Bachelor of Arts in Criminology

Howard University

College of Arts & Sciences

Catalog: Fall 2023 – Present

Quick Summary - What You Need to Graduate

Total Credits	Minimum GPA	Major Credits	Last 30 Credits
120	2.0	30	At Howard

Your Degree Breakdown:

- Major Requirements: 30+ Criminology/Sociology credits (10+ courses)
- General Education: 30 credits (approximately 15 courses)
- Math Requirements: 3-4 credits (1 course)
- Foreign Language: 9 credits (3 courses)
- Free Electives: 30 credits
- Complete all 7 ELOs (can overlap with courses)
- COAS Experiential (1 course) & COAS Innovative Learning (1 course)
- Undergraduate Comprehensive Exam

Important: Double-Dipping Made Simple!

One course can fulfill BOTH a General Education requirement AND an Essential Learning Outcome (ELO) at the same time. You don't need separate courses for each! This helps you graduate efficiently without taking extra classes.

Major credits **cannot** be double dipped with minor credits. While students are not required to declare a minor, those who choose to do so must complete **15-18 credits that are not applied toward their major requirements**. Minor coursework must remain distinct and separate from major coursework.

University-Wide Requirements

- **Minimum GPA:** 2.0 for all undergraduate coursework
- **Residency:** Complete last 30 credits at Howard University
- **Exit Requirement:** Undergraduate Comprehensive Exam
- **Total Credits:** 120 credits required

General Education Requirements (30 Credits / ~15 Courses)

Essential Learning Outcomes (ELOs)

Students must complete courses covering all seven outcome areas. Remember, these can overlap with other requirements!

- **ELO 1:** U.S. and Global African Diasporic Developments
- **ELO 2:** Human Cultures and Creative Expression
- **ELO 3:** The Physical and Natural World
- **ELO 4:** Intellectual and Practical Skills
- **ELO 5:** Social Responsibility and Knowledge of Political Institutions
- **ELO 6:** Leadership and Applied Learning
- **ELO 7:** Comprehensive Wellness Practices

Note: ELO courses are tagged in Bison Hub under the course description

Freshman Experience (1 Credit / 1 Course)

- **FRSM 001 -** Freshman Seminar (1 credit)

Core Writing & Communication (12 Credits / 4 Courses)

4 courses needed (each 3 credits)

- **ENGW 101, 102, or 104 -** First-Year English Writing I (3 credits)
- **ENGW 103 or 105 -** First-Year English Writing II (3 credits)
- **Third Writing Course -** Upper-level writing (3 credits)
- **Principles of Speech (AS) -** (3 credits)

Health & Wellness (2 Credit / 1 Course)

- **HHPL Course -** Health, Human Performance, and Leisure (2 credits)

Cultural and Global Awareness (12 Credits / 4 Courses)

- **African American Cluster Course -** 1 course (3 credits)
- **Foreign Language -** 3 courses (9 credits total, same language)
    - 1 course can be an Intercultural Knowledge course

Humanities & Social Sciences (15 Credits / 5 Courses)

- **Philosophy Elective -** 1 course (3 credits)
- **Two Humanities Courses -** 2 courses (3 credits each)
- **Two Social Science Courses -** 2 courses (3 credits each)

Natural Sciences (6 Credits / 2 Courses)

- **Two Natural Science Courses -** 2 courses (3 credits each)

Mathematics Requirements (3-4 Credits / 1 Course)

Required Course (1 course):

- **MATH 005 or Higher -** College Algebra or higher (3-4 credits)

Note: SOCI 110 (Elementary Statistics) is a separate required course for the Criminology major and provides quantitative skills training.

COAS Special Requirements

Experiential Learning (1 course required)

Examples of COAS Experiential Learning Course but are not limited to:

- SOCI 079 - Internship
- SOCI 890 or HNRS 890
- Study abroad

- Criminal justice agency placements
    - Criminal justice agency placements must take place in the context of the SOCI 079 Internship Criminology class.

Innovative Learning Requirement (1 course required)

- Students must complete an Interdisciplinary Studies department course to satisfy the requirements.

Note: COAS Special Requirements courses are tagged in Bison Hub under the course description

Criminology Major Requirements (30+ Credits / 10+ Courses)

Foundation Courses (9 Credits / 3 Courses)

Required for all Criminology students

- **SOCI 001 -** Intro to Sociology (3 credits)
- **SOCI 110 -** Elementary Statistics (3 credits)
- **SOCI 111 -** Sociological Methods (3 credits)

Criminology Core Courses (12 Credits / 4 Courses)

- **SOCI 070 -** Criminology (3 credits)
- **SOCI 170 -** Principles of Criminal Justice (3 credits)
- **SOCI 074 -** Corrections (3 credits)
- **SOCI 079 -** Internship (3 credits)

Criminology Major Electives (9+ Credits / 3+ Courses)

- **Criminology Electives -** Upper-level Criminology/Sociology courses (9+ credits minimum)

Prerequisites: Upper-level Criminology courses typically require completion of SOCI 001 and/or SOCI 070. Check individual course prerequisites.

Free Electives (30 Credits / ~10 Courses)

The remaining credits reach 120 in total. Use strategically to:

- Pursue a minor in another field (Criminal Justice, Psychology, Political Science)
- Take additional Criminology courses
- Explore law enforcement, legal studies, or forensic science
- Prepare for graduate school or law school

Sample Degree Progress Checklist

Always consult with your academic advisor for personalized guidance

Freshman Year (29-30 Credits)

Fall Semester

- FRSM 001 - Freshman Seminar (1 credit)
- ENGW 101/102/104 - First-Year Writing I (3 credits)
- SOCI 001 - Intro to Sociology (3 credits)
- MATH 005 or higher - College Algebra or higher (3-4 credits)
- Humanities Course (3 credits)
- HHPL course (2 credits)

Fall Total: 14-15 credits

Spring Semester

- ENGW 103/105 - First-Year Writing II (3 credits)
- SOCI 110 - Elementary Statistics (3 credits)
- Social Science Course (3 credits)
- Natural Science Course (3 credits)
- Foreign Language I (3 credits)

Spring Total: 15 credits

Sophomore Year (30 Credits)

Fall Semester

- SOCI 070 - Criminology (3 credits)
- Foreign Language II (3 credits)
- Natural Science Course (3 credits)
- Humanities Course (3 credits)
- Free Elective (3 credits)

Fall Total: 15 credits

Spring Semester

- SOCI 111 - Sociological Methods (3 credits)
- Foreign Language III (3 credits)
- African American Cluster Course (3 credits)
- Third Writing Course (3 credits)
- Philosophy Elective (3 credits)

Spring Total: 15 credits

Junior Year (30 Credits)

Fall Semester

- SOCI 170 - Principles of Criminal Justice (3 credits)
- Foreign Language IV (3 credits)
- Criminology Elective (3 credits)
- Social Science Course (3 credits)
- Principles of Speech (3 credits)

Fall Total: 15 credits

Spring Semester

- SOCI 074 - Corrections (3 credits)
- Criminology Elective (3 credits)

- Free Electives (9 credits)
- COAS Innovative Learning (if not completed)

Spring Total: 15 credits

Senior Year (30 Credits)

Fall Semester

- SOCI 079 - Internship (3 credits)
- Criminology Elective (3 credits)
- Free Electives (9 credits)
- Take Undergraduate Comprehensive Exam

Fall Total: 15 credits

Spring Semester

- Criminology Elective (3 credits)
- Free Electives (12 credits)
- Apply for graduation

Spring Total: 15 credits

Key Requirements Summary

- **Minimum Overall GPA:** 2.0
- **Credits in Criminology/Sociology:** 30+ minimum
- **Residency:** Last 30 credits at Howard University
- **Quantitative Skills:** SOCI 110 (Statistics) and SOCI 111 (Methods) required
- **Internship Required:** SOCI 079 provides hands-on criminal justice experience

Important Notes for Success

- **Foundation First:** Complete SOCI 001 early, as it's a prerequisite for many upper-level courses. SOCI 070 (Criminology) should be taken early as well.

- **Research Skills Sequence:** SOCI 110 (Statistics) and SOCI 111 (Sociological Methods) provide essential research training. Complete SOCI 110 before SOCI 111.
- **Criminology Core:** SOCI 070 (Criminology), SOCI 170 (Criminal Justice), and SOCI 074 (Corrections) form the foundation of the criminal justice system of understanding.
- **Internship Experience:** SOCI 079 is a required internship course that provides real-world experience in criminal justice agencies, law enforcement, corrections, courts, or social service organizations. Plan to complete this in your junior or senior year.
- **Foreign Language:** All 9 credits (3 courses) must be in the same language - more than most majors. Complete consecutively.
- **Social Science General Electives:** Criminology or Sociology major courses cannot double count towards general education social science requirement. It is suggested to take your social science courses outside of our department, such as: Anthropology, African American Studies, Economics, History, Political Science.
- **Criminology Electives:** Explore specialized areas such as:
    - Juvenile Delinquency
    - White Collar Crime
    - Victimology
    - Criminal Law
    - Police and Society
    - Race and Crime
    - Comparative Criminal Justice Systems
- **Experiential Learning:** Can be satisfied through SOCI 079 (Internship) or other approved experiential courses.
- **Free Electives Strategy:** With 30 credits of free electives, Criminology majors have flexibility to:
    - Complete a minor in Psychology, Political Science, or Social Work (15-18 credits)
    - Take pre-law courses
    - Explore forensic science or cybersecurity
    - Prepare for graduate programs in criminal justice, law, or public policy
- **Interdisciplinary Connections:** Criminology pairs well with Psychology, Political Science, Sociology, Social Work, Legal Studies, or Public Administration.
- **Career Preparation:** Criminology prepares students for careers in:
    - Law enforcement agencies
    - Federal agencies (FBI, DEA, ATF, Secret Service)

    - Corrections and probation
    - Victim services
    - Policy analysis and research
    - Law school preparation
    - Graduate programs in criminal justice
- **ELO Requirements:** Many Criminology courses automatically satisfy ELOs, especially ELO 1 (African Diasporic Developments) and ELO 5 (Social Responsibility and Political Institutions).
- **Advisor Consultation:** Consult with your academic advisor each semester for course planning and internship placement.
- **Scholarship Requirements:** Students are required to successfully pass a minimum of 15 credits each semester. There is an exception for students in their final term to take less than 15 credits and still be awarded their scholarship.
- **Classification:**
    - **Freshman:** 0-29 completed credits
    - **Sophomore:** 30-59 completed credits
    - **Junior:** 60-89 completed credits
    - **Senior:** 90 or more completed credits

Resources & Support

- **Academic Advisor:** Contact Office of Undergraduate Studies for assignment
- **Department Office:** Sociology & Criminology Department, College of Arts & Sciences
- **Internship Coordinator:** Contact department for internship placements in criminal justice agencies, law enforcement, courts, corrections, and social service organizations
- **Research Opportunities:** Speak with faculty about research assistant positions and independent study projects in criminology
- **Career Services:** Connect with the Career Center for criminal justice career exploration, résumé preparation, and job search assistance
- **Graduate School Preparation:** Meet with faculty advisors if considering graduate programs in criminal justice, criminology, law school, or public policy
- **Professional Development:** Consider joining criminal justice professional associations and attending conferences
- **Law Enforcement Information:** Contact department for information on law enforcement career paths and testing preparation

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Sociology & Criminology Department | Catalog: Fall 2023 - Present

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