About the Department

The Department of Justice Studies embraces an interdisciplinary approach to engage students in critical analysis of justice systems in practice, policy, and research. We equip students to be leaders, professionals, and agents of change in justice-related institutions and in diverse local and global communities.

JS Students acquire analytical, critical thinking, and communication skills much needed in a complex and multicultural society. Our students are prepared to undertake graduate studies at the master’s and doctoral levels, and to take positions of responsibility in justice related public agencies and non-profit organizations.

Our faculty members hold advanced degrees in the social sciences, humanities, law, and life sciences, and they are leaders in their respective academic specialties. They are experts and scholars in the areas of punishment and penal politics; law and society; criminology; sociolegal theory and jurisprudence; policing and law enforcement; corrections; immigration, human rights; gender and justice; DNA and forensic science; family violence, mediation and restorative justice. Their research is published in a wide range of leading academic journals and law reviews, books, and edited volumes.

Highlights

- Founded in 1930, the Justice Studies Department is the oldest academic program of its kind. It has consistently been rated among the nation’s best
- A unique program of Lecture Series, Research Colloquia, and guest lectures exposes JS students to cutting-edge scholarly debates in the areas of social (in) justice, law, penal politics, forensic science, and human rights.
- Required internship experience allows majors to apply theoretical concepts to practical situations.
- Required International Experience educates majors for global living.
- CSI Summer Camp
- Record Clearance Project
- Themis, Research Journal of Justice Studies and Forensic Science
- Major Events:
  - The Ann Lucas Lecture Series in Law and Justice
  - Forensic Science Lecture Series
  - Annual Human Rights Lecture
  - Department Showcase and Alumni Dinner
  - Beyond the Books Lecture Series
  - Confidence Challenge

Programs Offered

- B.S., Justice Studies
- B.S., Justice Studies, concentration in Criminology
- B.S., Forensic Science, concentration in Biology
- B.S., Forensic Science, concentration in Chemistry
- M.S., Justice Studies -Resident Program
- MS, Criminology, Concentration in Global Criminology -Online
- Minors in Justice Studies include Human Rights, Forensic Studies, Legal Studies, and Justice Studies.
- Advanced Certificate in Collaborative Response to Family Violence

Student Clubs/Organizations

- Alpha Phi Sigma Iota Chapter National Criminal Justice Honor Society
- Chi Pi Sigma Fraternity
- Forensic Science Students
- Students for Firearms Safety
- Justice Studies Task Force

http://www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies/
GE Courses
- Area B4: JS 15
- Area D3: JS 25

SJSU Studies Courses
- Area S: JS 132, JS 136
- Area V: JS 171
- Area Z: JS 100W

Scholarships
- California Association of Criminalists, A. Reed and V. McLaughlin Endowment Scholarships
- Daniel P. Lomio Memorial Scholarship
- Gene Simpson & Gordon Silva Memorial Scholarship
- Kristofer Boaz Claspill Memorial Scholarship
- Officer Jeffrey Fontana Memorial Scholarship
- Paula Stone Hubbell Endowment Scholarship
- Theresa Edel Memorial Scholarship
- Williard “Huck” Schmidt Memorial Scholarship
- Shelby B. Brewer Memorial Scholarship

Our Values
Our foremost desire is to foster just societies. We value intellectual curiosity, lifelong learning, honesty, fairness, and ethical consideration of our actions. We embrace diversity, inclusion, civility, and sustainable practices as foundations for strong communities. We commit ourselves to promoting global understanding and respect for cultural differences. We honor our relationships with students, colleagues, alumni, and community partners who work with us to achieve our mission.

Examples of Careers for majors and minors
- Work with non-profit crime/violence prevention agencies
- Juvenile justice, counselor, probation
- Adult Probation
- Policing and related fields
- Federal law enforcement (USSS, FBI, ATF, HSI, etc.)
- Working with nonprofit Justice Organizations
- Community organizing on justice-related issues
- Public advocacy on Human Rights issues
- Forensic Science/Criminalistics
- Corrections and Parole
- Court administration/Case Management
- Investigation (Private, D.A.’s Office, Public Defenders, Police Departments, Corporate)
- Law and related topics.
- Teaching/Research

San José State University does not discriminate on the basis of accent, age, ancestry, citizenship status, color, creed, disability, gender, genetic information, marital status, medical condition, national origin, race, religion, or lack thereof sex, sexual orientation, transgender, or veteran’s status. This policy applies to all SJSU students, faculty and staff programs and activities.