Justice Studies Minor

About the Minor

Drawing upon the rigorous justice studies undergraduate program, the justice studies minor provides students with an interdisciplinary curriculum that analyzes issues in criminal and social justice. The minor provides students the opportunity to explore aspects of the field of justice studies they prefer. Minors come from multiple and varied majors on campus—engineering, computer science, business, nursing, psychology, and so on. They often augment their major with the minor because they have career interests in law enforcement, investigations, juvenile justice, victim services, and other related professions.

Courses Needed to Obtain Minor in Justice Studies

Required Lower Division Courses (3 units)

- JS 10 (3) - Introduction to Justice Studies
- JS 12 (3) - Introduction to Legal Studies
- or
- JS 25 (3) - Introduction to Human Rights & Justice

Required Upper Division Courses (6 units from the list)

- JS 101 (3) - Critical Issues and Ideas in Justice
- JS 102 (3) - Police and Society
- JS 114 (3) - Research Methods in Justice Studies
- JS 151 (3) - Criminological Theory

Upper Division Electives (9 units)

- Students choose 3 upper division justice studies courses to fulfill this requirement.

Steps to Complete the Minor

1. Declare the Minor: Submit "Request for Addition/Change of Major/Minor" form (on SJSU Registrar’s website) with any required documents to a department advisor.
2. Take the Classes: Choose courses as specified by the “Justice Studies Minor Form” (on Dept. website) and log course completions on form.
3. Apply for Graduation: When applying for graduation, submit a completed "Justice Studies Minor Form" to a department advisor.

Justice Studies Program

In majors in the Justice Studies Program, students learn theories, empirical and normative analyses, historical trends, and centralizing themes of justice and injustice. They may also select topical courses to serve personal interests or career ambitions. Students acquire analytical, critical thinking, and communication skills much needed in complex and multicultural societies. They learn to create and articulate grounded, empirically-informed, and sustainable solutions to crime and social problems in communities and/or institutions.

Examples of Careers Related to Justice Studies 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
JUSTICE STUDIES MINOR Fact Sheet

About the Department

Justice Studies is an interdisciplinary area of inquiry that focuses on interrelated criminal and social justice concepts from the lens of humanities, law, and behavioral, social, and natural sciences.

The Department offers 2 MS degree programs, 2 “justice studies” majors, 3 “forensic science” majors, 4 minors, and a certificate in Collaborative Response for Victims of Family Violence.

The Department of Justice Studies at San José State University organizes its curricula around 5 academic pillars:
- Criminal Justice Studies
- Criminology
- Forensic Science
- Legal Studies
- Human Rights

Our Mission

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.

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.

Affiliated Student Organizations

- Alpha Phi Sigma Iota, Chapter
- Chi Pi Sigma Fraternity
- Justice Studies Task Force
- Forensic Science Students Club (FSS)
- Students for Firearms Safety

Courses in GE or SJSU Studies

- Area B4: JS 15
- Area D3: JS 25
- Area S: JS 132, JS 136
- Area V: JS171
- Area Z: JS 100W

Contacts

Department Chair
Paul Knepper, Ph.D.
408-924-1350
paul.knepper@sjsu.edu

Undergraduate Coordinator
Alessandro De Giorgi, Ph.D.
408-924-2967
alessandro.degiorgi@sjsu.edu

Graduate Coordinator
Ericka Adams, Ph.D.
408-924-3339
ericka.adams@sjsu.edu

Programs Coordinator
Claudio Vera Sanchez, Ph.D.
408-924-2950
claudio.vera@sjsu.edu

Internship & International Experience Coordinator
John Halushka, Ph.D.
408-924-1311
john.halushka@sjsu.edu

Forensic Science Coordinators
Mark Barash, Ph.D.
408-924-5513
mark.barash@sjsu.edu
Shawna Bolton, Ph.D.
408-924-8974
shawna.bolton@sjsu.edu

Legal Studies Coordinator
Edith Kinney, Ph.D.
408-924-2946
edith.kinney@sjsu.edu

Record Clearance Project Director
Margaret “Peggy” Stevenson, J.D.
408-924-2758
margin.stevenson@sjsu.edu

Human Rights Coordinator
Sambuddha Ghatak, Ph.D.
408-924-1836
sambuddha.ghatak@sjsu.edu

Collaborative Response to Family Violence Coordinator
Maureen Lowell, M.A.
408-924-3209
maureen.lowell@sjsu.edu

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.