why you belong here
Do television shows, movies, and books about true crime fascinate you? Do you enjoy the challenge of digging deeper to uncover the answers hidden beneath the surface? Do you want to impact and protect society in a concrete way? If you are looking for a degree that enables you to do meaningful work that inspires you, then Chatham’s criminology program is the place to start.

The Chatham University criminology program is a solid place to begin your education and pursuit of interests in behavioral criminology, criminal behavioral criminology, criminal investigations, or juvenile justice.

You will work closely with faculty members who have had long and successful careers spanning from law enforcement and social work to justice. Because Chatham is a celebrated liberal arts university, you will receive a broad background in many subjects, as well as the preparation specific to your criminology major and career plans.

what you can expect
While acquiring knowledge and skills that directly pertain to the administration of justice and the practical real-work applicability of criminological theory and policy you will be immersed in a caring, supportive learning environment that integrates the themes of global understanding, sustainability, gender and identity, and civic engagement into all its majors.
what you will learn
Criminology is the scientific study of crime, justice and delinquency. As a student of the criminology program, you will learn to use concepts, theories, and methods from both the social and behavioral sciences – including sociology, criminal justice, psychology, social work, political science, and legal studies. As part of the program you will learn to explore the causes and consequences of criminal behavior. You will also explore the effects of legal and social policies, and study crime perpetration and victimization, crime prevention and control models, and evaluate offender treatment programs.

By the time you complete your criminology major, you will be fully prepared for graduate or professional study in criminology, criminal justice, law, or other social and behavioral sciences, as well as for entry-level positions in law enforcement, legal, correctional, or social service agencies.

where it will take you
As with all Chatham students, you will be encouraged to acquire firsthand work experience related to your study of criminology through internships that are available in a broad range of settings, including police and public safety departments, juvenile and adult detention centers, criminal courts, mental health facilities, shelters, and the medical examiner’s office. In fact, our criminology majors have worked at the Allegheny County Medical Examiner’s Office, Postal Inspector’s Office, and in the court system.

Your time at Chatham will prepare you well for continuation in your studies should you choose to pursue a graduate degree in criminology, criminal justice, law, homeland security, or forensic psychology or forensic social work through a university in the Pittsburgh-area.

learn more
Read faculty bios, review major and minor requirements, and explore learning outcomes at chatham.edu/criminology.

“...At Chatham, we teach criminology not just through the lens of law enforcement, but from a broader perspective of understanding – understanding how cultural, emotional, physiological, and experiential differences contribute to violence and victimization.”

Christine Sarteschi, assistant professor of social work and criminology