

## Admission to the Public Justice Major

*At the time of admission to the College:* Some new students (either first-year or transfer) declare their interest in Public Justice at the time of admission and become Public Justice majors at that time. You should however, check any documents you receive from the College, such as your grade reports, to make sure that your major is correctly stated.

*Internal transfer into Public Justice:* Other students decide to declare Public Justice after they have been admitted to SUNY Oswego. These students may apply for admission to the Public Justice major after the completion of 30 semester hours of college work. In order to declare Public Justice as a major (or second major), students must complete the Application to Declare the Public Justice Major form and Declaration of Major form (available in the Public Justice office) and return it to the Advisement Coordinator along with an unofficial transcript. Acceptance into the major requires that the student be in good standing (cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better) to be eligible to apply for admission to the major.

Additionally the following restrictions apply to the Public Justice major program:

1. Public Justice majors may transfer to SUNY Oswego a maximum of 6 upper division elective hours in the major from an accredited four-year or upper division college.
2. Public Justice majors may transfer to SUNY Oswego a maximum of 6 lower division elective hours in the major from an accredited two or four-year college.
3. To complete the major, the student must earn a grade of C- or better in each Public Justice core course and must maintain a minimum 2.0 average in all Public Justice major electives and core courses.

# Public Justice Department

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Please visit our Web page at:  
<http://www.oswego.edu/publicjustice>

## 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.



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 offices, 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 Major Arts & Sciences, B.A. Degree 36-39 semester hours

### **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/Sociology, Chemistry, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology and Public Justice) approved by your advisor and such Public Justice courses as:

- PBJ 102 Intro to Human Services
- PBJ 202 Helping Skills
- PBJ 325 Poor & the Courts
- PBJ 345 Criminal Investigation
- PBJ 347 Crime and Society
- PBJ 348 Criminal Evidence
- PBJ 350 Proseminar in Public Justice
- PBJ 351 Report Writing in Public Justice
- PBJ 360 Discrimination in the Workplace
- PBJ 361 Family Law
- PBJ 363 Women & the Law
- PBJ 365 Intro to Criminal Law
- PBJ 366 Organized Crime
- PBJ 367 Women & Crime
- PBJ 377 Suicide, Assisted Suicide, & Euthanasia
- PBJ 383 Terrorism and Homeland Security
- PBJ 385 Drugs and Crime
- PBJ 425 Comparative Justice Systems
- PBJ 460 Issues in American Law
- PBJ 461 Children & the Law
- PBJ 463 American Indian Law & Federal Indian Policy

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.