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## WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN ... **CRIMINOLOGY**

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### **OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:**

For students who are primarily interested in crime and criminal justice, the UNM Department of Sociology offers a criminology major. Courses focus on the characteristics and causes of crime and deviance and on the origins, nature and consequences of societal reactions to crime and deviance, giving particular attention to the criminal justice system.

### **EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENT:**

A bachelor's degree is the minimum formal education required. Most entry-level positions for criminology majors reside with law enforcement, governmental, or social service agencies/organizations. Students must usually be willing to start in an entry-level position in order to prepare for advancement. Depending upon the student's career goals, many employers also require graduate education. For example, a master's degree in criminal justice, forensic science, social work, counseling, public administration, or business may be required for positions involving therapy or higher levels of administration, forensics, and research. A doctorate is required for university-level teaching positions.

### **EMPLOYERS & SUGGESTED STRATEGY:**

Please ask your Career Advisor (CDF) for identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

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**Social Services:** Corrections – Counseling – Juvenile justice – Casework – Administration – Probation/parole – Victim advocacy

**Suggested Strategy:** Gain experience working with whatever population you're interested in. Gain experience with people of diverse backgrounds, and learn a second language (Spanish is particularly marketable). Earn a master's degree in social work or counseling for therapy positions. Develop a network of contacts through informational interviewing.

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**Judiciary and Law:** Court reporting – Legal assistance – Legal research – Administration

**Suggested Strategy:** Consider a double major or minor in another social science (e.g., political science). Gain certification for court reporting or paralegal work, or obtain a law degree. Develop strong research, computer, and writing skills.

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**Law Enforcement:** Patrolling – Investigating – Forensics – Probation - Security

**Suggested Strategy:** Complete a formal police academy program upon graduation. Obtain related training or certification (e.g., CPR). Volunteer to work in a police department or campus safety department. Go on a "ride along". For forensics, complete an internship in a crime lab, and obtain a double major in a hard science (e.g., chemistry). Be familiar with government application.

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**Business:** Private security – Consulting – Investigating – Systems integration – Global intelligence – Internet security

**Suggested Strategy:** Minor in business or computer science. Seek internship experience that includes training in the hardware and software of security systems. Earn a graduate degree in business or law for upper-level positions.

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**Education:** Teaching – Research - Colleges and universities - Private and public schools – Adult education providers

**Suggested Strategy:** Obtain appropriate state licensure and/or certification for public school teaching positions. Volunteer to teach or tutor with organizations such as Big Brother/Sister or YMCA. Develop excellent written and oral communication skills. Acquire graduate degree for teaching positions at the college or university level. Assist professor with research project.

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### **EMPLOYERS OF CRIMINOLOGY GRADUATES:**

County jails – Precinct station houses – Prison camps – Reintegration programs – Alternative schools – Women's and family shelters – Domestic violence agencies – Police departments – County sheriff departments – Liquor Control Commission – State troopers – Crime labs – Penitentiaries – US Customs and Border Protection – FBI – IRB – DEA – CIA – Department of Homeland Security – Postal Service – Federal Marshals – Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Department – US Department of Agriculture – National Parks Service – Private security companies – Nuclear power plants

**INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:**

Criminal Justice USA  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Central Intelligence Agency  
National Drug Enforcement Officers Association  
Department of State  
National Security Agency  
U.S. Department of Defense  
Police Employment  
Cop Net  
Corrections Connection

<http://www.criminaljusticeusa.com/>  
<http://www.fbijobs.gov>  
<http://www.usdoj.gov>  
<http://www.cia.gov/>  
<http://www.ndeo.org/>  
<http://www.state.gov/>  
<http://www.nsa.gov/>  
<http://www.defenselink.mil/>  
<http://www.policeemployment.com>  
<http://www.copnet.org>  
<http://www.corrections.com/>

**OTHER INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:**



<http://online.onetcenter.org>



<http://www.bls.gov/oco/>