



About Our Program

The Justice Studies Department began as the “Police School” in 1930, offering the first complete college education program for future police officers as an academic program in a regular academic curriculum, otherwise known as a “college major;” this was the first major in the field called Criminal Justice. Through time, scholars found that criminal justice and social justice are intricately intertwined. In response to those advancements, this major’s coursework was broadened, and the major’s name was changed to “Justice Studies.” The department now offers two Justice Studies BS degrees:

- BS Justice Studies
- BS Justice Studies - Concentration in Criminology

Both majors draw upon research and scholarship in Criminal Justice, Criminology, Legal Studies, Human Rights, Forensic Science, and other fields. The major with a concentration in criminology—the scientific study of crime and criminal behavior—allows students to focus more attention on that field of study. The majors consist of cutting edge interdisciplinary curricula that reflect the contemporary interdependent and collaborative realities of criminal and social justice. They prepare students to better serve communities, and they educate them for professional engagement with justice related issues across their careers. The Justice Studies majors equip students to:

1. Understand the major concepts, theories, and historical trends within studies of crime and social justice at all levels, from personal to global.
2. Know how to gather information, conduct and write research, and use valid evidence to answer questions about criminal and social justice.
3. Use academic and professional methods to communicate compelling and reasoned positions on issues of justice.

4. Critically analyse personal, institutional, and societal responses to crime, inequality, and injustice.
5. Employ interdisciplinary perspectives on systems of inequality and concepts of justice to propose grounded, informed, and sustainable solutions to problems in communities and institutions.

Highlights

- The Ann Lucas Lecture Series in Law and Justice
- Beyond the Books Lecture
- Confidence Challenge
- *Themis*, Research Journal of Justice Studies and Forensic Science
- In-department minors including legal studies, forensic studies, and human rights
- Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS), American Criminological Society (ASC), and Western Society of Criminology (WSC) Conferences
- Internship Opportunities
- International Experience Requirement
- Strong Alumni Support on Campus and in the Community
- Preparation for careers, law school, or graduate school.

Student Clubs/Organizations

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

Scholarships

- Kristofer Boaz Claspill Memorial
- Officer Jeffrey Fontana Memorial
- Shelby B. Brewer Memorial
- Theresa Edel Memorial
- Daniel P. Lomio Memorial
- Paula Stone Hubbell Endowment
- Williard "Huck" Schmidt Memorial
- Gene Simpson & Gordon Silva Memorial



Examples of Careers in This Field

- Local/State Policing and related fields
- Federal law enforcement (e.g., FBI, Secret Service)
- Crime and violence prevention
- Probation officer-adult or juvenile
- Juvenile justice diversion programs
- Victim services
- Non-profit community intervention
- At-risk youth engagement and/or gang prevention
- Non-profit community intervention
- Justice advocacy
- Corrections and parole
- Pretrial services
- Case management
- Investigations (corporate, insurance, private, legal)
- Security
- Law/Attorney
- Teaching and/or research
- Program evaluation
- Policy analysis
- Leadership roles in justice organizations

Our Address

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Social Media

- facebook.com/Justice.Studies.at.SJSU
- Twitter: @SJSUJustice
- Instagram: @sjsu.justicestudies

SJSU Web Links

Major Website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies/degrees/undergraduate-degrees/bs-justice-studies/>

SJSU Catalog: <http://info.sjsu.edu/home/catalog.html>

Schedule of Classes: <http://info.sjsu.edu/home/schedules.html>

Counseling and Psychological Services: <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling/>

Accessible Education Center: <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec/>

Aid and Scholarship: : <http://www.sjsu.edu/faso>

Writing Skills Test: <https://testing.sjsu.edu/>

Housing: <http://housing.sjsu.edu/>

Applying to SJSU: <http://www.csumentor.edu/>

Request Information about SJSU: <http://info.sjsu.edu/home/info.html>

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