**Criminal Justice Field Experience (CJ 403)**

*Field experience provides an opportunity for criminal justice majors & minors to observe and experience the criminal justice system in action.*

You will be able to select from a wide variety of agencies and organizations that are willing to offer this opportunity and, with the assistance and guidance of your field placement coordinator, participate in an experience designed to help prepare you for a career in the criminal justice field. During your field experience, you will:

- Acquire a practical understanding of the criminal justice system through direct interaction with an agency and the community it serves.
- Critically analyze the theoretical basis and the philosophical foundations of the sponsoring agency as well as the relationship between behaviors and actions.
- Develop and express an understanding about what it means to be a criminal justice professional.

During your field experience, you will be required to work a certain number of hours per week at the sponsoring agency based on the number of credit hours you choose to take. You may take up to 3 credit hours per semester, and 6 credit hours towards your criminal justice electives and 12 credit hours total.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credit Hours Taken</th>
<th>Semester Commitment</th>
<th>Avg. Weekly Commitment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>45 hrs</td>
<td>3 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>90 hrs</td>
<td>6 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>135 hrs</td>
<td>9 hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>12*</td>
<td>540+ hrs</td>
<td>36+ hrs</td>
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*At ATIC ONLY*

**Law Enforcement**

You may choose to work with a law enforcement agency at the local, county, state, or federal level. You will observe and complete work alongside police officers, deputy sheriffs, state troopers, and federal agents. You may work in the communications center, or may ride-along with officers, or help in any number of activities both in and out of the office. You may assist in investigations, following a case from the commission of the crime, arrest of the offender, and prosecution, trial, and sentencing. If you work in the county sheriff’s office where you may observe the operations of the county jail and observe the booking process and behavior of incarcerated offenders either awaiting trial or transfer to the state penitentiary.
Prosecution and Courts

Working with either a prosecuting attorney’s office or a private attorney, learn first-hand about the rules of evidence, trial procedures, jury selection, and mitigating and aggravating factors in sentencing. You will experience a wide range of court activities ranging from municipal or county courts to state or common pleas courts.

Corrections

Corrections involves a wide-range of post-conviction sanctions. You can choose a field experience in the state penitentiary, a probation or parole office, or a juvenile court office or facility. You might work directly with offenders, and may have the opportunity to attend court hearings, work with schools and offenders, help prepare and present reports, or be involved in the investigation of probations violations.

Partnership with the Advanced Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC) in Dayton, OH.

Ashland University has an internship relationship with the ATIC. Criminal Justice students can apply for an internship in either Intelligence or Cyber Security at the ATIC. There are special qualifications and you must be able to pass a background investigation.

For more information about the field experience program, or ATIC, speak to your advisor.