

## Program Overview

### What's an online degree completion program?

SDSU's Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice online degree completion program is designed to help you graduate with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice with as few as 51 credits by using your lower division coursework as prerequisites for SDSU's upper-division courses.

### Is this 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 degree will I earn when I finish the program?

Upon completion of the program, you'll receive the same degree on-campus students receive – a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice with a Minor in Public Administration. 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.

### 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.

Whether you're interested in working in the fields of law, law enforcement, probation and parole, corrections, or other social service agencies, this degree program can help you move your career forward. This degree can also help you prepare for law school or graduate school in either criminal justice or a related field.

You'll also have the opportunity to apply for a Minor in Public Administration at the same time.

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

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

### May I apply if I have already earned a bachelor's or advanced degree?

Yes. As long as you have the necessary prerequisites completed, you can apply for this degree completion program.

### How is the program structured?

The program is offered in a carousel model that's designed to give you more options and greater flexibility. Each semester is broken up into blocks. There are three courses offered during each block. During the fall and spring semesters, there are two eight-week blocks. The summer semester contains two six-week blocks.

If you take two courses per block, you can complete the program in 22 months. You'll also have the ability to accelerate your studies by taking up to 3 courses per block, which allows you to earn your degree in as little as 15 months. The program also accommodates those who wish to take courses on a part-time basis.

Although you're expected to complete your courses by the end of the block in which they are offered, our online program is entirely self-paced, which means that you can either slow down by taking a lighter course load or speed up by taking a heavier course load.

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

Fall and spring courses are eight weeks long. Summer courses are six weeks long. If you take two courses per block, you can complete the program in 22 months. At an accelerated pace, with three courses per block or 18 units per term, you can complete the program in 15 months.

### When is the earliest I can apply to the program?

Please visit our website for the latest information on application deadlines.

## Want to Learn More?

For questions or to learn how to apply, email [criminaljustice.ces@sdsu.edu](mailto:criminaljustice.ces@sdsu.edu).

## Once admitted, may I add another major or minor?

No, this is a degree completion program. No additional majors or minors are permitted. The program also gives you the opportunity to earn and apply for 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 [sunspot.sdsu.edu/pls/webapp/Survey.hybrid\\_learning.main](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 the term, and a backup plan (i.e., an alternative location to do assignments and assessments) in case the computer or internet connection isn't working.

## 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 Global Campus, wherein the School of Public Affairs is responsible for the curriculum, faculty, admissions, and student advising, and SDSU Global Campus fulfills administrative functions such as registration and the collection of fees.

## How much does the program cost?

The total estimated cost of the program is \$24,300-\$33,498, depending on the number of courses you've completed prior to your admission and whether you earn a Minor in Public Administration.

## When can I apply for financial aid and scholarships?

You can apply for financial aid without applying for admission to the University. You 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 [go.sdsu.edu/student\\_affairs/financialaid/applyforfinancialaid.aspx](https://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.

## 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)."

### 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: POL S 102, SOC 101, SOC 102, and SOC 201 (or comparable three-unit course in elementary statistics, such as STAT 119, STAT 250, or PSY 280)
- Completion of the American Institutions requirement
- Familiarity with an online learning environment
- Taking online compatibility test

The full transfer admissions requirements can be found at [ces.sdsu.edu/admissions/transfer-admissions-information](https://ces.sdsu.edu/admissions/transfer-admissions-information).

## Want to Learn More?

For questions or to learn how to apply, email [criminaljustice.ces@sdsu.edu](mailto:criminaljustice.ces@sdsu.edu).

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

In order to graduate from SDSU, you'll need to satisfy the Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR), which demonstrates your competency in upper-division writing skills. To satisfy this requirement, you'll need to take the Writing Placement Assessment (WPA) your first semester in the program. Your score on the WPA will determine which writing courses if any, you'll need to enroll in during your program. Please note that you will not be able to enroll in future terms until you've taken the WPA.

Visit [wpa.sdsu.edu](http://wpa.sdsu.edu) for more information.

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

Yes, use the materials available on [wpa.sdsu.edu](http://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 [sdsu.mywconline.com](http://sdsu.mywconline.com) and clicking 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, plus an additional three to six hours of reading, study, and review per week. Since every online course in this program is completed in either six or eight weeks, plan on dedicating yourself to a 3-unit course from 11 to 17 hours spread out over each week on learning activities, depending on your reading and writing skills.



## 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 Student Success Advising Center at [successadvising.global@sdsu.edu](mailto:successadvising.global@sdsu.edu).

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