



Additional academy training and education not provided by Purdue Global may be required for law enforcement positions.

Bachelor of Science in **CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Come Back Stronger, Ready to Move Your Career Forward

Protecting society is more than a career — it's a calling. And this is your time to answer the call. From homeland security to the security of our local neighborhoods, schools, and businesses, public safety is a top concern today. Communities depend on dedicated professionals who are skilled in the latest techniques to serve and protect them. The bachelor's in criminal justice prepares you for bigger, better opportunities in law enforcement, corrections, fraud investigation, and other critical public safety fields.¹



Why Study Criminal Justice at Purdue Global?

Built for Working Adults

Complete courses online, without compromising your work or family schedule.

Backed by the Power of Purdue

Earn a degree you can be proud of — and one that employers will respect. Achieve more in the criminal justice field with a name that opens doors in your career.

Fast-Track Your Learning, One Competency at a Time

Discover a more flexible, affordable way to earn your Purdue Global degree with ExcelTrack®.² This program empowers you to move faster through topics you've already mastered and focus only on what you need to learn. Each ExcelTrack® course is a single credit, covering one competency.

Expert Faculty Who Are Active in the Field

Learn from experienced professionals with a variety of backgrounds in criminal justice, who know what it takes to make it in the field. All faculty possess an advanced degree and relevant industry credentials.

Transfer Credits and Savings

Get the recognition you deserve. Use prior coursework, work experience, or military training to cover up to 75% of your degree credits.³ You can also lower your costs with military tuition reductions, employer reimbursements, transfer credit, and more. Bachelor's graduates with prior learning credits saved an average of nearly 50% on tuition.⁴ Your experience counts here.

Personal Support

Work directly with faculty through online discussion boards and seminars, and enjoy no-cost individual tutoring. In addition, academic and career advisors are dedicated to helping you balance school with your career and life responsibilities.

Introductory Trial Period

Make sure online learning at Purdue Global is right for you. Enroll in the University and try our classes for 3 weeks — before you owe any tuition. That's the Purdue Global Commitment.⁵

An Education That's Proven and Respected

Purdue Global is part of the respected Purdue University system. One of the most prestigious research universities in the world, Purdue is ranked #16 most innovative company in the world alongside Open AI, NASA, and Microsoft.⁶

Take the Next Step in Your Career and Your Education

Prepare for a Diverse Range of Career Opportunities

The program combines professional skills training with courses designed to help you develop a solid foundation of criminal justice knowledge. In addition, you can choose from a wide pool of open electives to gain specialized knowledge in subjects such as legal studies, public administration, and information technology.

Choose a Concentration to Develop Specialized Skills and Knowledge

- **Business Foundations:** Gain competencies in the fundamental concepts of business administration. Develop an understanding of the four functions of management, the components of a marketing strategy, and the financial performance of an organization.
- **Crime Scene Investigation:** Learn to locate, collect, and analyze crime scene evidence.
- **Forensic Psychology:** Study psychology within the context of the criminal justice system.
- **Homeland Security:** Examine the origins of terrorism, response methods to weapons of mass destruction and other disaster incidents, crisis negotiation, and conflict resolution.
- **Juvenile Justice:** Study sentencing, risk and needs assessment, psychology, intervention/diversion/prevention programs, communication and relationship building, and case management for juvenile offenders.
- **Law Enforcement:** Examine contemporary law enforcement organizations, community policing, policing in selected foreign countries, civil liability, and public expectations.

GET A HEAD START ON YOUR MASTER'S DEGREE



Complete your master's degree sooner with a graduate program pathway. It weaves graduate-level courses into your bachelor's program, giving you a jump on your master's degree requirements. You'll save on time and tuition compared with finishing both programs separately.

Plus, your degrees don't have to be in the same fields. You can customize your academic journey to support your career goals and interests. To learn more, view the University Catalog or connect with an Advisor.⁷

Curriculum

Our comprehensive curriculum is reviewed and revised continually by industry experts to ensure it reflects the most recent developments in the field. It focuses on:

- An overview of the U.S. criminal justice system, its agencies, and the issues and challenges facing the system
- In-depth knowledge of criminology theory, including causes of crime and discipline-specific evaluation of human behavior
- Analytical skills such as the ability to use scientific methods of inquiry to arrive at reasoned decisions
- Knowledge of criminal justice leadership practices, including the role of organizational culture, behavioral theory, planning, and community relations
- An understanding of how new technology is used in criminal investigation, criminal enterprise, and the operations of criminal justice agencies

Core Coursework Topics Include:

- Criminology
- Crime prevention and investigation
- Forensic psychology
- Criminal justice technologies
- Ethics, criminal law, and criminal procedures
- Supervisory and management practices in criminal justice organizations
- Research methods in criminal justice

Capstone Course

Demonstrate your ability to apply the critical thinking skills and concepts you study online to real-world criminal justice scenarios.

Program Detail

Credit Hours: 180

Completion Time: 2–4 years. Purdue Global online bachelor's degree graduates have an average completion time of just over 2 years due to transfer credit and other prior experience. Speak with your Advisor to learn how your prior learning may impact your time to completion.⁸

Course Load: 2–3 courses per term

Terms: 10 weeks long

Start Dates: Throughout the year

Additional Programs

- Bachelor of Science in Fire and Emergency Management
- Bachelor of Science in Legal Studies
- Master of Science in Criminal Justice
- Master of Science in Homeland Security and Emergency Management



Career and Networking Opportunities

Industry Outlook⁹

- Employment in the protective service field is projected to grow from 2023 through 2033, creating more than 419,300 new jobs.
- New opportunities for private detectives and investigators are expected to result from heightened security concerns and the increased need to protect confidential information and property.
- Continued demand for public safety is likely to contribute to the demand for police services.
- As the field becomes more competitive, employers may increasingly look for educated, qualified individuals.

Career Pathways and Outcomes¹

Roles

- **Police and sheriff's patrol officer** (additional academy training usually required) — Pursue and apprehend individuals who break the law, and issue citations and warnings or make arrests; work to keep the peace and protect the public.
- **First-line supervisor of police officers and detectives** (additional academy training usually required) — Supervise and coordinate activities of members of a police force.
- **Transit and railroad police officer** — Maintain order; protect and police railroad and transit property, employees, or passengers.
- **First-line supervisor of correctional officers** — Supervise and coordinate activities of correctional officers and jailers.
- **Probation officer** — Gather information about offenders' backgrounds by talking to offenders, their families and friends, and other people who have relevant information.

Settings/Industries

- Cybercrime
- Counterterrorism
- Crime scene investigation
- Detention
- Fraud investigation
- Homeland security
- Juvenile justice and detention
- Law enforcement
- Parole and probation
- Prisons
- Private investigations
- Public safety

Center for Career Advancement

Our Career Specialists connect you with job and networking opportunities and offer the following assistance:

- Career assessment/exploration
- Resume and cover letter review
- Interview preparation/mock interviews
- Portfolio development to showcase your skills
- Assistance in building an online presence
- Job search and networking support
- Virtual career fairs
- 24/7 online access to job openings and career development tools

Purdue Global Is Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission

The HLC (HLCCommission.org) is an institutional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Military Friendly

We offer reduced tuition rates for servicemembers, veterans, and spouses.

Contact an Admissions Advisor at 844-PURDUE-G or visit PurdueGlobal.edu.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: PLEASE READ

For comprehensive consumer information, visit Info.PurdueGlobal.edu.

1 Purdue Global's programs are designed to prepare graduates to pursue the stated positions, which have varying responsibilities. However, the University cannot guarantee employment or career advancement. Local, state, and federal law enforcement jobs may require additional training or education including additional state-approved higher education beyond the Purdue Global degree. This program was not designed to meet any specific state's requirements, and Purdue Global makes no representations or warranties as to whether the degree or any individual courses meet such requirements. Refer to the University Catalog for additional information. Graduates of Purdue Global criminal justice programs are not eligible to attend police academies in Minnesota.

2 ExcelTrack® is designed to advance your progress based on existing knowledge; however, degree pace and time and cost savings will vary by individual. Students must enroll in a minimum number of credits per term to remain eligible for financial aid. Refer to the Financial Information section of the University Catalog for additional information.

3 Purdue Global does not guarantee transferability of credit. See University Catalog for the Prior Learning policy.

4 Purdue Global online bachelor's degree students who graduated in 2024–2025 and applied eligible prior learning (transfer, experiential, or credit by exam) credits received an average of 85 credits toward their degree. Purdue Global does not guarantee transferability of credit. See University Catalog for the Prior Learning policy. Source: Office of Reporting and Analysis, 2024–2025 academic year.

5 Students who inform Purdue Global they do not wish to pursue the program during the 3-week trial will not be charged. Students who choose to continue at Purdue Global will be billed for the full first term's tuition, including the 3-week trial, and will need to meet other specific requirements. Classes will be applied toward a degree if satisfactorily completed and students select to continue their studies at Purdue Global. No credits are earned if the student withdraws during the introductory period (3 weeks for new qualifying undergraduate students), which begins day one of the first term. Graduate programs and BS in Professional Flight not included. Additional terms may apply to international and non-U.S. citizen students. For further information, see the University Catalog.

6 Source: www.fastcompany.com/most-innovative-companies/2023. Ranking applies to Purdue University West Lafayette and not to Purdue Global.

7 Estimated graduation date is based on the assumption that you will enroll in time to begin classes on the next upcoming start date, will remain enrolled for each consecutive term, and will maintain satisfactory academic standing in each term to progress toward completion of your program. Completion time is based on a full-time schedule. Programs will take longer for part-time students to complete.

To start a Graduate Program Pathway, students should consult with their Student Advisor to confirm eligibility. Not all Graduate Program Pathways are available on all tracks, and some may require students to meet academic standards to continue taking graduate courses in their bachelor's degree program. Visit the University Catalog for more information.

8 Average completion time for Purdue Global online bachelor's degree graduates is based on the most recent academic year, updated annually, for which data is available. Source: Purdue Global Office of Reporting and Analysis.

9 Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Protective Service Occupations, Private Detectives and Investigators, Police and Detectives. National long-term projections may not reflect local and/or short-term economic or job conditions, and do not guarantee actual job growth.