

## Research and Internships

Every student in the department completes an internship as part of their coursework in a variety of settings, such as law enforcement departments, the prosecutor's office, law firms, Missouri Department of Corrections, probation and parole offices, and Legal Aid of Western Missouri. Many students have been offered permanent, full-time positions at their internship agencies after they graduate.

As part of the coursework, all students complete an independent research project under the direction of a

faculty member. Students also have the opportunity to present their research and enter competitions at national and regional conferences.

Several professors have been awarded grants for research, and students assist them on those projects. The research grants

were entitled Restorative Justice and the Study of Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders.

State-of-the-art facilities and labs also provide practical experience. In recent years, the department has offered several hands-on interactive courses through the Southern Institute of Forensic Science such as Blood Spatter Pattern Analysis and Human Skeletal Remains.



## Alumni Views

***"Western prepared me very well for law school and for a career in the legal profession. The professors, being lawyers themselves, gave me a real world view of what law school and the practice of law would be like. I would recommend Western to anyone!"***

*Melinda A. Troeger '01  
Attorney at Law*

***"The professors were very experienced in their fields. The Criminal Justice Department professors always went above and beyond with their dedication and assistance. I don't think I could have found a better college education or experience anywhere else."***

*Derek Conard, '82  
Chief Deputy Juvenile Officer  
Fifth Judicial Circuit Juvenile Division, State of Missouri*

## For more information

**Department of Criminal Justice  
and Legal Studies  
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# Criminal Justice & Legal Studies

Missouri Western State University





## Criminal Justice & Legal Studies

Department

The Criminal Justice and Legal Studies Department offers several degree programs. You may earn an associate degree or a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice/Legal Studies

with a variety of emphases in the bachelor's program. You may also earn a certificate or an associate degree as a legal assistant (paralegal).

Dedicated faculty members work closely with students in small class settings, and one-on-one in research and internship opportunities. Every professor in the department has experience in the criminal justice field, and Legal Studies professors are all licensed attorneys.

## Careers

Criminal Justice/Legal Studies majors pursue careers in law enforcement, corrections, juvenile delinquency and criminal justice administration, and the legal fields. Employment of law enforcement officers is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations through 2012, according to the 2004-2005 Occupational Outlook Handbook.

Western offers an Associate of Science Degree and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. For the Bachelor's Degree, majors choose an emphasis in Administration, Law Enforcement, Juvenile Delinquency, Corrections or Legal Studies.

Criminal Justice graduates are employed as law enforcement officers; probation officers; corrections officers; US Secret Service agents; US Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms investigators; security officers; substance abuse treatment center workers and juvenile court officers. Many graduates have pursued advanced degrees in law enforcement or have gone on to law school.



## Points of Pride

- **We have the only American Bar Association approved paralegal education program at a public institution in Missouri.**
- **Several students win regional and national competitions:**
  - **National American Criminal Justice Association – Lambda Alpha Epsilon competitions in crime scene, scholarship and other areas.**
  - **First place poster presentation at American Corrections Association.**
- **Professors serve on governor-appointed review boards, such as Child Abuse and Neglect and Juvenile Justice Advisory Group.**
- **The department has received several grants totaling \$168,000 in the past two years.**

For those interested in Legal Studies, students have the option of earning a certificate in Legal Assistant or an Associate of Science Degree in Legal Assistant, or a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice with an emphasis in Legal Studies. They may also minor in Legal Assistant if they are pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in another discipline. The Legal Studies degrees, Certificate, and minor are approved by the American Bar Association.

Legal assistants, or paralegals, are employed by law firms, corporate legal departments and various government offices. They may specialize in many different areas of the law. Legal assistant positions are projected to grow faster than average, as law offices try to reduce costs by expanding tasks that legal assistants complete. Paralegals cannot practice law. Only attorneys, who are state licensed in the state by the Supreme Court, can practice law.