural Science with a Lab
  - Humanities
  - History
  - Two courses in world language, or placement in the intermediate level in world language

## Curriculum

Our criminal justice program offers introductory courses in the three major areas of the criminal justice system - law enforcement, courts, and corrections - as well as a wide variety of upper division courses including advanced topics in criminological theory, violence, corrections, delinquency, victimology, and crime analysis, which uses data science and research methods to improve law enforcement.

**The curriculum includes coursework in the following disciplines:**

- Law and Judicial Systems - **6 credit hours**
- Policing and Corrections - **6 credit hours**
- Advanced Issues related to Crime - **3 credit hours**
- Criminological Theory and Research - **6 credit hours**
- Criminal Justice Specialization - **15 credit hours**