



Criminal Justice

Social Services

Corrections
Probation
Parole
Juvenile justice
Program development
Outreach
Mentoring
Victim's assistance
Counseling
Casework
Prevention services
Advocacy
Supervision
Assessment
Reporting
Grant writing
Consulting
Administration

Social Services Employers

- Government agencies**
- State and federal correction facilities**
- County jails**
- Precinct station houses**
- Prison camps**
- Youth correction facilities**
- Voluntary correction facilities**
- Halfway houses and pre-release programs**
- Reintegration programs**
- Alternative schools**
- Juvenile detention centers**
- Juvenile group homes**
- Women's and family shelters**
- Domestic violence agencies**
- Immigration and naturalization services**
- Medical centers**
- Other nonprofit organizations**
- Adult education providers**
- Public and private high schools**
- Residential treatment facilities**

Social Services Strategies

Pursue classes or training in topics such as victimology, social problems, diversity issues, or grieving.

Supplement curriculum with courses in psychology, sociology, social work, or child and family studies.

To work with juveniles, gain experience with youth through sports teams, as a summer camp counselor, in parks and recreation programs, or community/religious youth groups.

Seek volunteer or internship positions in areas such as employment interviewing, social casework, substance abuse, rehabilitation, or juvenile justice.

Learn to work well with people of diverse backgrounds. Study a second language for increased marketability.

Maintain a blemish-free driving and criminal record.

Gain firearms and self-defense training for some areas.

Earn a master's degree in social work or counseling for therapy positions.

Obtain a master's degree in criminal justice or business for upper-level positions in facilities.

Judiciary and Law

Court reporting/transcription services

Court clerkship

Security

Legal assistance

Legal research

Administration

Legal representation

Judiciary and Law Employers

Government agencies:

- Department of Social Services
- Department of Justice
- Department of Treasury
- Department of Defense

Local, state, and federal courts

Law firms

Corporate legal departments

Public interest law organizations

Self-employed

Judiciary and Law Strategies

Develop strong research, computer, and writing skills.

Consider a double major or minor in the humanities such as English, philosophy, or history as these build strong writing skills.

Attend a post-secondary vocational or technical college that offers court reporting (CR) or Paralegal (CLA) certification programs.

Join a research group and learn to use software packages for research positions.

Seek opportunities to observe courtroom proceedings and become familiar with the legal system.

Participate in mock trial groups.

Maintain a high GPA and secure strong faculty recommendations to gain admittance to law school.

Research admissions requirements for individual institutions.

Obtain a law degree from a law school accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA).

Law Enforcement

Patrolling

Investigating

Probation

Parole

Court security

Surveillance

Loss prevention

Forensics

Law Enforcement Employers

City/County Government Organizations:

- Police departments
- Correction facilities
- County sheriff departments
- Liquor Control Commission
- Animal control offices

State Government Organizations:

- State troopers
- Crime laboratories
- Penitentiaries

Federal Government Organizations:

- U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI)
- Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
- Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
- Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)
- Department of Homeland Security
- Postal Service
- Federal Marshals
- Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- National Parks Service
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, Explosives
- Armed services

Prisons

Detention centers

Youth correction facilities

Airports and other transportation facilities

Crime laboratories

Colleges and universities

Banks and retail organizations

Law Enforcement Strategies

Obtain related training or certifications such as CPR, first aid, or EMT. Seek training in firearms and self-defense.

Volunteer to work in a police department or campus safety department.

Complete a formal police academy program upon graduation.

Develop strong interviewing, researching, writing, and computer skills.

Maintain a healthy and physically fit lifestyle.

Learn to work well with people of diverse backgrounds and develop multicultural competency.

Study a “mission critical” language as those are in high demand by the federal government.

Become familiar with the government application process. Seek assistance from your campus career center.

Many federal law enforcement agencies primarily hire candidates with experience (e.g., military, law enforcement, or other areas). Research entry requirements for the agencies that interest you.

For a career in Forensics:

- Obtain a double major in criminal justice and a hard science such as biology, chemistry, or biochemistry.
- Complete an internship in a crime laboratory to gain experience in the forensic application of science.
- Consider earning a master’s degree in Forensic Science or related discipline for increased opportunities.

Business

Private security

Consulting

Installation

Investigating

Systems integration

Global intelligence

Private investigation

Internet security

Surveillance

Loss prevention

Property loss management

Program development

Staffing and training

Business Employers

Insurance companies

Banks

Private security companies

Software companies

Retail organizations

Hotels and resorts

Health care facilities

Transportation services

Nuclear power plants

Manufacturers

Other large corporations

Local, state, and federal agencies

Private individuals

Self-employed

Online companies

Business Strategies

Minor in business or computer science, and/or take related courses in computer science or computer systems.

Gain experience in an area of interest through internships, jobs, or volunteer positions.

Seek opportunities that include training in the hardware and software of security systems.

Develop exceptional written and oral communication skills, along with the ability to present information to others.

Pursue leadership opportunities in campus organizations to hone interpersonal skills.

Attend firearm safety courses. Obtain first aid and CPR certification.

Consider gaining military experience and training.

Maintain current knowledge of computer languages and technology.

Obtain a high GPA to ensure a greater number of graduate school opportunities.

Earn a graduate degree in business or law for upper-level positions.

General Criminal Justice Information

Most entry-level positions for criminal justice majors reside with law enforcement and social service organizations.

Depending upon one's career goals, earn a master's degree in disciplines such as criminal justice, forensic science, social work, counseling, or business to obtain positions involving therapy, higher levels of administration, forensics, or research. Earn a doctoral degree for university teaching positions.

Many criminal justice professions require candidates to possess strong oral and written communication skills, good listening skills, and the ability to work with a wide range of diverse populations. Fluency in a second language is also desirable.

Obtain experience through volunteer, practicum, or internship opportunities.

Supplement program of study with courses in business, psychology, anthropology, or sociology. Course work related to the hard sciences (biology, chemistry, or biochemistry) is necessary for career opportunities in forensics.

Internet security is a rapidly growing area with a wide variety of career opportunities. Supplement coursework with computer science and technology courses to gain entry into this field.

Conduct informational interviews and job shadow with professionals in fields of interest to learn more about opportunities.

Stay up to date on advancements in your field by reading professional journals and related literature, joining professional organizations, attending conferences, and networking with others.

Be prepared to complete physical and psychological testing, fitness evaluations, and other evaluative tools for entry into law enforcement and related careers.