**Major Requirements**

Basic Requirements (15-18 sh)

PBJ 101 Introduction to Criminal Justice
PBJ 201 Survey of American Non-Criminal Law
PBJ 301 Organizational Structure & Communication
PBJ 397 Practicum in Public Justice
PBJ 401 Senior Seminar in Public Justice

Public Justice Electives (21 sh)

To be selected under advisement from a list approved by the core faculty. At least 15 sh of major electives must be upper division courses (300 level or above). Major electives include courses in other departments (Anthropology, Chemistry, Counseling & Psych Services, Human Development, Political Science, Psychology, Public Justice, and Sociology).

All Public Justice core courses must be taken in sequence. The prerequisite for all core courses is a grade of “C” or better in all previous core courses. No two Public Justice core courses may be taken during the same semester.

Prospective students are welcome to visit the Public Justice department, sit in on classes, and meet with an academic advisor. Public Justice student peer advisors are particularly interested in meeting with prospective students.

**A little something about our department**

Public Justice at Oswego is a broad-based program, centered primarily in the social and behavioral sciences, designed to meet the needs of students with diverse interests and career goals. The program emphasizes theory and practice in the civil and criminal justice systems and related social and human services. Areas of study include, but are not limited to administration of justice, community-based corrections (probation and parole), human services, institutional corrections, juvenile justice, law enforcement, and pre-law.

Public Justice is concerned with a range of matters beyond the confines of the criminal justice system. It deals with public service and public institutions that are part of the enterprise of maintaining order in society, and are responsible for distributing entitlements to the public. The goal of Public Justice is to examine the way this public enterprise interacts with its constituents. To achieve this goal, Public Justice majors combine a broad-based liberal arts education, in-depth study on topics in which they have a particular interest, and a supervised fieldwork experience. Students are taught by Public Justice core faculty, faculty from supporting departments, and adjunct faculty with specialized knowledge and experience.

The basic requirements include a survey of criminal and public justice, an introduction to noncriminal law and legal reasoning, a supervised fieldwork experience (practicum), and a senior seminar. Elective courses may be selected from a range of disciplines, such as anthropology, business administration, chemistry, counseling and psychological services, history, philosophy, political science, psychology, and sociology. The Public Justice department also offers its own electives, such as criminal law, family law, comparative justice systems, and drugs and crime. The sequence of elective courses may be individually designed to meet each student’s interests and career goals. Public Justice students often complete a second major in Psychology, Sociology, or Political Science, or a minor in Forensic Science or Business Administration.

**Career Thoughts**

Public Justice majors generally consider the required practicum to be one of their most significant academic experiences and of immense value in helping them choose a career. Students have completed their practicum fieldwork in local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, crime labs, probation departments, prisons, public and private human services agencies, public defender’s office, private investigation, private security, and child protective services. Public Justice students have done legal research for a county judge, worked for an AIDS task force, counseled youths in a juvenile detention facility, and worked in staff positions in a battered women’s shelter.

Students who complete the degree in Public Justice become lawyers, social workers, and teachers, as well as law enforcement, probation and corrections officers. Public Justice graduates run mediation programs, counsel alcohol and substance abusers, work in crime laboratories, and direct domestic violence programs. One recent graduate is a police chief, another is an assistant district attorney, another is a laboratory technician for the DEA, and yet another is the deputy director of a probation department. Many Public Justice majors eventually pursue graduate study in a variety of disciplines, including criminal justice, law, forensic science, public administration, social work, labor relations, and judicial administration.

Since Public Justice is a multidisciplinary program, first-year and second-year Public Justice majors and students interested in declaring the major should begin preparing to work on the major requirements by enrolling in the appropriate introductory level courses in the social and behavioral sciences.
Public Justice at SUNY Oswego is:

- Public Justice is a field of study that encompasses the origins, missions, goals, policies, and methods of the civil and criminal justice systems, as well as the human services system.

- Courses focus on history, public policy, ethics, and social and political organization. Public Justice examines the way laws are made, applied and enforced. It considers the policies and goals of those laws. It scrutinizes public service and the public institutions that maintain order in society and that distribute entitlements to the public.

- Public Justice majors combine a broad-based liberal arts education, in-depth research on topics in which they have a special interest, and supervised fieldwork experience. Students are taught by Public Justice core faculty, faculty from supporting departments, and adjunct faculty with specialized knowledge and experience.

For further information contact:
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