
University of Pretoria Yearbook 2025

BAHons specialising in Criminology (01240262)

Department Social Work and Criminology

Minimum duration of study 1 year

Total credits 120

NQF level 08

Programme information

Closing date for applications: 31 July annually.

Admission requirements

1. Bachelor of Arts degree with major in Criminology
or
Relevant bachelor's degree
2. A weighted average of at least 70% in Criminology at final-year level

Curriculum: Final year

Minimum credits: 120

Core modules

Research methodology 701 (KRM 701)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisite.
Contact time	3 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Social Work and Criminology
Period of presentation	Quarter 1

Module content

*Closed – requires departmental selection

In this module the focus is on the way in which research is undertaken. This knowledge is essential because it serves as the basis for further study as well as research that may have to be undertaken within a future career. Aspects that are addressed include the following: what does scientific research entail; how is a research problem stated and hypothesis formulated; how are samples drawn; which methods could be used for collecting data; how is the data analysed, interpreted and presented in the research report.

Theories 702 (KRM 702)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisite.
Contact time	3 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Social Work and Criminology
Period of presentation	Quarter 1 or 2 or 3 or 4

Module content

*Closed – requires departmental selection

Various theories explaining the causes of crime are studied. Because most of the existing theories were developed in the United States of America, attention is given to the possibility of using these theories within the South African context.

Psychocriminology 706 (KRM 706)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08

Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	3 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Social Work and Criminology
Period of presentation	Quarter 1 or 2 or 3 or 4

Module content

In psychocriminology attention is given to psychological disorders that may lead to the committing of crime, or that are regarded as criminal in nature by the legal system and psychological disorders that may occur as a result of having been the victim of crime. Specific themes to which attention are given include the following: defence and criminal liability with regard to mental disorders, personality disorders, suicide; sexual offences and substance abuse.

Forensic criminalistics 707 (KRM 707)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	3 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Social Work and Criminology
Period of presentation	Quarter 1 or 2 or 3 or 4

Module content

Due to the multidisciplinary, concurring and co-ordinating nature of criminalistics, the subject cannot be regarded as a separate discipline with its own unique methods and techniques. Criminalistics involve an integrated process that includes the following

- identification of criminal actions and the persons involved in it, whether dead or alive;
- fieldwork methods and techniques of the criminal investigator; and
- laboratory analyses carried out during the investigation process.

Economic offences 709 (KRM 709)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	3 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Social Work and Criminology
Period of presentation	Quarter 4

Module content

The culture of materialism and financial success that currently prevail in South Africa gives rise to an increasing number of economic related crimes being committed. These offences and more specifically the characteristics, causes, cost and various types of economic crimes will receive attention in this module. Considering that a large number of offenders employ their skills within group context to obtain political power, organised crime is regarded as an important component of this module. The structure, characteristics and forms assumed by organised crime activities are addressed. In addition, some of the economic crimes that are committed exclusively for their economic benefits are also studied.

Criminology and the criminal justice system 710 (KRM 710)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	3 lectures per week, 1 practical per week, 3 other contact sessions per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Social Work and Criminology
Period of presentation	Quarter 1 or 2 or 3 or 4

Module content

A criminological approach to the interaction between police, courts and the Department of Correctional Services. During this module, a community outreach project is also undertaken in collaboration with the police focusing on crime prevention in a specific geographical area.

Research report: Criminology 781 (KRM 781)

Module credits	30.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	KRM 701
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Social Work and Criminology
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

Independent research based on a relevant topic; the completed research process will be presented in a research report.

General Academic Regulations and Student Rules

The [General Academic Regulations \(G Regulations\)](#) and [General Student Rules](#) apply to all faculties and registered students of the University, as well as all prospective students who have accepted an offer of a place at the University of Pretoria. On registering for a programme, the student bears the responsibility of ensuring that

they familiarise themselves with the General Academic Regulations applicable to their registration, as well as the relevant faculty-specific and programme-specific regulations and information as stipulated in the relevant yearbook. Ignorance concerning these regulations will not be accepted as an excuse for any transgression, or basis for an exception to any of the aforementioned regulations. The G Regulations are updated annually and may be amended after the publication of this information.

Regulations, degree requirements and information

The faculty regulations, information on and requirements for the degrees published here are subject to change and may be amended after the publication of this information.

University of Pretoria Programme Qualification Mix (PQM) verification project

The higher education sector has undergone an extensive alignment to the Higher Education Qualification Sub-Framework (HEQSF) across all institutions in South Africa. In order to comply with the HEQSF, all institutions are legally required to participate in a national initiative led by regulatory bodies such as the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the Council on Higher Education (CHE), and the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). The University of Pretoria is presently engaged in an ongoing effort to align its qualifications and programmes with the HEQSF criteria. Current and prospective students should take note that changes to UP qualification and programme names, may occur as a result of the HEQSF initiative. Students are advised to contact their faculties if they have any questions.