Undergraduate Modules

Criminology is most commonly chosen as an elective major subject in the following programmes/packages (see admission requirements for each):

- BA
- BA Law
- Bachelor of Social Work.

If an appropriate degree has been completed, all the undergraduate criminology modules were completed and the third-level modules were passed with a mark of 70%, the graduate will be allowed to apply for post-graduate studies in Criminology.

Post-graduate programmes

- BA Hons Criminology
- MA (Criminology)
- DPhil (Criminology)

Modules presented at the first-year level

- Fundamental criminology
  The focus is on concepts relevant to Criminology and the factors that contribute to crime.

- Violent crime
  The nature, extent and causes of violent crimes are studied.

- Penology
  The functioning of the criminal justice system.

- Crime prevention and control
  Crime prevention involves the study of different actions or attempts to decrease the level of criminal activity.

Modules presented at the second-year level

- Forensic criminalistics
  The module highlights the search for objective and subjective evidence that could lead to solving crimes.

- Youth misbehaviour
  This module involves the study of crime and misbehaviour occurring during childhood.

- Victimology
  Victimology involves the scientific study of the different types of victims of crime.

- Political offences
  Political offences involve crimes such as high treason, assassination, terrorism and crimes committed by the state.

Modules presented at the third-year level

- Criminology theories
  The focus is on developing critical thinking skills to evaluate and apply crime theories in a meaningful way.

- Psychocriminology
  Psychocriminology focuses on the relationship between psychological factors and crime.

- Female crime
  Traditional and modern views on female crime expressed by Criminologists.

- Contemporary issues in Criminology
  This module introduces learners to the current crucial issues in Criminology.
Career opportunities

- South African Police Service: Forensic Science Laboratory (e.g. Ballistics Unit and Disputed Document Unit), criminal investigation and crime analysis (at the national, regional and local levels, e.g. Crime Information Analysis Centre);

- In court: expert evidence, pre-sentencing reports, crime (victim) impact statements and offender assessment;

- The Department of Correctional Services: assessment in pre-sentencing (e.g. diversion and correctional supervision), placement in prisons, sentencing and pre-parole, and as investigators in internal criminal cases;

- The South African National Defence Force (Crime Prevention Unit);

- The National Intelligence Agency (training officers and special agents);

- The Department of Foreign Affairs (South Africans serving prison sentences in other countries, organised crime and human trafficking);

- The Council for Consumer Services as researchers in the field of crime and victimisation;

- Non-Governmental Organisations and research institutions (the National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Reintegration of Offenders (NICRO), Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Crime Prevention Centre, Centre for the Prevention of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR), Inter Trauma Nexus, Institute for Security Studies (ISS), Bee Courtwise, and other similar organisations);

- The private security industry;

- The private sector (Gambling Board, private auditing firms, banking industry in forensic units as well as corporations and in human resources sections in companies to assess crime risk and prevent/reduce crime, and also staff risk assessment/profiling);

- In private practice (court work, court support and preparation, support services to crime victims).

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