



Human Services - Criminal Justice Concentration

About this Composite Major

The Human Services major prepares you to meet the growing demand for human service workers, whose occupations encompass a broad range of helping professions. The program combines courses from the disciplines of communications, sociology, and psychology to provide an overall understanding of the field. The curriculum is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of human behavior and to develop the skills necessary to function as a human services professional.

The Criminal Justice concentration in the Human Services major prepares graduates to find gainful employment in a variety of state and federal law enforcement fields. The multidisciplinary major combines courses from various disciplines to provide an understanding of human behavior and the political, organizational, social, and behavior aspects of its various components. The Criminal Justice concentration focuses on the sources of criminal behaviors, including perspectives and contributions from criminal justice, political science, psychology, and sociology. The curriculum is designed to develop critical thinking, analytical and research skills to enable students to identify and assess the often-conflicting objectives of criminal justice and investigate basic issues and practical problems in criminology and the administration of criminal justice.

Meet a Student



"VCSU's Human Services program has prepared me for the workforce with the many valuable classes and opportunities to grow my knowledge about the spheres

that make up the Human Services field. What helps make the program so effective is the connection you are able to make with the professors and the connection shared between the university and the surrounding community. I know that wherever my future may take me, the connections made within the program have assisted me with my professional growth and prepared me for what lays ahead." - Jacob Frey, class of 2018

"The human services field is super important because it is the backbone of the community. It is the areas that help people when they need it the most. People in human services are geared towards helping, which is one of the most important things in a community." - Brittany Barnhardt, class of 2022

Career Opportunities



Recent graduates have found employment as:

- Probation officers
- Parole officers
- Case managers
- Directors of residential facilities
- Personnel specialists at local agencies such as James River Correctional Center, Barnes County Juvenile Court, N.D. State Hospital, and Barnes County Sheriff's Department.

Other career opportunities include:



- Youth worker
- Social services liaison
- Family support worker
- Residential counselor
- Life skills instructor
- Group activities aide
- Neighborhood worker
- Client advocate
- Intake interviewer
- Community organizer
- Home health aide
- Social work assistant
- Social work (with completion of a master's degree in social work)

Explore Human Services

- National Organization for Human Services (<https://www.nationalhumanservices.org/>)
- North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (<https://www.docr.nd.gov/>)
- National Criminal Justice Association (<https://www.ncja.org/>)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics – Community and Social Service Occupations (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/home.htm>)

Practical Experience

Completion of an internship is required. Majors who have a cumulative GPA of 2.50 are eligible to apply for semester-long internships, for which students earn 3-12 credit hours. The internship provides supervised training in various regional agencies and service organizations. Students have completed their internships in various places, including Barnes County Juvenile Court, ND State Highway Patrol, James River Correctional Center, and the Barnes County Sheriff's Department.

Contact Information

Department Chair & Faculty Contact

Dr. Emily Fenster, emily.fenster@vcsu.edu, (701) 845-7313

Department Location

McFarland Hall 315

Schedule your visit today!

<http://visit.vcsu.edu/>

(701) 845-7101 or (800) 532-8641

Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
English Composition (Gen Ed)	3	Art and Music (Gen Ed)	3
MATH 210 (Gen Ed)	3	English Composition (Gen Ed)	3
SOC 110	3	Lab Science (Gen Ed)	4
Speech Communication (Gen Ed)	3	PSYC 111 (Gen Ed)	3
Computer Science and Literacy (Gen Ed)	3	Wellness (Gen Ed)	2
UNIV 150	1		
	16		15

Second Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Additional Humanities or Social Science (Gen Ed)	2	Additional Electives	3
CJ 201	3	COMM 314	3
Lab Science (Gen Ed)	4	PSYC 250	3
Literacies (Gen Ed)	3	SOC 130	3
Social Science (Gen Ed)	3	SOC 220	3
	15		15

Third Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Additional Electives	3	COMM 483	3
MGMT 302	3	CJ 390	3
POLS 115	3	SOC 340	3
PSYC 370	3	SOC 497	3
SOC 320	3	Additional Course (if only taking 3 credit internship)	3
SOC 330	3		
	18		15

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Additional Electives	3	Additional Electives	3
COMM 311	3	Additional Electives	3
SOC 422	3	CJ 416	3
SOC 491	1	PSYC 310	3
POLS 376	3	PSYC 470	3
PSYC 360	3		
	16		15

Total Credits 125

Please note: This plan is intended for general information only. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with their academic advisor each semester before registration.



Learning Outcomes

1. **Knowledge of Society & the Field:** Students will develop an understanding of the interaction between individual and societal forces; why knowledge of social and historical context, norms, institutions, and inequalities are important to the field of human services; and their role as emerging professionals in the evolving human services field.
2. **Confidence in Assessment, Critical Evaluation, & Theory:** Human services students will apply theories, evaluate studies, and conduct research in course projects tailored to give practical experience that connects to a broad range of professional opportunities.
3. **Application of Knowledge, Skills, & Values in Applied Settings:** Students will complete internships and coursework that integrate their academic knowledge, skills and values as emerging professionals within real world, applied settings.