

Criminal Justice

Which employers have hired Montana State University Billings Criminal Justice graduates?

Billings Police Department	Alternatives, Inc.	Yellowstone County Detention
MT Division of Criminal Investigation	Montana Women's Prison	Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office
Montana Department of Corrections	Montana Highway Patrol	Yellowstone County Attorney's Office

What are the average annual wages and potential lifetime earnings for professionals working in the Criminal Justice field?

Occupation	Annual wage range in MT*	Potential lifetime earnings*
Police & Sheriff Officer	\$59,020 - \$68,220	\$72,280 x 39 yrs = \$2,818,920
Correctional Officer	\$46,830 - \$51,620	\$53,300 x 39 yrs = \$2,078,700
Probation Officer	\$46,870 - \$60,010	\$61,800 x 39 yrs = \$2,410,200
Fish & Game Warden	\$61,370 - \$69,420	\$60,380 x 39 yrs = 2,354,820

* Based on the 2023 state mean and national median wage of occupation per the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Lifetime earnings are based on the national median wage.

What percentage of Criminal Justice graduates report having a job after graduating?

Out of the 14% of 2024 Criminal Justice graduates that we received graduate data on, **100% reported being employed* after graduation.**

* Employment includes employment in major, employment not in major, continuing education, and military service.

Employment opportunities with advanced degrees or experience:

- Private Detective / Investigator
- FBI Agent
- Customs Officer
- Criminologist

Not sure if Criminal Justice is for you?

1. Take an introductory class in the program, such as Introduction to Sociology or Social Problems. Keep mental notes or a journal to track what you like and dislike!

2. Get a part-time job in the field. Check out CareerLink by scanning the QR Code for the latest job openings!



CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Overview of the Criminal Justice program:

Do you have an interest in criminal behavior and the justice system? Criminal justice students delve into the sociology behind criminal behavior for an understanding of why people break laws and how it influences society. Our program includes instruction in law enforcement, corrections, the legal system, criminology, inequality, violence, and victimization.

Students develop the problem-solving skills to be professional and ethical while learning how to appropriately handle a variety of challenging situations. With a degree in criminal justice, you will use research methods and scientific evidence to understand and control crime.

We incorporate internships into our curriculum to provide practical hands-on learning and a chance for our students to assess their career options. The Billings area is surrounded by an abundance of internship and career opportunities from the police force, court system, government services, addiction treatment centers, and correctional facilities.

What makes your program unique?

Students showcase their original research projects in a supportive and professional setting at MSU Billings' annual Research and Creativity Conference. This gives students a chance to work with their faculty, to take the knowledge gained in classrooms, and share insights with the world around them.

What students like most about the Criminal Justice program?

Students appreciate the well-rounded curriculum of the criminal justice program that has a strong sociological foundation. They also like the opportunity to gain real world experience at an internship in their field of study.



Department Webpage:

<https://www.msubillings.edu/class/nams/index.htm>

