

Why Study Criminal Justice at Grand Valley?

Grand Valley has one of the larger criminal justice programs in the country and faculty who are nationally recognized for contributions in the discipline. Faculty members also offer students the opportunity to engage in a wide variety of research and service-learning opportunities. The program offers students the chance to complete an internship in the agency or organization of their own choosing. The program provides learning opportunities to assist faculty in the field, gathering and analyzing data on community issues and evaluating community programs.

Step One:

Choosing Your Degree & Declaring Your Major Select Criminal Justice - BS or Criminal Justice - BA

- These are the *only* two options available for your catalog year.
- The *only* difference between the two choices is the three course requirements as described below. The other required courses are exactly the same!
- One choice is not *better* than another, each is just *different*. Consider your own personal interests and skills as well as the skills you may wish to develop for the professional field.

Bachelor of Science (BS)

Requires a three course sequence in statistics and research methods

- STA 215 Introductory Applied Statistics (Prerequisite: MTH 110)
- CJ 300 Research Methods (Prerequisite: STA 215 & Jr. Standing)
- CJ 400 Qualitative Methods (Prerequisite: CJ 300)

Bachelor of Arts (BA)

Requires third semester proficiency of a foreign language of your choice. If you plan to continue a language you already have experience in, you should take the language placement exam during orientation to determine the appropriate starting point for your skill level. You may also consider starting a new language (FYI: Many competitive federal level positions are most interested in applicants with skills in critical need areas such as Arabic, Chinese and Russian).

You should begin your language sequence as soon as possible. Replace one of the recommended general education category courses on the plan with the appropriate language course as determined by the placement exam. Depending on your placement you will move through the sequence of courses as follows:

101 → 102 → 201
150 → 201

Step Two: Choosing Your Classes

Focus on the General Education Foundation

- Take some time to explore the general education and choose courses that interest you. It may help you to identify another interest area that you can pursue as a minor or even second major. There is room in your degree plan to study another discipline if you choose.
- We would expect for you to have completed the majority of the foundation categories by the end of your first year. Whatever courses you don't complete, you can add those to the first semester of your second year.

There is Plenty of Time For the Major Curriculum

- We know you are excited to get started on your major courses but there is plenty of time to pace your major courses throughout your degree plan. You should only be completing CJ101 in your first year (and which also counts as a general education social & behavioral science course).
- ONLY if your general education choices don't fit your schedule and you need another option, then CJ201 can be taken in the first year. Sequence CJ101 in the fall and CJ201 in the winter. You may not take these courses concurrently! You should *not* be enrolled in ANY 300-level CJ course in your first semester, regardless of the number of AP or dual enrollment credits you bring in. Focus instead on exploring electives and general education choices.
- See the schedule suggestions on the back of this guide for more information and recommendations for what to schedule in your first year.

Criminal Justice

MTH097 Math Placement*

MTH097 (fall or winter depending on availability)	4	MTH110 (if MTH097 in fall) or General Education Category	3-4
WRT track or General Education Category	3-4	WRT track or General Education Category	3-4
Natural Science with a lab	4	Natural Science without a lab	3
CJ101 (satisfies FND/SB&S)	3	General Education Category	3
General Education Category (if space in schedule)	3	General Education Category (if space in schedule)	3

MTH110 Math Placement*

CJ101 (satisfies FND/SB&S)	3	General Education Foundation	3
WRT track or General Education Category	3-4	WRT track or General Education Category	3-4
Natural Science with a lab	4	Natural Science without a lab	3
General Education Category	3	MTH110	4
General Education Category (if space in schedule)	3	General Education Category (if space in schedule)	3

MTH110 Waived or Advanced Waiver Math Placement

WRT track or General Education Category	3-4	WRT track or General Education Category	3-4
General Education Category	3	General Education Category	3-4
Natural Science with a lab	4	Natural Science without a lab	3
CJ101 (satisfies FND/SB&S)	3	General Education Category	3
General Education Category (if space in schedule)	3	Minor or Open Elective Choice (if space in schedule)	3

Honors Program Participants

You will complete your 6 credit honors sequence each semester in place of the suggested general education and writing requirements. You may take CJ101 in the fall and CJ201 in the winter for the CJ major. Any other space you have left open should be filled with a 2nd major or minor course or an exploratory elective choice to help find a 2nd major or minor.

Honors students normally have approximately 40 credits of degree electives to satisfy. You should consider a double major or a minor to pursue in addition to CJ. You should *not* plan to move ahead into 300-level CJ work this year.

AP/Dual Enrollment

- You may take CJ 201 in the winter if you have completed CJ 101
- If you have satisfied both CJ101 and CJ201 AND will have 25+ credits then you may consider up to two courses from CJ312, CJ330, CJ340 or CJ350 for the winter semester only.
- If you do not meet the above criteria, focus instead on general education or electives to fill any open spaces you have in your schedule. You can expect to have about 30 credits of degree electives to satisfy. Consider a minor or even a second major to help you meet these requirements.
- You should *not* take CJ305 in your first year!

Math Placement

MTH110 does not need to be completed in the first year. If there is no space available, MTH110 can be completed in the second year. You should complete MTH097 or MTH098 in the first year if required by placement

Writing Track

You may select your writing track. You can choose to complete WRT120 (3cr) in the fall and WRT130 (3cr) in the winter, or you can choose to complete WRT150 (4cr) in either semester.