Undergraduate Certificate in Criminal Justice

Boston University Metropolitan College

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Undergraduate Certificate in Criminal Justice

If you watch the nightly news or any of the many TV dramas on law, the criminal underworld, crime scene investigation, forensics, or prison life, you’ve seen depictions of the criminal justice system—a system of unusual complexity, dealing with the most primal elements of human nature.

From policing to courts to prison, the study of criminal justice digs into a wide variety of disciplines, including criminology, sociology, psychology, public health, and law. Accordingly, the field offers many opportunities for exciting careers—often of a hands-on nature.

The Undergraduate Certificate in Criminal Justice at Metropolitan College opens the door to a deeper examination of social deviance and the criminal justice system. Working with faculty who have extensive experience in criminal justice, law, and corrections, students explore the three major components of the criminal justice system—law enforcement, the judiciary, and corrections—gaining an overview of key principles and theories, and developing a foundation for deeper study in the field.

The certificate is especially useful to:
• Boston University undergraduates who wish to integrate criminal justice scholarship with programs of study in criminology, sociology, psychology, public health, or law
• Students preparing for post-baccalaureate or graduate study in criminal justice
• Professionals who seek to improve employment prospects in criminal justice fields
• Those in criminal justice careers looking for professional development opportunities

Courses are offered during convenient evening hours, on Boston University’s Charles River Campus.

Program Requirements

The Undergraduate Certificate in Criminal Justice consists of four courses, which may be applied to the Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice at Metropolitan College. Please note that course substitutions may be allowed with the advice and consent of the Criminal Justice advisor and Department of Applied Social Sciences chair or designee.

Required Courses
(Four courses/16 credits)

Principles of Criminal Justice MET CJ 101
This course provides a comprehensive overview of the criminal justice system (law enforcement, the courts, and corrections) while developing students’ critical thinking skills. In addition to class lectures, the course provides multiple venues for learning, to include web-based study via Blackboard, group activities, guest lecturers, a prison tour, and carefully selected films that highlight some of the most contentious issues in criminal justice today. 4 cr

Program Faculty

Francis J. Carney, Jr.
Lecturer, Applied Social Sciences
PhD, MA, Tufts University
BA, Boston College
Dr. Carney has been actively involved in the criminal justice system of Massachusetts for over thirty-five years. Currently the executive director of the Massachusetts Sentencing Commission, Carney’s former positions include director of planning and research for the Massachusetts Department of Correction and executive director of the Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board. Carney has more than thirty years of teaching experience, including posts at the Boston University School of Social Work and the University of Massachusetts, Boston. He teaches courses in subjects such as corrections and youth crime problems.

Shea W. Cronin
Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice
PhD, American University
BS, Northeastern University
Dr. Cronin recently received his PhD in Justice, Law, and Society from American University, School of Public Affairs. His dissertation research examines political explanations of neighborhood-level arrest rates in an urban police agency. Cronin’s research interests include the administration of criminal justice, organizational behavior, policing, and democratic accountability. His research has been published in Crime and Delinquency, Justice Quarterly, and other academic journals. He teaches courses in criminology, criminal justice, policing, and analytic methods. Before his appointment at Boston University, Cronin taught at the University of Massachusetts, Boston.
Police and Society MET CJ 251
Examine the policies, strategies, procedures, and mechanics of policing in the environment of the twenty-first-century American urban polity. The police function, duties, and responsibilities will be surveyed, explicated, and critically analyzed through the prism of successful and innovative strategies that have won praise and commendation, as well as through institutional and individual failures that have resulted in criticism and condemnation. 4 cr

Corrections: Concepts, Systems, and Issues MET CJ 271
Gain an overview of models of punishment and rehabilitation from the perspectives of the humanities and social sciences, including a review of correctional practices and procedures, institutional treatment, probation, parole, prison conditions, programs for juveniles, and comparative systems. Correction administration topics are covered, including personnel, legal issues, operating practices, overcrowding, and planning. 4 cr

Courts, Society, and Criminal Procedure MET CJ 352
This course discusses federal, state, and local criminal courts and their relationship to contemporary social and political issues. The instructor provides the historical background of the current criminal court system and reviews the institutional functions of the courts, explores their role in reducing crime, and delineates the judicial process and criminal procedure via the use of case studies and analysis of selected court decisions. 4 cr

Mark G. Miliotis
Lecturer, Applied Social Sciences
JD, Boston University School of Law
BA, Amherst College
Mr. Miliotis has over thirty years of experience as a trial attorney and an educator. He is currently principal attorney in the Law Offices of Mark G. Miliotis, a private practice specializing in criminal and civil litigation. Miliotis is a member of the Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys, the Massachusetts Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and the Massachusetts Bar Association.

Thomas W. Nolan
Associate Professor of Criminal Justice
EdD, EdM, Boston University
BA, University of Massachusetts, Boston
Dr. Nolan teaches courses in forensic behavioral analysis, policing and multiculturalism, crime and punishment, gender and justice, forensic criminal investigation, and the law and criminal procedure. A twenty-seven-year veteran (and former lieutenant) of the Boston Police Department, Nolan is consulted regularly by local, national, and international media outlets for his expertise in police procedures, the police subculture, gender issues in law enforcement, as well as crime trends and criminal behavior. Nolan’s scholarly publications are in the areas of gender roles in policing and the influence of popular culture on criminal justice processes.
Criminal Justice
at Metropolitan College

SINCE 1965, Boston University's Metropolitan College has provided outstanding undergraduate, graduate, and non-degree programs specifically designed to meet the needs of students and working professionals who desire quality, part-time learning opportunities.

Programs include:
- Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice
- Master of Criminal Justice
- Master of Criminal Justice (online)

For more information, visit bu.edu/met.

Boston University Metropolitan College
Department of Applied Social Sciences
808 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02215
T 617-353-3025
bu.edu/met

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