

# DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE SYSTEMS

## Curriculum

- Justice Systems is the name of Truman's **criminal justice program**. The name connotes our liberal arts and sciences mission, to cultivate integrity, critical thinking, and skill in problem-solving, writing, and speaking. Our goal is to prepare our students for graduate school and leadership positions.
- We offer a **Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Justice Systems**, a **minor in Justice Systems**, and an **interdisciplinary minor in Forensic Science**.
- Our curriculum provides a solid disciplinary foundation with integrated development of knowledge and skills feeding into a method and theory core and a chance to explore a range of special topics in upper level courses.
- Our largest courses have less than 35 students; the average class size is 27 students.

## Beyond the Classroom

- Our students enjoy **internships** locally and in their hometowns in places such as police departments, prosecuting attorney offices, juvenile centers, and drug rehabilitation centers.
- Students compete at local regional and national levels as part of the **Mock Trial Team** sponsored by the American Mock Trial Association.
- The Justice Systems chapter of **Lambda Alpha Epsilon** competes in academic, physical agility, crime scene investigations, and marksmanship competitions at regional and national conferences.
- The Truman chapter of **Alpha Phi Sigma**, the national honor society for students of criminal justice, hosts visiting professionals in the field, visits prisons, and sponsors charitable events.
- **Pre-Law Club** offers LSAT test preparation, and weekly activities including local and out of town guest speakers.

- The department annually hosts The Court of Appeals for the Western District of Missouri on Truman's campus.
- We provide numerous opportunities for students to conduct **undergraduate research** on-campus, either with a Truman faculty member or as an independent research project. Students are also invited with faculty to present at regional and national conferences.
- **Student Initiated Courses** are for those highly motivated students who wish to propose and even teach a course in their area of interest under the guidance of a faculty member.

## Students

- Nearly 170 students are majoring in Justice Systems; another 70 are Justice System minors.
- Approximately 40% of our graduates attend graduate or law school and the other 60% enter the work force.
- Examples of **graduate schools and law schools** currently attended by our graduates include:
  - Baylor University
  - Florida State University
  - Saint Louis University
  - University of Indiana
  - University of Iowa
  - University of Missouri-Columbia
  - University of Missouri-Kansas City
  - Washington University in St. Louis
- Examples of **doctoral and masters programs** in which Justice Systems alumni have enrolled include:
  - Criminal Justice PhD
  - Sociology PhD
  - Psychology PhD
  - Doctor of Jurisprudence
  - Masters of Criminal Justice
  - Masters of Social Work
  - Masters of Forensic Science
  - Master of Arts in Psychology

## Faculty

- The Justice Systems Department faculty includes members with experience in policing, corrections, offender treatment, forensic science, juvenile justice, prosecution, and court-martial.
- We have a diverse faculty who received their degrees from both private and public institutions.
- Faculty members are professionally active at the local, state, and national levels. For example, they are or have been members of:
  - Alpha Phi Sigma
  - The American Board of Criminalistics
  - The American Corrections Association
  - The Clandestine Laboratory Investigating Chemists Association
  - The Illinois, Missouri, and Adair County Bar Associations
  - Midwestern Association of Forensic Scientists
  - Missouri Assoc of Crime Lab Directors
  - Missouri Assoc of Prosecuting Attorneys
  - Missouri Juvenile Justice Association
  - The National Coalition of Juvenile Justice
  - Western Society of Criminology

## Facilities and Technology

- **Our teaching laboratory** is adjacent to a functional crime lab equipped for chemical analyses, latent print work, and microscopic examination.
- A **student-centered area** near the department offices includes an open computer lab and a convenience store with tables and chairs where students and faculty can gather, study, and socialize.

