

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE



## WHY CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Whether an example set by a loved one, a rescue by a first responder or simply a God-given drive to help others, every criminal justice major has a unique story to explain why he or she chose criminal justice as a major.

Black said her inspiration to help those in need came from three things: first, a young adult educational program called Police Explorers; second, a police officer who shared his experiences with Black; and third, her parents. Black's mother is a nurse, and her father is a pastor. "My mom and my dad see people at their worst, so they were kind of my inspiration."

John Gardner, a retired 25-year veteran of the police force and adjunct criminal justice professor at BJU, gratefully credits his success to those who invested in him personally. "[I'm grateful for] godly mentors and professionals that gave guidance and instruction to live a life that was God-honoring," he said.

Now, Gardner invests in students at BJU. He has taught Criminal Justice Ethics and has been a guest speaker in other classes, including Criminology, and in Criminal Justice Association Forums.

## WHAT'S INVOLVED

David Davis, a new member of the criminal justice faculty, said the criminal justice major prepares people for a multitude of fields in law enforcement as well as peripheral fields like business and social work. The criminal justice program at BJU prepares students in both the broad aspects of law and the specific applications at the state and federal levels.

"Some want to work in local departments," Davis said, "Some in county or state departments; some in federal employment; some in military; others in probation and parole or some role in courts; others want to be in auxiliary services like working with children or women who are in need."

Davis said ultimately, the program aims to build a Christian worldview foundation CJ students can use to do the best job possible as they work within the system.

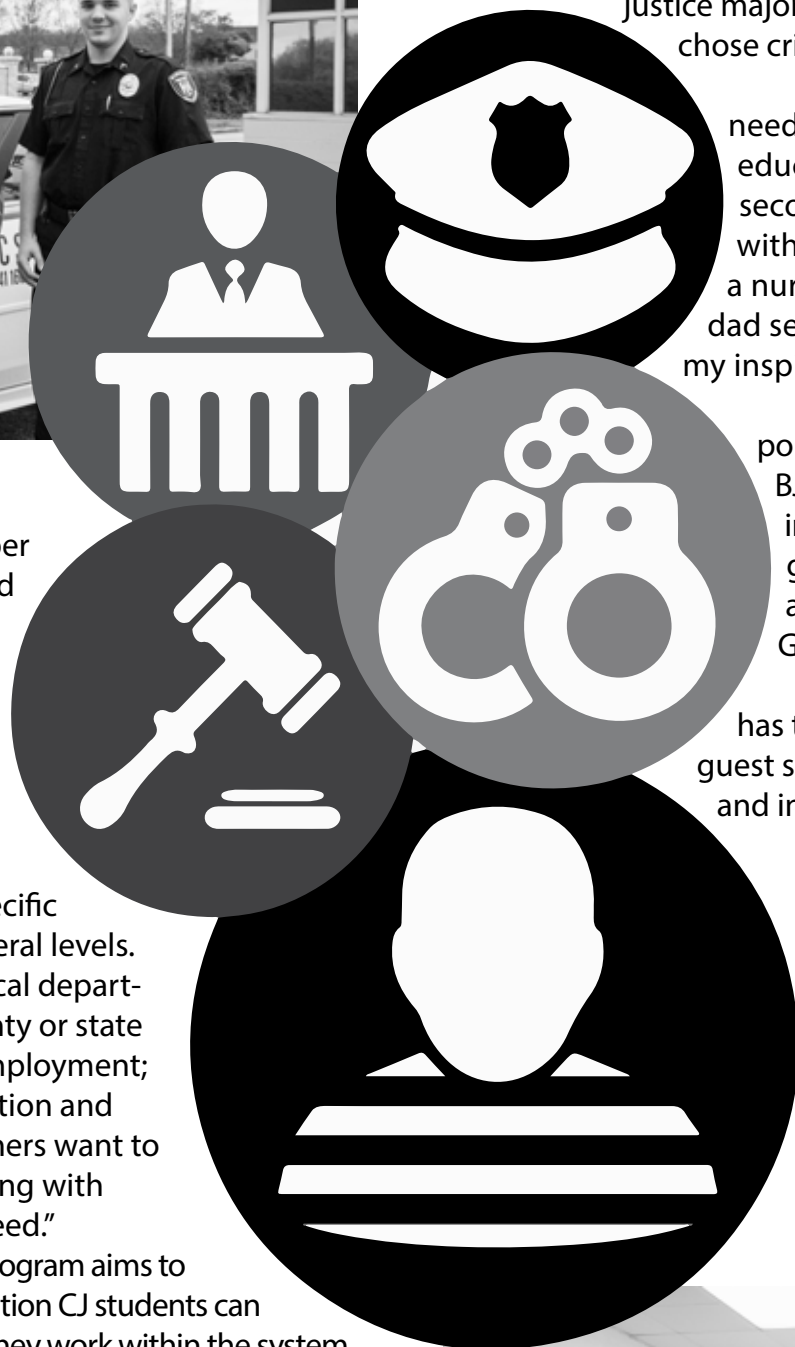
Besides a master's degree in both divinity and science, Davis acquired a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the West Chester University of Pennsylvania and a graduate certificate in criminal justice from the City University of Seattle. He said he sees the criminal justice program at BJU as being high quality. "I just think this is more rigorous and more challenging," Davis said. "It's not just head knowledge, which is key, but also there's so much application and interaction. I really like the way things mesh together."

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE MAJORS

Criminal justice students have a variety of backgrounds and goals. "It's exciting to see them all over in different motivations, all the different places they're from and what their hopes and desires are," Davis said.

Casey Stroud, a freshman double major in accounting and criminal justice, said he didn't originally plan on coming to college. He considered joining the Air Force but soon saw that God was calling him to BJU. "I felt God leading me toward criminal justice as the best avenue to use the passion He gave me," Stroud said. "With my [double major], I have many options to consider from law enforcement to homeland security."

The Bureau of Justice Statistics found that fewer than 15 percent of local law enforcement are women. Katie Black, a sophomore criminal justice student, said women have an important role in criminal justice despite law enforcement being a male-dominated field. "Women are needed because we're good communicators, and we have a different approach to things," Black said. "Both are needed; both have different roles. I think for certain situations, women are better and, for different situations, men are. You definitely need both in the field."



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