**PRE-LAW, MINOR**

**Program Description**

This minor is intended for those students who are considering law school and want to obtain the foundational skills to gain entrance to and succeed in law school. It consists of 21 hours, 15 of which must be upper-division. The courses are designed to meet the core skills and values laid out by the American Bar Association. This includes the ability to write, research, read critically, analyze, communicate, and value serving others by promoting justice. The minor will also enable students to obtain the general knowledge expected of law school applicants.

**Program Requirements**

Students in the pre-law minor must satisfy 3 hours from each of the following seven categories:

- Writing
- Analytical and Problem Solving
- Critical Reading and General Knowledge
- Oral Communication and Listening
- Research
- Value of Serving Others
- Legal Topics

### Required Elective Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Writing</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 2370</td>
<td>Introduction to Literary Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or ENGL 3301</td>
<td>Technical and Professional Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Analytical and Problem Solving</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 2303</td>
<td>Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or PHIL 3346</td>
<td>Elementary Formal Logic</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Critical Reading and General Knowledge</strong></td>
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<td>Select one of the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON 4388</td>
<td>History of Economic Thought *</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 2311</td>
<td>Western Civilization I</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 2312</td>
<td>Western Civilization II</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 4336</td>
<td>Mexican American History</td>
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<tr>
<td>MXAS 3301</td>
<td>Introduction to Mexican American Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCI 4312</td>
<td>Social Class and Inequality ^</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIL 3344</td>
<td>Social and Political Philosophy</td>
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<td>POLS 3303</td>
<td>Contemporary Political Analysis</td>
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<td>POLS 3321</td>
<td>Comparative Politics</td>
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<td>POLS 4361</td>
<td>American Political Thought</td>
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<tr>
<td>WGST 3301</td>
<td>Introduction to Women and Gender Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Oral Communication and Listening</strong></td>
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<td>Select one of the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMM 1315</td>
<td>Public Speaking 1</td>
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<td>COMM 2333</td>
<td>Small Group Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMM 3330</td>
<td>Persuasion</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMM 4345</td>
<td>Intercultural Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Research</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRIJ 4345</td>
<td>Research Methods in Criminal Justice</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Value of Serving Others**

Select one of the following: 3

- CRIJ 4398 | Applied Experience *
- ENGL 4321 | Grants and Proposals
- SOCI 4398 | Applied Experience 3
- SOCW 4398 | Applied Experience 3

**Legal Topics**

Select one of the following: 3

- BLAW 3310 | Legal Environment of Business *
- BLAW 4350 | Human Resource Law
- MEDA 4341 | First Amendment and Ethical Issues in the Media
- CRIJ 1306 | Court Systems and Processes
- CRIJ 4310 | Constitutional Law
- CRIJ 4312 | Law and Evidence
- ESCI 4301 | Environmental Regulations
- GISC 4305 | Legal Aspects of Spatial Information
- HLSC 4310 | Health Law ^
- PHIL 3343 | Philosophy of Law

**Total Hours** 21

1. Public Speaking may not be counted towards both the core and the minor. It is required for students who did not take it as part of the core curriculum (e.g. some transfer students).
2. This must be approved by your faculty mentor and prelaw advisor.
3. Must be approved by faculty or minor advisor.

### Courses

#### Business Law Courses

**BLAW 3310 Legal Environment of Business**

3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)

An introduction to the legal systems of government, business and society. Includes coverage of ethics, the judicial process, basics of contracts law, constitutional issues, business torts and crimes, creditor/debtor relationships, business organizations, international law, environmental law, and various aspects of regulation of business.

**Prerequisite:** BUSI 0011.

**BLAW 3320 Law for Personal Business**

3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)

A study of the laws that influence each individual in the conduct of personal life and business affairs. Includes such topics as the court and legal system, family law, torts, property law, insurance, wills and trusts, contracts, and other areas of current interest.
**BLAW 4342 Law for Professional Certification**  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
Designed as a second course in business law for students who desire a more in-depth knowledge. Individuals planning to take professional certification exams that contain a business law component are encouraged to enroll in this course.  
Prerequisite: (BLAW 3310).

**BLAW 4350 Human Resource Law**  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
A study of the laws relating to human resource management in today's business environment. Covers discrimination, labor law, retirement regulations, safety issues and employee/management topics. Emphasis on current issues, cases and legislation. May be used as a management major elective or business elective.

**BLAW 4390 Current Topics in Business Law**  
1-3 Semester Credit Hours (1-3 Lecture Hours)  
Selected topics for special study related to laws impacting business, organizations and human resources. May be repeated for credit when topics vary.

**BLAW 4396 Directed Individual Study**  
1-3 Semester Credit Hours  
Individual supervised study and a final report.

### Criminal Justice Courses

**CRIJ 1301 Introduction to Criminal Justice**  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
History and philosophy of criminal justice. Overview of criminal justice system: police, prosecution and defense, courts, trial process, and corrections as they affect the individual, as well as their impact on society. The definition, nature, and impact of crime. The functions of criminal justice agencies will be examined in relation to common analytical themes such as ethics and discretion.  
TCCNS: CRIJ 1301

**CRIJ 1306 Court Systems and Processes**  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
Examination of the civil and criminal legal systems and the roles played by political, social and economic factors in the administration of justice. Consideration of the roles and interests of litigants, defendants, police, attorneys, and the judiciary in the process.  
TCCNS: CRIJ 1306

**CRIJ 1310 Fundamentals of Criminal Law**  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
The course will introduce students to the study of criminal law. Major topics include the sources of criminal law, the operation of the criminal courts, constitutional limitations on criminal law, the elements of criminal liability, and the classification of and punishments for different types of criminal offenses. Defenses to criminal liability will also be explored.  
TCCNS: CRIJ 1310

**CRIJ 2313 Correctional Systems & Practices**  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
This course is a survey of institutional and non-institutional corrections. Emphasis will be placed on the organization and operation of correctional systems; treatment and rehabilitation; populations served; Constitutional issues; and current and future issues.  
TCCNS: CRIJ 2313

**CRIJ 2328 Police Systems and Practices**  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
The history and development of police in America. Topics examined include: the police profession, organization of law enforcement systems, the policing role, police discretion, ethics, police-community interaction, current and future issues, and research findings.  
TCCNS: CRIJ 2328

**CRIJ 3302 Police and Society**  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
Examination of policing in a democratic society. A critical review of various professional and community influences on police behavior, together with a consideration of social problems created by such forces, and potential remedial actions.

**CRIJ 3310 THE JUDICIAL PROCESS**  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
Examination of the civil and criminal legal systems and the roles played by political, social and economic factors in the administration of justice. Consideration of the roles and interests of litigants, defendants, police, attorneys, and the judiciary in the process.

**CRIJ 3313 The Juvenile Justice System**  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
The administration of the juvenile justice process. Historical and philosophical origins of the juvenile justice system. A systematic analysis of problems and procedures at each stage of the process.

**CRIJ 3315 Crime Prevention**  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  

**CRIJ 3320 Issues in Corrections**  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
Analysis of contemporary developments, controversies and management concerns in the field of corrections. Includes examination of theoretical foundations of correctional policy.

**CRIJ 3325 Community-Based Corrections**  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
Examination of the correctional strategies and facilities available in community settings including diversion programs, probation, parole, half? way houses, boot camps, and restitution centers.

**CRIJ 3340 Comparative Criminal Justice**  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
Comparison of the police in selected countries with the U.S. criminal justice system. Particular emphasis on social, political, and economic factors in the development and change in law enforcement.

**CRIJ 3341 Terrorism**  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
An examination of political violence from criminological, legal, and political perspectives. Application to contemporary events is emphasized. The sociology, psychology, and organization of terrorist groups are also explored as well as counter-terrorism strategies, methods, and dilemmas.
CRIJ 3360 Organized Crime
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
The course analyzes and discusses how criminal organizations carry out their illegal activities while laundering money through legal enterprises. It discusses why people belong to organized crime syndicates despite the risks of death and imprisonment. The linkages of poverty, lack of education, social and economic inequalities, and the glorification of capitalist ideology by the phenomenon of organized crime are examined.

CRIJ 3361 Drugs, the Drug War, and Criminal Justice
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course is an analysis and discussion of drugs, the war on drugs, and how these two phenomena impact the criminal justice system in American society. There is a review of the common assumptions about drugs and its social implications. An examination of the sociocultural interconnections of the nature of drugs, drug use, drug trafficking, and drug policy from a justice perspective is presented.

CRIJ 3365 Sex Crimes
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course analyzes the nature, etiology, and theories related to sex offenses and sex offenders. It explores the history and current practices employed by the criminal justice systems to deal with sex offending. The course also examines multiple types of sexual offenses, perpetrators and victims, as well as the legal consequences of sexual offenses and its sociocultural ramifications to grasp the complexity of these crimes.

CRIJ 3360 Organized Crime
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
The course analyzes and discusses how criminal organizations carry out their illegal activities while laundering money through legal enterprises. It discusses why people belong to organized crime syndicates despite the risks of death and imprisonment. The linkages of poverty, lack of education, social and economic inequalities, and the glorification of capitalist ideology by the phenomenon of organized crime are examined.

CRIJ 3370 Crime in the Media
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course will cover the portrayal of crime, criminals, the criminal justice system, and criminal justice practitioners in the media. Specifically, the course will address the goals of the media and how those affect their coverage of crime and the CJ system.

CRIJ 3375 Applied Statistics in Criminal Justice
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course will teach students the step-by-step process for using statistical techniques that are most applicable in the field of criminal justice. It will teach them when, where, and why each statistical analysis is necessary and/or useful, and it will help students learn those skills by applying them to an actual project.

CRIJ 3380 Victimology
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
is the scientific study of crime victims and focuses on the physical, emotional, and financial harm victims suffer due to crime. The purpose of this course is to examine victim-offender relationships, the interactions between victims and the criminal justice system, and the connections between victims and other institutions (such as the media, advocacy groups, and government). In exploring these connections, students will address the theory, research, legislation, and policy implications related to victimization.
Prerequisite: CRIJ 1301.

CRIJ 4085 Major Field Test
0 Semester Credit Hours
The Major Field Test (MFT) in Criminal Justice is a national examination given in the Fall and Spring semesters only. It is a graduation requirement for all Criminal Justice majors. Students enroll in this course during the semester that they plan to take the MFT. This should be the semester of graduation or the Spring semester for those planning a summer graduation. There is no cost to the student for either this course of for the MFT. Admission is limited to students who have completed 90 or more semester credit hours. Graded: CR/NC

CRIJ 4310 Constitutional Law
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
A case study of American constitutional law based on the leading decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court. Examination of the evolution of judicial review and the development of due process and the protection of individual rights.

CRIJ 4312 Law and Evidence
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
A detailed examination of the use, admissibility, and presentation of evidence. Issues and problems dealing with the rules of evidence and the theories on which those rules are based.

CRIJ 4313 Criminal Procedure
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
A detailed examination of the legal constraints on investigation and prosecution of criminal offenses. Analysis of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure and of Search and Seizure Law under the Fourth Amendment, as well as other due process issues arising under the Fifth and Sixth Amendments.

CRIJ 4320 Offender Rehabilitation
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Theories of rehabilitation, treatment, and correction of criminal offenders. Includes analysis of the historical development of the rehabilitative ideal and contemporary controversies surrounding it, and a survey of therapeutic models and methods.

CRIJ 4321 American Prisons and Prisoners
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Analysis of the history, philosophy, and function of prisons. Examination of control and treatment of offenders in institutional settings. Focus is upon current developments, controversies and management problems.

CRIJ 4322 CRIME AND PUNISHMENT IN LITERATURE
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
A study of selected literary classics that treat of crime and punishment. The works of literary artists from various cultures which describe experience with crime and the criminal justice system will be placed in historical and theoretical perspective.

CRIJ 4324 Women and Criminal Justice
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
An historical and ideological analysis of the role of women in the criminal justice system as offenders, reformers, and professionals.

CRIJ 4325 Diversity in Criminal Justice
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course is an investigation into the impact of social diversity (race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and more) on crime and the criminal justice system. Students will examine the impact of these factors on both offenders and criminal justice system employees, and will discuss and critically examine historical trends, contemporary events, and criminal justice system policies and laws.

CRIJ 4330 Understanding Criminal Behavior
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course examines various aspects of human behavior from a criminal justice perspective and is designed to give students a basic understanding of criminal behavior and psychological disorders which are encountered by criminal justice professionals.
CRIJ 4331 Juvenile Delinquency
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Examination of the nature and extent of juvenile crime today. Analysis of the history and theory of delinquency and society’s response to it. (Credit may not be given for both this course and SOCI 4331.) Cross listed with SOCI 4331.

CRIJ 4335 Criminology
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
An examination of the major sociological explanations for crime, criminal behavior, and the social responses to crime. (Credit may not be given for both this course and SOCI 4335.) Cross listed with SOCI 4335.

CRIJ 4340 Criminal Investigation
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Critical examination of investigation methods and comparison of these to research methods. Advanced examination of investigative procedures, theory, supervision, and evaluative research. Some practical applications.

CRIJ 4345 Research Methods in Criminal Justice
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
This course is designed to help students gain a working understanding of the research process with direct application to criminal justice research. Attention will focus on various aspects of the research process including quantitative and qualitative methods. Students will complete literature reviews, create research proposals, conduct observations/interviews, and construct surveys in addition to various assignments and activities.
Prerequisite: CRIJ 1301 or 1313.

CRIJ 4351 POLICE SUPERVISION AND MANAGEMENT
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Study of contemporary theories of management and supervision as they relate to law enforcement. Management concerns considered include planning, motivation, organizational communication, discipline, productivity, ethics, conflict, and job stress.

CRIJ 4360 Intimate Relationship Violence
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Violence involving acquaintance, spouse, child, and elder abuse is examined within a theoretical construct relating violence to social responses. Alternative causal theories, prevention, counseling, administration, innovative programs, and inter-agency coordination are addressed.

CRIJ 4365 White Collar Crime
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
Critical examination of widespread forms of offending and offenders typically omitted from traditional criminology and criminal justice courses. Critical exploration of white collar, corporate, environmental and governmental crimes/criminals.

CRIJ 4390 Topics in Criminal Justice
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
May be repeated for credit when topics vary.

CRIJ 4396 Directed Individual Study
1-3 Semester Credit Hours
See College description.

CRIJ 4398 Applied Experience
3 Semester Credit Hours
See College description.