

Contact: Rachel Boon

REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINOLOGY, LAW AND JUSTICE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Action Requested: Approve the request by the University of Iowa to terminate the Bachelor of Science in Criminology, Law and Justice in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The Council of Provosts and Board office staff reviewed the proposal and recommend approval.

Description of program. The Department of Sociology and Criminology administers a Bachelor of Arts (BA) and a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Criminology, Law and Justice. Students learn about sociological explanations for crime and criminal justice; the operation of law and the criminal justice system, including their complex interplay with other institutions, such as the economy and politics; and important data sources on crime in the United States and internationally.

The criminology, law and justice coursework required for the major is the same for BS and BA students, but the major for the BS includes additional semester hours in theory, statistics and methods courses.

Reason for proposed termination. The BS degree was designed to be a statistics-intensive program for undergraduates that included introductory graduate-level statistics courses. The demand for this degree has been low: of 347 Criminology, Law, and Justice majors, only 20 students are enrolled in the BS track (5.8%). In addition, the department has had difficulty screening students to ensure that they are fully prepared for the rigorous math requirements of the upper-level courses. This is creating additional hurdles for some of the students who opt for the BS.

Effect on current students. Students who are currently enrolled will be allowed to complete their degree requirements. The undergraduate courses necessary for degree completion will still be offered, and the department will arrange for these students to enroll in the required graduate statistics courses (SOC:6170 and SOC:6180).

For future students who are interested in additional quantitative training, the department will ensure that students will have access to needed courses through the certificate program in Social Science Analytics, which is currently offered to both BA and BS students.

Application, Enrollment and Completion Trends. Enrolled students do not need to separately apply for this major. List below are enrollments and completions only.

	Enrollment	Completions
2022	31	3
2021	49	1
2020	45	0
2019	40	2
2018	42	2

Impact on resources. There should be no loss of enrollment in the criminology major due to this change; the same courses will be available and the BS does not offer advantages over the BA in the relevant job markets. There will be an opportunity for cost savings as teaching resources are reallocated to courses that better serve the much more popular and larger BA major.

Impact on workforce. Given the low enrollment and graduation rates in this degree, UI does not anticipate any effect on workforce needs. The BS does not offer advantages over the BA in the relevant job markets.

Alternative programs. Two other universities in Iowa offer a similar BS degree—ISU and Upper Iowa. It is far more common to offer a BA.

Iowa State University	Criminal Justice BA, BS
University of Northern Iowa	Criminology and Criminal Justice BA
Coe College	Social and Criminal Justice BA
Grand View University	Criminal Justice BA
Loras College	Criminal Justice BA
Mount Mercy University	Criminal Justice BA
St Ambrose University	Criminal Justice BA
Simpson College	Criminal Justice BA
University of Dubuque	Criminal Justice BA
Upper Iowa University	Criminal Justice BS

Effective date of termination. August 2023.