

JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION

College of Arts Letters & Sciences

EMPHASIS OF PROGRAM

The Justice Administration program at Southwest Minnesota State University prepares students for careers in law enforcement, the court system, corrections, and prevention. It also educates them as citizens to engage as effective field agents of change.

This is a broad based liberal arts program designed for those who want to make a difference. You'll gain the tools and understandings necessary to work effectively within the current system and to transform it to create better justice, less crime, and fewer social problems.

The Justice Administration major has been certified by the Police Officer Standards and Training Board of Minnesota to be a Professional Police Officer Education Program. Our students interested in becoming law enforcement officers can obtain their education at SMSU and then move on to take a skills course to become eligible to take the law enforcement exam for the State of Minnesota.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Justice Administration at Southwest Minnesota State is becoming a regional hub for information about restorative justice. We are committed to community policing, problem-solving courts, effective and humane correctional systems, prevention & rehabilitation, and understanding root causes of problems rather than just the symptoms.

State and regional leaders in criminal justice frequently come to class as speakers and panelists. You'll have an opportunity to network with top professionals in the field and learn about the latest innovations and problems. Minnesota has been a national leader in a number of criminal justice areas. We are committed to understanding and furthering this advantage.

Justice Administration at SMSU is committed to the university's goal of making a significant contribution to the quality of life in southwest Minnesota. Our students learn to integrate theories and research findings into practical solutions. A survey of majors found 100% believe the program has something positive to offer the surrounding community.

YOUR FIRST CHOICE

The Justice Administration program at SMSU is student-centered. According to recent survey results, 96% of majors say, "the instructors care about students." 100% of majors think they are getting a good education and the same percentage say they enjoy their classes.

The Justice Administration program:

- takes a critical look at the criminal justice system including evidence-based assessments of what works and what doesn't work
- enables you to understand and appreciate different situations and problems, and to communicate across different backgrounds, circumstances, and predicaments
- improves written and oral communication skills
- teaches you how to manage, motivate and work effectively with people from all different backgrounds and how to be effective in an organization
- introduces cutting edge solutions and innovative programs from around the country
- provides opportunities to apply classroom knowledge to real life situations through service learning, class projects, community outreach, and internships

We encourage students to double major or obtain at least one minor. Particularly marketable combinations with Justice Administration include sociology, business management, psychology, Spanish, and social work.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Incoming students may be eligible for a number of academic and leadership scholarships through the Office of Admission. These scholarships are awarded based on a student's past academic record including the ACT/SAT, class rank, GPA, and leadership potential.

INTERNSHIPS

Through Justice Administration internships, students gain valuable work experience, and the field experience component provides students with an opportunity to apply what they have learned. Internship alternatives include working with law enforcement, juvenile and adult facilities as well as state and federal agencies, the court system and corrections agencies. Our students have completed internships with the FBI, BCA, Minnesota State Patrol, DOC, and various city and county law enforcement agencies, lawyers, and court systems.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The Justice Administration Program prepares students to work in a tremendous number of areas in local, state, and federal government as well as the private sector. The program integrates knowledge from all fields of justice to broaden understanding of police, courts, corrections, and prevention. This gives our students the advantage of being able to transfer easily from one area of the justice system to another.

Graduates find jobs in law enforcement, probation, court services, child protection, juvenile facilities, prisons, educational settings, communities, substance abuse treatment and prevention, restorative justice, conflict resolution, victim services, parole, case workers, correctional facilities, counseling, private security, financial crime investigation, positive youth development, domestic violence advocacy, program evaluation, parks & recreation offices, investigation, criminological research, and program administration.

A degree in Justice Administration is also excellent preparation for law school or for success in graduate school.

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

- Criminal Justice Club
- Model United Nations Club
- Political Science Association

POTENTIAL CAREERS

- Law Enforcement
- Probation & Parole
- Court Services
- Child protection
- Juvenile facilities
- Restorative Justice
- Drug Courts
- Conflict resolution
- Victim Services
- Prevention Programs
- Prison Systems

For more information please contact: The Justice Administration Program at (507) 537-6224.



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A member of Minnesota State