

CJS101 Introduction to Criminal Justice



Whether you become a police, probation or parole officer, a correctional officer in a jail or prison, a prosecutor, defense attorney, judge, a treatment provider, or do public policy work in one way or another at the local, state or national level, you will need to have a strong understanding of the criminal justice system. This course is designed to provide the criminal justice student with a comprehensive introduction to the field.

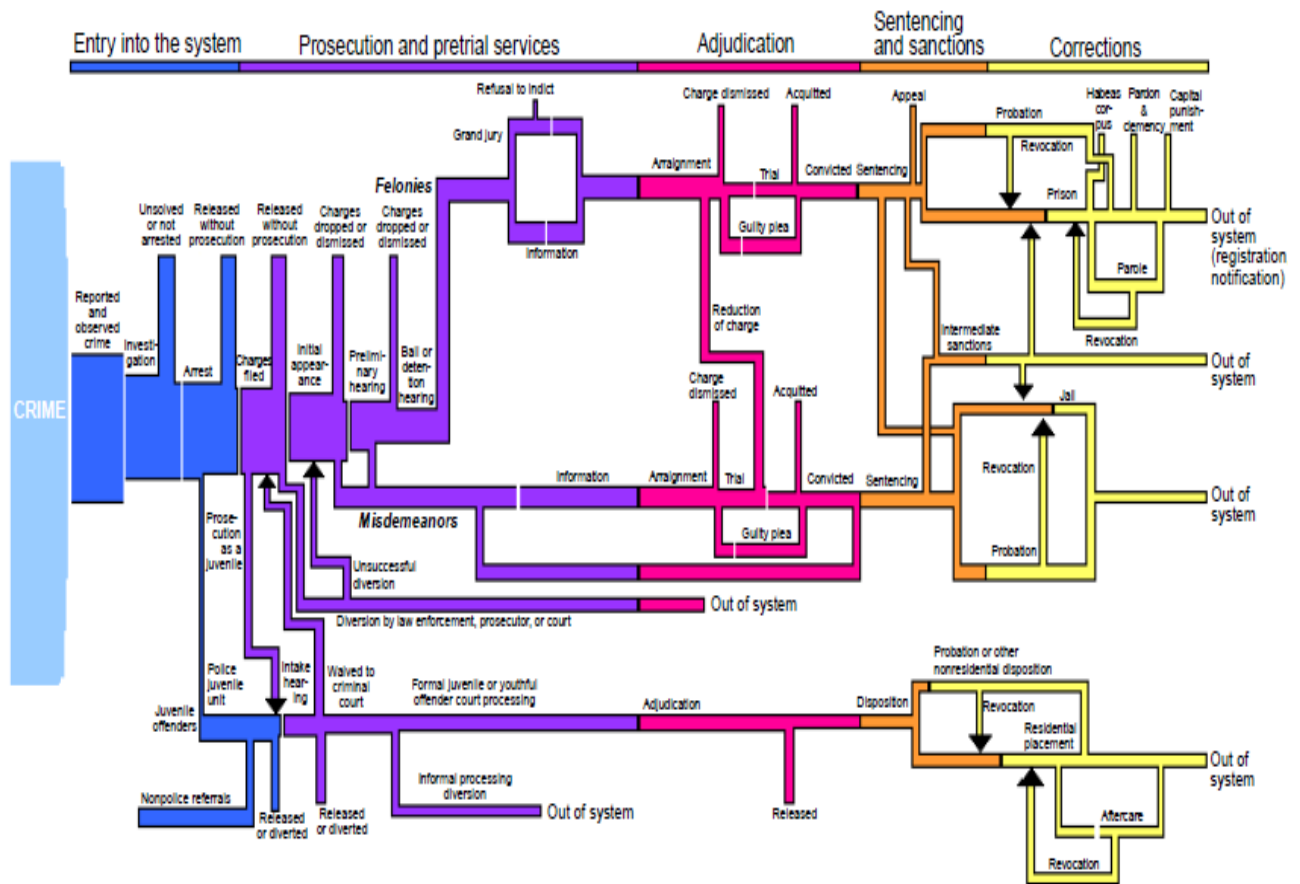
In this course, we will examine basic concepts in criminal justice, examine basic theories of crime, provide an introduction to criminal law and constitutional criminal procedure, and examine the functions and operation of law enforcement, courts, and corrections in the United States.

The course has several objectives: 1) To understand the key components of the criminal justice system, and how they interact with one another; 2) To recognize and be able to identify the tensions that exist within the criminal justice system between crime control and due process; 3) To gain basic research and writing skills that will be needed throughout your criminal justice course work..

Pre-requisites: NONE



CJS 101: Introduction to Criminal Justice Sciences



This course discusses the nature of crime and introduces the multiple components of the criminal justice system, including the police, the courts, and correctional agencies. Each of the components will be discussed along with the processes through which decisions are made in these agencies regarding crime cases and issues. This course views crime and justice as public policy issues. Emphasis is also placed on how the components of the CJ system actually work and operate as opposed to the system that is often portrayed throughout the media and popular culture.

Throughout the semester students will gain factual knowledge pertaining to the criminal justice field, understand how public policies on crime are formed, understand the roles, functions, and history of each of the major components of the criminal justice system, gain an in-depth understanding of contemporary criminal justice issues. By the end of the course, students should be able to understand and critically evaluate criminal justice issues.