



# Criminology

**BA**

Bachelor of Arts major

## Crime. Punishment. Justice. Law. Social harms.

Study Criminology and you'll try to answer some of society's biggest questions. Criminology is concerned not just with crime, but with the broader issues of social control and deviance and how these affect punishment and criminal justice. Are you concerned about inequality in the criminal justice system? Criminology gives you the tools to identify and challenge systemic beliefs and pursue a career that will allow you to make a difference.



Career possibilities

Whether you want to join the justice system, work in a community-based setting with children and young people, or work with victims, majoring in Criminology will help you get there.

"During my study, I had the opportunity to debate, present, and work in a team and individually in a safe and supportive environment. This helped me develop key skills like interpersonal communication, analytical thinking, and time management.

"My interactions with victims of crime keep me passionate about the work I do. It is a privilege to be able to help people in my wider community, and to see victims of crime be empowered by the work I do."



**NATASHA SHARAN**  
Victim Advisor, Ministry of Justice

Graduate: Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Criminology,  
minoring\* in Organisational Studies and  
Employment Relations  
Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Criminology  
Master of Arts in Criminology



**"Students will join in the search for a better system of criminal justice. They will learn to think critically about the way laws are created and enforced, about the causes of crime, and about society's responses to crime."**

**JAMES OLESON**  
Professor

*\*Double majors have replaced minors in the Bachelor of Arts.*



Explore the wider issues that affect punishment and criminal justice. Learn about restorative justice, cybercrime, victimology, the criminal mind, gender, cultural criminology, Indigenous perspectives, policing, prisons and justice policies. Courses focus on both national and international study, as well as historic issues and our modern challenges.

#### STAGE 1 COURSE\*

##### CRIM 100 – Big Ideas in Criminology

Introduces a range of big ideas in criminology that inform contemporary research and justice, both locally and globally. Presents the main concepts and theoretical foundations that inform the field. Critically analyses topical issues and debates related to crime, justice, deviance, and social harm.

#### STAGE 2 COURSE\*

##### CRIM 207 – Criminology: Indigenous and Global

Are we all equal before the law? Or are groups treated differently by the criminal justice system? With particular emphasis on Indigenous peoples in New Zealand, Australia and Canada, this course examines the impact of differential practices on inequalities and collective efforts to achieve social change. Concepts of restorative justice are central to this course.

#### STAGE 3 COURSE\*

##### CRIM 307 – Doing Time: Incarceration and Punishment

Examines punishment and incarceration as a complex social institution informed by a range of social relations and cultural meanings. Explores the way political, social and economic factors shape notions of law and order. Topics include: history of punishment and theories of incarceration, experiences of imprisonment and prison cultures, and various controversial issues in imprisonment, for example, privatisation, the use of solitary confinement, immigration detention, and prison abolition.



#### Get excited about your course options:



- Ethics and Justice
- Aotearoa New Zealand Social Policy and Social Justice
- Foundations of Western Politics & Law
- Hate Crime



#### Complementary majors include:

Criminology  
+  
Anthropology  
Politics and International Relations  
Psychology  
Sociology

*\*Course availability may be subject to change. For a full list of courses and up-to-date information visit our website. Published June 2025.*

“My majors go hand in hand with each other. I’ve learned a lot about how our mind works and how it can affect our thought processes when put into a dangerous situation.

“It has opened pathways I never knew existed and I have designed a degree that fits with my future career plans.”

**SAMIA ALI**

Student: Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Criminology + Psychology

