The United States currently has more than 7 million people under some type of community correctional supervision, with the majority sentence to a term of probation. Community corrections includes a wide variety of sanctions – from pretrial release for those not convicted of any crime to parole for those completing their prison sentence.

The purpose is designed to explore the history, functions, purposes and operations of community-based correctional programs, and how they are linked to the large criminal justice system. Particular emphasis will be placed on the development of community corrections as an alternative and supplement to incarceration. Evidence based practices are explored.

The objectives of this course are:

- To become knowledgeable of the history, concepts, and philosophy of community-based correctional programs
- To understand the various roles played by practitioners in the field of community corrections
- To introduce the student to important decision-making skills through the writing of a presentence investigation report.
- Introduce correctional institutions as a career opportunity.

Local community correction officers are frequent guest speakers.