



KATELYN

CRIMINOLOGY

ABOUT MY MAJOR

The Criminology major is a blend of the front and back end of the criminology field. You are learning about the prevention of things, looking out for what groups would be at a higher risk of committing a crime than others, and victimization profiles. You also learn about detention, corrections, the prison and justice system, and a wide range of things within the criminology field. You get to choose specifically what you would want to focus on.

CHOOSING MY MAJOR

I grew up watching many true crime shows and reading mystery books. I was fascinated with solving puzzles. I decided that I liked criminology because it encompassed not only challenging yourself to figure things out but also enjoying learning about crime and why people committed it.

SKILLS

You need to have an open mind because you do learn a lot about both sides of criminology, like why people have committed crimes, and what could happen when you do commit a crime. There are a lot of potential stereotypes and biases and the major tries hard to fight those.

You have to enjoy writing because a lot of the classes aren't test-based because there isn't a right or wrong answer when it comes to criminology. So it's a lot more essay and comprehension assignments. Reading skills are important as well since you are looking at a lot of data and reading cases from textbooks or documentaries.

MINORS & CERTIFICATES

Pairing majors and minors is pretty easy. I'm double majoring in Criminology and Psychology because I wanted to learn about crime and I wanted to learn about the workings of the brain behind it. Don't be scared to talk to professors before you make your choice. The professors here really want you to succeed, so if you talk to them, you will get a better understanding of your options before you decide.

I have a Mental Health minor. Especially now I think it's really important to have a better understanding of mental health. I also have a Conflict Resolution certificate. We have a lot of certificates within like Criminology, Anthropology, and Sociology, so those are better if you don't want to have a full load with a major and a minor.

I have a Sociology minor as well, which focuses on a broader scope of people, whereas Psychology is more individualized. If you don't want to focus on anatomy or reading heavy material, Sociology is super fun.

If you want to get into crime scene or evidence tech, you do need a background in Biology or Chemistry, which a lot of students don't know. So pairing Criminology with a science major or minor can help you if that is your career goal.