

Department of Crime, Justice, and Security



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DEPARTMENT OF CRIME, JUSTICE, AND SECURITY



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

We are glad you are considering the University as your academic home for the next few years. We appreciate the chance to share a little about our recent accomplishments. But first, here are a few things that distinguish us from other types of similar academic institutions and programs:

- We have a flexible curriculum that allows students to take advantage of multiple outstanding internship opportunities for credit and encourages them to complete a minor or double major.
- We collaborate with the University's Chemistry Department (Forensic Chemistry major) and Business School (Forensic Accounting track and Business 5yr BS/MS program).
- Our faculty are recognized nationally and internationally in their various professional organizations and also have relevant experience in the field.
- We have an active Criminal Justice Student Club that regularly brings in speakers, coordinates off-campus trips, and engages in community service.
- We are one of only nine criminal justice undergraduate programs in the United States to obtain certification from the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS).
- Our Center for the Analysis & Prevention of Crime (CAPoC) combines faculty expertise, practitioner insight, and student learning to enhance the technological and analytical capabilities of students, police officers, and other criminal justice and social service agencies in the regional community.
- Students have the opportunity to take advantage of the University's 3 + 3 Law School programs and our arrangements with local and state police academies.
- We are a Catholic and Jesuit University that is based on a 450 year-old intellectual tradition that strives for excellence and cares for each and every student.
- Weiss Hall, where our labs, offices, & classrooms are, is the University's newest building, thanks to a grant from the US National Institute of Standards and Technology and a generous donation from loyal Royals Robert S. and Marilyn A. Weiss.

If I can be of assistance in any way please feel free to contact me at michael.jenkins@scranton.edu.

Yours in Justice,

Michael Jenkins, Ph.D.

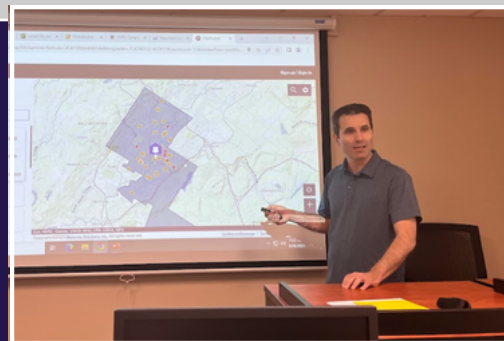


We prepare students for fulfilling careers in policing, courts, corrections, cybercrime prevention and investigation and social service. Our students develop critical thinking, research, analytical and technological skills while learning about equality and social justice. We are just one block from downtown Scranton, which means we have easy access to state and federal courts, law firms, social service agencies, and the police department. We incorporate the principles of Catholic, Jesuit and Ignation Education: especially with genuine care for each student and an emphasis on social justice.

OUR PROGRAMS

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

A degree in criminal justice at the University of Scranton can prepare you for a career in federal, state and local law enforcement, as well as community and institutional corrections. It can prepare you as well for advanced study in law, criminology and public administration.



"Our faculty are highly trained, professionally active, and at the top of their fields. All are doing research and taking students under their wing." - **James Roberts, Ph.D.**



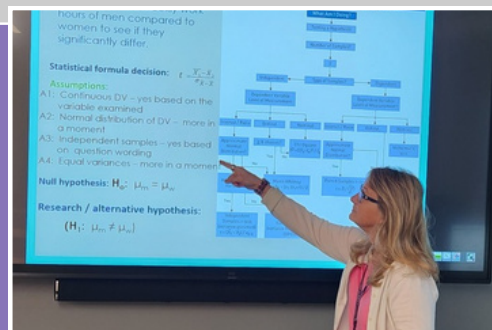
Cybercrime is a serious threat to organizations around the world. Because of that, the cybersecurity industry is rapidly growing everyday. Our program in Cybercrime & Homeland Security is designed to prepare you to meet the growing demand for evaluating and managing and defending from complex cybersecurity incidents and threats, as well as learn about the effect of terrorism on our country.

CYBERCRIME & HOMELAND SECURITY

"Our programs are not only providing students with a very rich curriculum, but also helping them gain experience and skills that can prepare them to compete with others in the job market." - **Ismail Onat, Ph.D., M.A.**

SOCIOLOGY

Sociology majors have a strong background in writing, theory, critical thinking and research. These skills, that come along with the understanding of the nuances of human interaction, are essential to a number of different occupations such as: research, administration, public health, human services, business, counseling, corrections, law, politics and public relations.



"Most students don't think they're going to be doing a lot of data collecting in their 'real' job. It helps them see the utility of what they're doing. It really drives home to students that what they're doing will be used by a real agency." - **Loreen Wolfer, Ph.D.**

DEPARTMENT NEWS



The University's graduating senior Class of 2026 awarded this year's Teacher of the Year to **Sinchul Back, Ph.D.**, associate professor and director of the cybercrime and homeland security program — one of the highest honors at The University of Scranton.



The Department of Crime, Justice, and Security received the inaugural Provost's Enhancement Award for Mission-Driven Innovation and Partnership!

Dr. Back co-authored a research article titled "Exploratory Analysis of Cryptocurrency Transactions of Darknet Drug Markets: Connections to Organized Crime," published in the Journal of Financial Crime.

Dr. Mehmet Bastug and his team showcased AigenTTX, an AI-based tabletop exercise generator for industrial control system (ICS) and operational technology (OT) environments, in the ICS Village at DEF CON 34, one of the world's largest hacker conferences. Developed with a team of industry practitioners, the tool generates tailored tabletop exercises that help critical infrastructure and manufacturing organizations prepare for and respond to cyberattacks.



Dr. Ismail Onat served as co-organizer and trainer for the seminar on "Global Security Threats in 2026," bringing together more than 120 participants to examine emerging international security challenges and policy responses.
<https://orionpolicy.org/opi-intensive-seminar-program-on-global-security-threats-2026>

Dr. Onat published two policy analyses through the Orion Policy Institute. His report, What Works in Counterterrorism and What Doesn't?, examines evidence-based counterterrorism strategies, while Iran War from the Perspectives of China and Russia explores the geopolitical views of China and Russia on the ongoing conflict involving Iran.
<https://orionpolicy.org/iran-war-from-the-perspectives-of-china-and-russia>

Dr. Onat also presented his research on lone-actor terrorism at The George Washington University's Program on Extremism as part of The Global Extremism Papers 2026 Series Launch.
<https://extremism.gwu.edu/reconciling-lone-wolf-terrorism>



Dr. Marlon Mike Toro-Alvarez directed and served as a specialized instructor in the Summer Program on Cybersecurity and Advanced Technologies, offered by the Menéndez Pelayo International University (UIMP), Spain. The program focused on cybersecurity and advanced technologies, contributing to specialized professional education and international academic collaboration.

SPAIN

Dr. Toro participated as a guest speaker at the First Spain-Americas Conference on Tax Law and Digital Transformation, organized by the University of León, Spain, with support from Spain's National Cybersecurity Institute (INCIBE).



October 6, 2026 | Spain-Americas Conference on Tax Law and Digital Transformation - Spain

His presentation was titled: "Investigation and Oversight of Crypto asset Transactions in the United States: Traceability, Cybercrime, and Institutional Cooperation." The presentation examined the U.S. institutional and legal approaches to investigating crypto asset-related crime, tracing cryptocurrency transactions, and promoting cooperation among law enforcement agencies and international partners.

The event brought together specialists from six countries and received coverage in Spanish news media.

COLOMBIA

Dr. Toro participated as an invited speaker at the 6th International Congress of Criminology, held in Cartagena, Colombia.

During the conference, he delivered a presentation titled: "Digital Crime, Artificial Intelligence, and the Future of Cybercriminology." He also conducted a specialized workshop titled: "Digital Investigation, Digital File Certification, and Cryptoasset Tracing."

These activities addressed emerging challenges in cybercrime investigation, the impact of artificial intelligence on criminal behavior, and investigative methodologies involving digital evidence and cryptoassets.



Atty. Jason A. Shrive was admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York, at an in-person swearing-in ceremony, today, in Rochester, NY, before the Honorable Frank P. Geraci, in order to better serve Shrive Law's growing client base.



Atty. Shrive had the privilege of hosting **Hon. William L. J. Burke**, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Schuylkill County, PA, as a Guest Speaker, in our American Court System class. Judge Burke, a proud University Alum, spoke about his prior career as an attorney, the process of becoming a Judge, & the role of a Trial Court Judge in the PA Judicial System.



As an added bonus, Judge Burke's son, **William "Billy" Burke**, is our student and was present to hear his father's informative & engaging presentation.

Faculty accepted a plaque from the Colombian National Police, in recognition of our department's support of their executive training program and as an acknowledgment of our on-going partnership in fighting crime and ensuring justice and security in both the cyber and physical worlds.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Students in this summer's Global Crime, Justice, and Security course participated in the a phenomenal White Hat Conference in Mendoza, Argentina and competed against professional teams in a daylong cyber investigation challenge. They also traveled to Buenos Aires, where they visited with representatives from law enforcement agencies, Ameripol, and Interpol and enjoyed some cultural experiences.

Hannah Horn is the winner of the 2026 Bonnie W. Oldham Library Research Prize in the Undergraduate Upper-level category, awarded to the winning project completed in a 200- to 400-level course.

Hannah is a junior Cybercrime and Homeland Security major with a double minor in Criminal Justice and Criminology.



Hannah submitted to the competition her project titled, "Money Laundering through Online Gambling," completed in the course CJ 231: Environmental Criminology, taught by **Dr. Ismail Onat**. In choosing a research topic, Hannah explains in her description of research, "My curiosity about money laundering through gambling began from a desire to understand how digital platforms, such as online casinos, introduce new risks to these conventional systems. At the beginning of the project, I recognized that the subject was extensive and impactful but had very little research regarding it."

GRATEFUL TO THE ALUMNI WHO CAME TO CAMPUS TO SHARE ON ETHICAL DECISIONMAKING AND NETWORK WITH OUR STUDENTS

Alumni Included:

Mike Bertrand - Retired FBI Agent and attorney

Paul Matey - Former federal prosecutor; now a federal circuit judge

Chris Neumann - Litigation attorney (former Port Authority of NY/ NJ), police academy instructor, and Chair of the Alumni Board;

April Phillips - Retired FBI;

Mark Schork - Civil Litigator

Thanks to the Ethics Across the Curriculum, the Roche Family Center for Career Development, and the alumni office for their support.



CYBER INVESTIGATION CLUB



First Meeting of the Cyber Investigation Club
September 16, 2026 | Weiss Hall

The Cyber Investigation Club is hosting a Capture the Flag event on December 1st, where students devised in various teams will work together to accomplish a stimulated cyber mission created by Dr. Toro and the club officers. In the challenge, students will be tasked in finding different flags on a computer and accomplishing the mission before everyone else. On October 19th and November 18th, two training sessions will be held to help students prepare for the challenge and to find their teammates!

CRIMINAL JUSTICE CLUB



We had a great meeting making our donation boxes for our criminal justice collection drive!! Look around campus in buildings such as LSC, Weiss, the Library and more and please consider donating toiletries and personal care products such as travel shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste, mouthwash, etc., to help those re-entering into society!



ALPHA PHI SIGMA

The National Criminal Justice Honor Society

James Roberts Ph.D., Advisor

2025-2026 Inductees



OUR WORK STUDY STUDENTS

Serenity Leandry - "I am currently completing my undergraduate studies with a major in Criminal Justice and a minor in Crime Analysis. I love completing my work study hours in the Department of Crime, Justice, and Security because it gives me the opportunity to connect with my professors on an everyday basis. I'm looking forward to applying to and starting the Cybercrime Investigation and Cybersecurity Accelerated Master's program next spring!"

Michael Kanuik - "I am a senior Cybercrime & Homeland Security major, as well as an ROTC Cadet. Being a work-study with the department gives me the opportunity to assist my professors in day to day activities and to represent the ROTC program within the department."

READY TO EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS? WE OFFER COURSES IN:

- Criminal Justice
- Criminology
- Ethical Hacking
- Sociological theory
- Cyber-intelligence
- Race & Ethnic Relations
- American Policing
- Terrorism
- Homeland Security
- Law and American Court System
- Sociology
- Digital Forensic Investigation
- Emergency Management
- Police Criminalistics

OUR CLUBS

Criminal Justice Club
Chapter of American Criminal Justice Assc.

- Hope Makowicz - President
- Cathryn Popadin-Lesniak - Vice President
- Kimberly Gingrass - Secretary
- Emily O'Connor - Event Coordinator
- Kaitlyn Sonnie - Social Media Coordinator
- Alexandra Rouche - Treasurer

Cyber Investigation Club

- Julia Ciaccio - President
- Natasha Cueva - Vice President
- Emily O'Connor - Emily O'Connor
- Hannah Horn - Treasurer
- Lauren Maldonado - Social Media

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Drug Enforcement Administration
- Pennsylvania State Prison
- Scranton City Police
- U.S. Secret Service and U.S Marshals
- County Probation
- J.P. Morgan
- District Attorney's Office
- Dunmore Police Department
- Lackawanna County Police
- Lackawanna County Sheriff
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- National Security Agency
- Community Intervention Center
- The Institute for Economic and Public Policy
- Cyber & Infrastructure Security Agency

WHERE ARE OUR ALUMNI?

- U.S. Secret Service
- U.S. Marshals Service
- FBI
- Counterterrorism
- Private Security Analysis
- U.S. Immigration and Customs
- Local & State Police Departments
- Federal Corrections
- Public Defenders Office
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- Private Sectors for Cybercrime
- Civil Division in Courts



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