

# DEPARTMENT OF VICTIM STUDIES

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## Chair

Shelly Clevenger (sxc167@shsu.edu)

Contact the Department of Victim Studies  
936-294-4735

## Website

Department of Victim Studies

## About

Be a part of the new, path-breaking Department of Victim Studies, the only one of its kind in the nation!

Sam Houston State University's Department of Victim Studies offers one of the most innovative criminal justice programs available to students nationwide. Our experienced faculty provide foundational courses in the areas of victimology, victim studies, and victim services. Our graduate and undergraduate degree programs prepare students for a variety of career paths, ranging from victim advocacy and social justice activism to supervisory positions in victim services. In 2015 and 2016, *U.S. News & World Report* rated our on-line Master's degree programs #1 in the United States. Our Master of Science in Victim Services Management (MSVSM) program was included in this distinguished ranking.

You have a bright future at SHSU! The opportunities in our Department are endless, with flexible course offerings to fit your schedule:

- Recruiters from victim service agencies and organizations visit the center on a regular basis.
- Students receive real world experience by participating in agency tours, internships, and regional/national conferences.
- Courses are offered on-line, daytime, and in the evening.

## Mission

The Department of Victim Studies is committed to providing high quality education to students in the field of victim services and conducting cutting-edge victimological research to better inform both policy and practice. Our goal is to produce a population of students prepared to provide exceptional services based on a solid understanding of industry trends and evidence-based practices. Faculty include renowned victimology scholars and esteemed victim services professionals with a combination of extensive education and field experience. Faculty provide opportunities for students to engage in community service work that is dedicated to making a difference in survivors' lives.

## Contact Information

Questions on Department of Victim Studies Undergraduate Programs (cjadvising@shsu.edu)

Questions on Department of Victim Studies Graduate Programs (cjadvising@shsu.edu)

## Suggested Minors

- Psychology
- Sociology
- Security Studies
- Human Services
- Public Health
- Criminal Justice

## Career Opportunities

- Victim coordinators and liaisons in prosecuting attorneys' offices and police agencies
- Victim service professionals operating within the correctional system
- Advocates and administrators in domestic violence, rape crisis, human trafficking, and anti-drunk driving organizations
- Military advocates
- Confidential campus advocates
- Adult and child protective services specialists

## Curriculum

Sam Houston State University is authorized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to offer a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Victim Studies. Coursework for these degrees is offered in the Department of Victim Studies. The prefix designation for registration purposes is "VCST".

### Program Specific Requirements

Please see the individual degree plans for degree specific requirements.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Criminal Justice Core</b>		
CRIJ 2361	Intro To The Crim Justice Sys	3
CRIJ 2362	Criminology	3
CRIJ 2364	Fundamentals Of Criminal Law	3
CRIJ 2365	Correctional Sys & Practice	3
CRIJ 2367	Police Systems & Practices	3
CRIJ 3350	Victimology	3
CRIJ 3378	Intro To Methods Of Research	3
CRIJ 4385	Criminl Justc & Social Divrsty	3
Total Hours		24

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Major (no Minor)</b>		
<b>Core Courses</b>		<b>24</b>
<b>Criminal Justice Advanced Electives</b>		<b>21</b>
Total Hours		45

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Minor (With Approved Minor in Another Field)</b>		
<b>Core Courses</b>		<b>24</b>
<b>Criminal Justice Advanced Electives</b>		<b>12-15</b>
<b>Minor</b>		<b>18</b>
Total Hours		54-57

- Bachelor of Arts, Major in Victim Studies (<http://catalog.shsu.edu/archives/2020-2021/undergraduate/colleges-academic-departments/criminal-justice/criminal-justice-criminology/ba-victim-studies/>)
- Bachelor of Science, Major in Victim Studies (<http://catalog.shsu.edu/archives/2020-2021/undergraduate/colleges-academic-departments/criminal-justice/criminal-justice-criminology/bs-victim-studies/>)

## Student Organizations and Activities

- Alpha Phi Sigma National Criminal Justice Honor Society
- Crime Victim Services Alliance
- Lambda Alpha Epsilon Criminal Justice Association
- National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice
- National Organization of Hispanics in Criminal Justice
- Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Society
- Kats for CASA

Attend some of the many events for students including special guest lecturers at Real Talk with CJ, a career fair, an undergraduate conference, and mock courtroom trials.

## Internships

An integral part of all degree offerings is the opportunity for field placement experience. The College of Criminal Justice Internship Program (<http://www.shsu.edu/academics/criminal-justice/services/intern.html>) is designed to provide students valuable work experience, on-the-job training, and an opportunity to develop a professional networking base for the future. Students in this program are offered unparalleled opportunities to participate in one of the nation's leading internship programs in the field of criminal justice.

## Scholarships

Scholarships are available to criminal justice majors and awarded in the spring of each year at the College of Criminal Justice Honors Convocation for the following academic year. With the exception of incoming freshmen scholarships, a student must have completed at least one long semester at Sam Houston State University. Information on specific scholarships available in the College of Criminal Justice are available through Cutty Gilbert

(cutty@shsu.edu) at (936) 294-3755. Graduate students may also apply for scholarships through the Graduate School. Certain conditions apply. For specific information regarding the Graduate School General Scholarship, contact Graduate Studies at: 936.294.2408 or gradstudies@shsu.edu.

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**CRIJ 2361. Intro To The Crim Justice Sys. 3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: CJ 261); An introductory course designed to familiarize students with the facets of the criminal justice system, including the processing of offenders, punishment and its alternatives, and the future of the criminal justice system.

**CRIJ 2362. Criminology. 3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: CJ 262); An introductory course designed to familiarize students with the scientific field of criminology. Students cover the nature and extent of criminal behavior; past and present theories for crime and delinquency; and the evaluation of prevention, control, and treatment programs.

**CRIJ 2364. Fundamentals Of Criminal Law. 3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: CJ 264); A course in substantive criminal law which includes the definition of law, definition of crime, general principles of criminal responsibility, elements of major crimes, punishments, conditions or circumstances which may excuse from criminal responsibility, the court system, and the basic concepts of criminal law with an emphasis on the penal law of the State of Texas.

**CRIJ 2365. Correctional Sys & Practice. 3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: CJ 265); Students are provided with an overview and evaluation of contemporary correctional systems and a discussion of recent research concerning correctional institutions and various field services.

**CRIJ 2367. Police Systems & Practices. 3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: CJ 267); Students cover the philosophy and history of law enforcement in the United States; limitations imposed on law enforcement in a democratic society in accordance with the United States Constitution; agencies of law enforcement; and the role and place of law enforcement in the justice process.

**CRIJ 2368. Criminal Investigation. 3 Hours.**

Students are provided with a brief overview of the science behind crime detection and a detailed discussion of techniques used for case management and documentation, the concept of proof, the impact of emergent technology on the investigative process, interacting with victims and witnesses, and interviewing suspects. A particular emphasis is placed on the investigation of particular types of crimes including homicides, sex offenses, child abuse, and hate crimes. .

**Prerequisite:** CRIJ 2367 or consent of instructor.

**CRIJ 2394. Courts And Criminal Procedure. 3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: CJ 294); Students examine procedural requirements for judicial processing of criminal offenders, including concepts of evidence sufficiency, standards of proof, due process, and constitutional safeguards.

**CRIJ 3339. His Of Criminal Justice System. 3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: CJ 339); Students explore the major social, economic, legal and political events that have contributed to the formation of the criminal justice system in the United States. Emphasis is on the common roots of the different components of the present system.

**Prerequisite:** CRIJ 2361 .

**CRIJ 3340. Gender and Crime. 3 Hours.**

Students investigate definitions of gender, gender roles, and how gender impacts offending, victimization, and criminal justice processing. The influence of gender on working in the criminal justice system as professionals is evaluated. In addition, criminological theories are evaluated in light of gender and the relationship between gender and the criminal justice system.

**Prerequisite:** CRIJ 2361, CRIJ 2362.

**CRIJ 3341. Aging, Crime and Victimization. 3 Hours.**

Combines a general education about aging in the United States with information about senior adults as crime victims, criminals, or prison inmates. Future directions for public policy related to crime and aging are evaluated.

**Prerequisite:** CRIJ 2361, CRIJ 2362.

**CRIJ 3350. Victimology. 3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: CJ 480); Students engage in a survey of the literature, research, and current trends concerning the victim in the criminal justice system. Particular attention is given to the victim rights and compensation, fear of crime, measuring victimization, and the impact of victimization on individuals.

**CRIJ 3351. Victim Service Delivery. 3 Hours.**

Analyzes the provision of social and criminal justice services to victims of crime. This is accomplished by examining community and individual services that are afforded to crime victims. The material covered also includes how victim advocacy is positioned within the formal systems of criminal justice and addresses the social and legal issues that impose upon victim service delivery and the theories that explain these impediments to service provision.

**Prerequisite:** CRIJ 3350.

**CRIJ 3361. Comparative Crimnl Jstc System. 3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: CJ 361); Students study criminal justice in societies other than the United States, including, but not limited to, the European, Asian, and African region. Emphasis is on the uncommon roots of criminal justice in these regions and the effectiveness of such systems in responding to criminal behavior.

**Prerequisite:** CRIJ 2361 and CRIJ 2362.

**CRIJ 3362. White Collar Crime. 3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: CJ 362); Students analyze the ideas and perspectives that are dominant in the fields of criminal justice of criminology on white-collar crime. Topics such as organizational crime, occupational crime, legislation aimed at white collar crime, law enforcement, causes of white-collar crime, and possible forms of intervention are discussed.

**Prerequisite:** CRIJ 2361 and CRIJ 2362.

**CRIJ 3363. Violent Offenders. 3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: CJ 363); Students examine the psychological and behavioral characteristics of the most violent criminal types. The course will cover many topics of criminality, violence, and their causes and will introduce students to the behavioral and psychological issues relevant for understanding, assessing, and managing abnormal criminal behavior. Topics may include sanity, psychopathy, criminal profiling, mental disorders, gangs, serial killers, stalking, women who kill, threat assessment, and/or collective violence.

**Prerequisite:** CRIJ 2361 or CRIJ 2362 .

**CRIJ 3364. Spec Offenders & Spec Needs. 3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: CJ 364); Students engage in the identification and study of special or unusual offenders with special or unusual needs. Special offenders include those which rarely are covered in standard criminology classes, such as wildlife poachers, serial killers, computer hackers, substance abusers, and business and professional scam artists.

**Prerequisite:** CRIJ 2361 and CRIJ 2362 .

**CRIJ 3368. Understanding Sexual Offending. 3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: CJ 368); Students are provided with an overview of the sexual offender. The origins and various motivations for sexual offending are explored as well as the treatment strategies and their relative effectiveness with different offender groups. Various approaches to community supervision are examined as are controversial issues such as castration of sex offenders.

**Prerequisite:** CRIJ 2361 or CRIJ 2362 .

**CRIJ 3378. Intro To Methods Of Research. 3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: CJ 378); Students are introduced to the scientific approach to understanding the social world, the relation between theory and research, research design, and data collection. This course is designed to help students gain an understanding of the research process involved in examining criminal justice issues.

**CRIJ 3394. Gbl Terrorism& Homlnd Securty. 3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: CJ 394); Students are provided with an overview of the field of terrorism. Using a multi-dimensional approach that draws from international relations, law, and police strategies, an emphasis is placed on research and analysis. Students also gain the ability to examine and scrutinize international strategies aimed at reducing terrorist incidents.

**Prerequisite:** CRIJ 2361 or CRIJ 2362 .

**CRIJ 3396. Juvnl Delinqncy & Juvnl Justic. 3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: CJ 396); Students cover the nature and extent of delinquency, explanatory models and theories for delinquent behavior, the juvenile justice system, juvenile court practices and procedures, and the role of the police officer and correctional officer when dealing with juvenile youths.

**CRIJ 4330. Law And Society. 3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: CJ 430); Students explore the nature, functions, limitations and objectives of law; civil procedure; civil law and selected social problems; for example, abortion and euthanasia; the civil courts; the grand jury and petit jury; torts; civil liability for police and correctional officers; and family law.

**CRIJ 4332. Legal Aspects Of Corrections. 3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: CJ 432); Students explore legal problems from conviction to release; pre-sentence investigations, sentencing, probation and parole; incarceration; loss and restoration of civil rights with an emphasis on practical legal problems confronting the probation and parole office and the correctional administrator.

**CRIJ 4336. Understanding Human Behavior. 3 Hours.**

Students examine the underpinnings of stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination in human behavior in an active learning environment. In addition to studying well-recognized forms of prejudice and discrimination, such as racism, antisemitism, heterosexism, and sexism, students examine how prejudice plays out in human interaction, with specific focus on interactions within criminal justice.

**CRIJ 4338. Child Abuse And Neglect. 3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: CJ 438); Students develop knowledge concerning key concepts and terminology related to child abuse and neglect, related laws, and court procedures, ways to address and investigate cases, and programs available to assist in the prevention of child abuse and neglect as well as programs designed to protect children. In addition, this course provides a foundation for students who may enter professional careers that place them in a position to address and/or investigate suspected cases of child abuse and neglect.

**CRIJ 4351. Trauma and Crisis Intervention. 3 Hours.**

Students focus on understanding and effectively assisting victims of traumatic events. Students learn how the context in which trauma occurs can affect the cognitive, affective, behavioral, and neurological functioning of an individual. Multicultural aspects that either impair or facilitate recovery are assessed. Crisis intervention models and the pertinent legal and ethical issues for service provision are evaluated. Prerequisite CRIJ 3350.

**CRIJ 4360. Crime And The Media. 3 Hours.**

(Prior SH course id: CJ 460); Students survey the connections between the mass media, crime, and criminal justice; explore how the criminal justice system, criminals, and crime are portrayed in film, TV drama, and news media; and examine how the media reflect our collective perceptions of crime, violence, and victimization as well as shape attitudes toward crime.

**CRIJ 4362. Substance Use And Abuse. 3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: CJ 462); Students engage in the description, classification, and analysis of the causes and correlates of substance use problems.

**CRIJ 4363. Cybercrime. 3 Hours.**

A seminar in which students focus on topics related to cybercrime, including legal, enforcement, behavioral, and social factors that influence its perpetration, prevention, and prosecution.

**Prerequisite:** Junior/Senior standing .

**CRIJ 4365. Professionalism & Ethics In CJ. 3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: CJ 465); Students study the theories and practices in areas of legality, morality, values, and ethics as they pertain to criminal justice. Topics may include police corruption, brutality, and methods of dealing with such practices as well as the concept of profession and professional conduct.

**CRIJ 4367. Correctional Strategies. 3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: CJ 467); This course examines treatment options in both institutional and field corrections settings. There is a focus upon special populations, including mental health populations and their treatment, aging in prison, women, HIV populations, and issues surrounding race and ethnicity.

**Prerequisite:** Junior Standing and CRIJ 2365 .

**CRIJ 4368. Global Organized Crime. 3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: CJ 468); Students examine the evolution and development of global and transnational organized crime. Various theories that explain the existence of organized crime around the world are examined in addition to a survey of how global organized crime groups have adapted to the 21st century, barriers to international police cooperation, the impact of failed states, civil war and corruption, and the modern relationship between organized crime and terrorists groups.

**CRIJ 4370. Interviewing & Counseling. 3 Hours.**

(SH Course Prior ID: CJ 470); Students explore counseling psychology with an emphasis on principals and procedures; the theoretical foundations of therapeutic psychology; and therapeutic techniques and therapeutic process.

**CRIJ 4373. Ungr Intern Criminal Justice. 3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: CJ 473); Students complete a minimum of three months in an approved criminal justice or social agency setting taken preferably between junior and senior years. The course is designed to provide the student with an opportunity to apply academic learning in practical situations. See the College's Internship Coordinator for details about this program.

**CRIJ 4374. Philosophy of Crime & Justice. 3 Hours.**

Students examine foundations of the American criminal justice system, considering questions such as: is there a moral justification of punishment; what basic principles guide law enforcement in practice; how did these principles come to be in place; and how do they connect to the moral and political ideals on which the country was founded? Students critically engage with philosophical, legal, sociological, and historical resources.

**CRIJ 4376. Independent Studies in CJ. 1-3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: CJ 476); This course is designed for advanced criminal justice and criminology students who are capable of rigorous independent study. Registration upon approval of the appropriate Assistant Dean of the College of Criminal Justice and the instructor directing the course. Credit to be arranged.

**CRIJ 4377. Spc Topics In Criminal Justice. 3 Hours.**

This course is designed to give advanced undergraduate students academic flexibility. May be repeated for credit.

**CRIJ 4382. Social Deviance. 3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: CJ 482); Students study the psychological and sociological aspects of socially deviant behavior and theoretical overviews and implications for social control and social policy.

**CRIJ 4383. Family Violence. 3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: CJ 483); Students address the theoretical issues, both past and present, regarding family violence in order to provide students with an understanding of the salient issues. Attention is given to the impact family violence has on the victim and society, legal aspects of family violence, key factors associated with recognition of family violence (especially child abuse), and pertinent research focusing on the subject.

**CRIJ 4384. Police Strategies. 3 Hours.**

Students analyze police policies with particular attention to the current major problem areas from the point of view of both the administrator and the line operations officer with an integration of established scientific knowledge with practical police experience in the various areas of police functioning.

**Prerequisite:** CRIJ 2367 .

**CRIJ 4385. Crimlnl Justc & Social Divrsty. 3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: CJ 485); Students exam how social diversity and inequality shape the way criminal behavior is defined and controlled through the application of the criminal law and criminal justice system. Attention is given to the disparity of criminal offending, victimization, and criminal justice processing across demographic groups as well as explanations for observed disparities. In addition, students explore subordinate group members as criminal justice professionals.

**Prerequisite:** CRIJ 2361, CRIJ 2362, CRIJ 3378 .

**CRIJ 4386. Problem Analysis In CJ. 3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: CJ 486); This course serves as a capstone for the Criminal Justice undergraduate students. Students use skills and knowledge from prior courses to address challenges facing the criminal justice system with a focus placed on application of research skills and analytic techniques to address these issues. Students conduct basic research to recommend criminal justice policy.

**Prerequisite:** Senior Standing, CRIJ 3378 and STAT 3379 or equivalent .

**CRIJ 4387. Multiculturalism in Criminal Justice. 3 Hours.**

Students explore the goals, benefits, and challenges of multiculturalism in the criminal justice system. Topics may include the experiences of marginalized groups including African Americans, Latinx Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans, women, the LGBT community, the elderly, and youth within the criminal justice system. Emphasis is also placed on multiculturalism within the workforce. Training tools and policy recommendations are offered and discussed.

**CRIJ 4390. Violence Against Women. 3 Hours.**

This course is designed to help students understand the deeper social context in which violence against women occurs. Topics to be covered may include intimate partner violence, rape and sexual assault, sexual harassment, and media depictions of violence against women. Attention is given to the ways in which violence against women affects women, men, and children. In addition, the ways that the criminal justice system responds to these types of crimes, including how the criminal justice system and social service agencies may better address the needs of victims and offenders, are address.

**Prerequisite:** CRIJ 3350.

**CRIJ 4394. Constitutnl Issues In Law Enfr. 3 Hours.**

(SH Prior Course ID: CJ 494); Students focus on the intersection of the U.S. Constitution and the criminal justice system. Laws that govern policing are primarily based upon the United States Constitution, United States Supreme Court decisions, and statutes passed by the United States Congress and state legislatures. Major decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court serve as the core resource, including those addressing Fourth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendment governmental authority issues. Although a focus is placed on these resources, the material is presented in a format and in a language designed to meet the needs and interests of non-lawyers, while preserving the meaning and content of the law as interpreted by the courts. Emphasis is placed on development of analytical reasoning skills through the case study method.

**Prerequisite:** Junior Standing and CRIJ 2364 .

**CRIJ 4398. Prblm Analysis in Vict Studies. 3 Hours.**

This course serves as a capstone for Victim Studies undergraduate students. Students use skills and knowledge from prior victim studies courses to address victimization issues. The course consists of the application of research skills and analytic techniques to address facets of victimization including intimate partner violence, family violence, violence against women, elder abuse, and child abuse and neglect, stalking, and human trafficking. Attention is also given to victim service delivery and evaluation.

**Prerequisite:** Senior standing and CRIJ 3350.