

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

With close to a 100% retention rate for the department, Criminal Justice graduates have had great success getting into law schools across the country and receiving positions with a number of federal agencies. Between 80 and 85 percent of seniors in internships receive job offers upon graduation from Virginia Wesleyan. Graduates from the Criminal Justice program at Virginia Wesleyan are employed in a number of fields and agencies, including:

- CIA
- FBI
- Secret Service
- Diplomatic Security
- Marshal's Office
- Local and state government
- Forensics
- State Supreme Court
- Police Academy
- U.S. Customs
- Naval Intelligence

THE FACULTY

In addition to full-time faculty members and headed by program coordinator Tom Lopez, the Criminal Justice department is complemented by a number of adjunct professors who work as judges, law enforcement officers and in other related fields.

Dr. Tom Lopez

Teaching interests: cold case files and research methods

Dr. Kathy Stolley

Teaching interests: applied sociology, introduction to sociology, small groups and social problems

Prof. Thomas Scott Liverman, J.D.

Teaching interests: the justice system and the law

Dr. Harold Dorton

Teaching interests: pop culture and social change

THE COLLEGE

Virginia Wesleyan College is a small, four-year liberal arts institution affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Home to only 1,400 students, both resident and commuter, the 300-acre campus rests on the border of Norfolk and Virginia Beach in the heart of the historic Hampton Roads area. Virginia Wesleyan provides a prime opportunity for students to learn both in and out of the classroom, offering more than 30 majors and more than 70 clubs and organizations. Additionally, the College boasts 19 intercollegiate sports and competes in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference and NCAA Division III.

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The Division of Social Sciences





THE FIELD

Criminal Justice is a wide-ranging field that is primarily concerned with understanding the origins, nature and consequences of criminal behavior and of societal reactions to crime. As a profession it focuses on careers directly related to social institutions of law, law enforcement and the legal system.

THE PROGRAM

One of only two true liberal arts Criminal Justice programs in the nation and one of the most popular majors on campus, the Virginia Wesleyan Criminal Justice program offers a line-up of core and allied courses which provide a practical liberal arts perspective of a rapidly growing field. Unique due to its incorporation of other disciplines within the liberal arts framework, it meets and exceeds the minimal standards set by the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.

Students in the Criminal Justice program receive not only classroom teaching, but real-world experiences through simulations, internships and other teaching tools that contribute to the applied nature of the program.

This degree is available through both the day program and the evening Adult Studies Program.

THE MAJOR

The major in Criminal Justice focuses on three interest areas: law enforcement; law school; and forensics, applied criminology and profiling. As a part of the liberal arts curriculum, the major involves hands-on learning as well as related coursework in chemistry, political science, psychology, sociology and health and human services.

A student majoring in Criminal Justice at Virginia Wesleyan is required to complete a minimum of 39 credit hours in specified coursework, 24 of which must be in criminal justice courses. The remaining 15 hours may be completed in areas of social science, humanities or natural sciences and mathematics.

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THE MINOR

To minor in Criminal Justice requires that a student complete eighteen hours in specified coursework. Fifteen hours are to be completed in Criminal Justice courses while the remaining three credits may be obtained through English, political science, psychology, sociology, business, or any other specified allied department.



THE INTERNSHIP

The classroom experience is complemented by an internship experience, which is required of all Criminal Justice majors and can be completed in one of a variety of fields. Students may complete a 9-credit, 300-hour internship during the course of the semester. Internships are personally supervised by the Director of Internships. Examples of internship sites include:

- Local police departments
- State social services
- Probation/Parole District
- Corrections
- Courts
- U.S. Pre-Trial Services



THE COURSES

With a 13:1 student-faculty ratio, the classes at Virginia Wesleyan are small and interactive. Courses within the Criminal Justice program include:

- Criminology or Issues in Criminal Justice
- Courts in the American Criminal Justice System
- Ethical Issues
- Terrorism and Homeland Security
- Corrections
- Constitution and Criminal Procedure
- Law Enforcement
- Law and Society
- Forensics
- Delinquency and Juvenile Justice
- Conflict Management
- Applied Criminology/Profiling
- Criminal Law
- Criminal Investigation