

B.S. in Criminal Justice Online FAQs

Program Overview

What is SDSU's online degree completion program?

SDSU's Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice online degree completion program is designed so that students who satisfy all eligibility requirements for the program can graduate with a Criminal Justice major in as few as 51 credits.

Is the Criminal Justice online degree program accredited?

All of the degree programs and majors at SDSU (in-person and online) are accredited via the **WASC Senior College and University Commission**. The WSCUC is the regional accrediting agency that serves a diverse membership of public and private higher education institutions throughout California, Hawaii, and the Pacific as well as a number of international institutions.

What does the Criminal Justice major offer me?

SDSU's Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Online Degree Completion Program is designed to encourage thoughtful exploration of the ways that criminal justice systems provide "justice," or fail to do so. The program also focuses on criminal justice from a social justice perspective, allowing for the examination of policy issues as diverse as genocide, institutionalized racism, organized crime, and environmental destruction, in addition to traditional criminal justice issues. This degree appeals to students who are interested in working in the fields of law, law enforcement, probation and parole, corrections, or other social service agencies. This degree also prepares students for law school or graduate school in either criminal justice or a related field.

What degree will I earn when I finish the program?

Upon completion of the program a student will be awarded the same degree on-campus students receive – the Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. The diploma received and transcript will not distinguish that the program was completed online.

Who will teach my courses?

Courses are taught by the same faculty members who teach on-campus. Each professor has been trained to optimize the online learning experience for students.

How is the program structured?

The program is structured as a cohort program. This means that those who start at the same time will take the same courses together throughout the program.

What's a reasonable course load and how long will it take to complete the program?

Courses are eight weeks long and offered two at a time. Thus, students will be able to complete four courses each semester and can complete the program in as little as 22 months.

Can I transfer in upper-division units I have earned at another university?

Yes, but you will still be required to earn the equivalent number of units at SDSU.

May I apply if I have already earned a Bachelors or advanced degree?

No, applications to the online program for a second bachelor's degree are not being accepted at this time.

Once admitted, may I add another major or minor?

No, this is a degree completion program. No additional majors or minors are permitted. Students completing the program will automatically have a minor in public administration.

What sort of learning style and skills do I need in an online learning environment?

To succeed in an online learning environment, start by taking this brief readiness survey at https://sunspot.sdsu.edu/pls/webapp/Survey.hybrid_learning.main (please enter 000000000 for Red ID). In addition, a student needs a reliable email address that won't change from the beginning until the end of term, and a backup plan (i.e., alternative location to do assignments and assessments) in case the computer or internet connection isn't working.

For questions or to learn how to apply, email criminaljustice.ces@sdsu.edu or call (619) 594-0845.

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Is this a self-support program?

Yes, the fully online Criminal Justice degree completion program is not supported by California state tax revenue. The program is the result of a partnership between SDSU's School of Public Affairs and SDSU World Campus, wherein the School of Public Affairs is responsible for the curriculum, faculty, admissions, and student advising, and World Campus fulfills administrative functions such as registration and the collection of fees.

How much does the program cost?

The course fees are \$469/unit. The full 60 unit program costs \$28,140.

When can I apply for financial aid and scholarships?

Students may apply for financial aid without applying for admission to the University. Students should complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** to be considered for all types of state and federal aid. Learn more about how to apply for financial aid at http://go.sdsu.edu/student_affairs/financialaid/applyforfinancialaid.aspx.

Upon admission to the online program a student who completes the FAFSA can be considered for financial aid from SDSU. The only grant program that is not available to students in the online program is the State University Grant because online program students do not pay State University fees.

All students, regardless of grade point average, area of study, citizenship, or residency status are encouraged to apply for all scholarships for which they may be eligible. New online program applicants to SDSU may apply for scholarships after they receive their RedID number as this number is required on the SDSU scholarship application. The main resource for finding SDSU scholarships is the **SDSU Scholarship Search tool** - you may also search the list of **external scholarships**.

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Prospective Students

How do I apply for admission to the online program?

Information about applying for admission to the program can be found at Cal State Apply. When asked for the major, indicate on the application "Criminal Justice (General) (BS) (External Degree) (ONLINE PROGRAM)."

When is the earliest I can apply to the program?

Applications for fall admission to the online program will be accepted beginning October 1. Cohorts of students are admitted every fall.

What are the admission requirements for this program?*

- When applying to the program you should have 60 or more units (90 or more quarters) completed
- AS in Administration of Justice or related area 2.8+ GPA
- Completion of lower division GE requirements, including completion of the GE requirements with a grade of C- or higher
- Completion of lower division preparation for the major requirements
- Completion of the American Institutions requirement
- Familiarity with online learning environment
- Taking online compatibility test

*The full transfer admissions requirements can be found here: <https://admissions.sdsu.edu/transfers/apply>

What is the WPA and how will my performance on it affect me?

All undergraduate students must demonstrate competency in upper-division writing skills before graduating from SDSU with a bachelor's degree. The Writing Placement Assessment (WPA) is a timed test used by SDSU to determine if a student's writing skills fulfill the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR). Based on the test results, some students will require an additional writing course or courses in order to fulfill this requirement.

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As a student in the online program, you are required to take the WPA test between the time you are admitted and the end of your first semester. You are permitted to take the WPA twice in that semester and pay the testing fee each time you take the exam. If you do not take the exam in that semester, you won't be allowed to register for future terms at SDSU.

Is there any help available in preparing to take the WPA?

Yes, use the materials available on wpa.sdsu.edu, write a practice essay, and make an online appointment with a Writing Center tutor to discuss your essay.

Start by registering with SDSU's Writing Center by going to <https://sdsu.mywconline.com> and click on "register." After you have submitted the form, you will have access to the online appointment center. Look for tutors who offer online tutoring. When you register for an appointment with an online tutor, be sure to click "online tutoring" in the drop down menu on the form.

If I'm admitted to the online program, can I take some classes in the online program and other classes in the regular on-campus program?

No. This program is fully online.

Is the program open to international students?

Not at this time.

Learning Online

What is the online learning environment like?

The online learning environment is primarily an asynchronous environment – that is, you don't have to log on to the computer at exactly the same time as your professor or classmates in order to attend class. You will, however, have specific deadlines to meet for the reading assignments and learning activities. In some cases, professors will allow you to work ahead of the schedule and finish early.

How time consuming is an online course?

An online course is no less time consuming than a face-to-face, on-campus course. A typical face-to-face, 3-unit 16-week course involves two-and-a-half hours of classroom meeting time plus and an additional three to six hours of reading, study and review per week. Since every online course in this program is completed in eight weeks, plan on dedicating for a 3-unit course from 11 to 17 hours spread out over each week on learning activities. Moreover, if a student encounters problems with technology or has weak reading or writing skills, plan on spending even more time.

How is academic integrity maintained in the online program?

SDSU adheres to a strict policy regarding cheating and plagiarism. Any cheating or plagiarism in a class results in failing of that class and the possibility of further disciplinary review. Students in the online program must agree that all required written submissions will be subject to review by **Turnitin.com** for the detection of plagiarism. To uphold the integrity of exams and tests and level the playing field for students who fear that their classmates may be unfairly cheating to get higher grades, students in the online program must also agree to allow the use of a remote proctoring service when taking assessments.

Where do I turn if I need extra help or support?

If you are having any trouble in your classes, please contact the professor for additional support. If you have questions regarding any matter related to degree completion, please contact our undergraduate advisor, **Ms. Nora Leyva** (naleyva@sdsu.edu). When in trouble, you can contact the program coordinator, **Professor Colvin** (rcolvin@sdsu.edu). He can help route you to the proper person or office that can help you.



School of Public Affairs

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