

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BSc (Hons) Criminology
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	360 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time
Standard Length of Course ³	3 years
Intended Award	BSc (Hons) Criminology
Named Exit Awards	BSc Criminology DipHE Criminology CertHE Criminology
Entry Requirements ⁴	Typical Offer: 112 UCAS tariff points (or above), BBC (A-Level), DMM (BTEC) or Access to HE Diploma - a minimum of 45 Level 3 credits at merit grade or above. All applicants are required to hold GCSE English and Maths at Grade C/4 or above.
Delivering Institution	University of Suffolk
UCAS Code	L370

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BSc (Hons) Criminology course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2025-26 academic year.⁵

Course Summary

Criminology at the University of Suffolk draws on Sociology, Psychology, Law, Social Policy and Philosophy in order to expose students to a range of classical and contemporary theoretical and empirical debates concerning crime and responses to criminal behaviour. Students are actively encouraged to develop good analytical and reasoning skills as they engage with academic literature and evaluate research and evidence.

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#)

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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Criminology students will be able to critically engage with national and international dimensions of crime and criminal justice policy, and develop well informed views on contested public issues. There is a strong emphasis on challenging “common-sense” notions of criminal and deviant behaviours by critically examining academic research and making informed decisions based on available evidence. To this end, students will be introduced to a variety of research methods and ethical considerations, so that they can challenge and understand the limitations and ambiguities of empirical research, whilst assessing its value. This will provide an excellent theoretical and practical platform for the completion of a third year independent project in an area of personal or career interest.

Course Aims

- To develop students’ knowledge, critical understanding and skills in Criminology
- To cultivate a questioning and critical approach to the understanding of human behaviour and society.
- To encourage cognitive development and autonomous learning.
- To develop subject specific, cognitive and key transferable skills of value in employment, further study and personal development.
- To provide opportunities that facilitate widening participation by local/non-standard entrants to study criminology

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BSc (Hons) Criminology course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).⁶

On successful completion of the requirements for an Honours degree, students will be able to:

1. Show coherent and detailed knowledge of key aspects of Criminology at least some of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of defined aspects of Criminology.
2. Accurately deploy established techniques of analysis and enquiry relevant to Criminology.
3. Outline a conceptual understanding that enables you:
 - a. To devise and sustain arguments, and/or to solve problems, using ideas and techniques, some of which are at the forefront of Criminology
 - b. To describe and comment upon aspects of current research, or equivalent advanced scholarship, in Criminology

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

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4. Manage your own learning, and to make use of scholarly reviews and primary sources for example, refereed research articles and/or original materials appropriate to Criminology
5. Apply the relevant methods and techniques to review, consolidate, extend, and apply knowledge and understanding, and to initiate and carry out projects
6. Critically evaluate arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data (that may be incomplete), to make judgements, and to frame appropriate questions to achieve a solution - or identify a range of solutions - to a problem
7. Communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.
8. Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:
 - a. The exercise of initiative and personal responsibility
 - b. Decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts
 - c. The learning ability needed to undertake appropriate further training of a professional or equivalent nature.

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks:

- Criminology (2022)

Course Structure

The BSc (Hons) Criminology comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6.

Module Specifications for each of these modules are included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

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Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 4		
Social Science Skills	20	R
Introduction to Criminology	20	R
Principles of Psychology for Criminology	20	R
Policy & Politics	20	R
Sociological Imagination	20	R
History of Crime & Punishment	20	R
Level 5		
Understanding Research	20	M
Criminological Theory	20	R
Youth Crime and Justice	20	O
Policing	20	O
Criminal Justice	20	O
Psychology and Crime	20	O
Social Theory	20	O
Contemporary Issues in Criminology	20	O
World of Work	20	O
Social Justice & Policy	20	O
Crime and the Environment	20	O
Law for Criminologists	20	O
Level 6		
Independent Project	40	M
Penology	20	O
Rehabilitation of Offenders	20	O
Victimology	20	O
Drugs, Crime and Society	20	O
Crimes of the Powerful	20	O
Forensic Psychology	20	O
Community Safety & Crime Prevention	20	O
Data Analysis and Visualisation for Social Scientists	20	O
Independent Study Module	20	O (recovery)

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#)

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The Optional Recovery modules are only available in the exceptional circumstances where a student must retrieve credits to ensure progression or where a standard optional module cannot be delivered.

Optional modules available in any year will be communicated to you prior to your enrolment to facilitate module choice. Some optional modules may not run in every year of study, and the availability of optional modules depends on the level of student demand, the availability of specialist staff and timetabling constraints. In addition, we regularly review our curriculum to ensure it is up-to-date, relevant, draws on the latest research and addresses contemporary issues. As a result, the modules we offer may change over the course of your degree.

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BSc (Hons) Criminology. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for an BSc Criminology on successful completion of 300 credits at Level 4 or above (including at least 180 credits at Level 5 or above and at least 60 credits at Level 6); a DipHE Criminology on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5; a CertHE Criminology on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full-time on the BSc (Hons) Criminology are likely to have approximately 12 hours per week (288 hours per year) structured learning for level 4, 9 hours per week (216 hours per year) structured learning for level 5 and 6 hours per week (144 hours per year) structured learning for level 6. The structured learning hours will be a mix of lectures, seminars, practical activities, tutorials, workshops and guided learning activities through our online learning environment. Students will normally be expected to undertake 28 hours of independent study in an average week at level 4, (672 hours per year), 31 hours of independent study at level 5, (744 hours per year) and 32 hours of independent study at level 6, (768 hours per year), but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be mostly coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects) and up to 5 examinations.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

Course Costs

Students undertaking BSc (Hons) Criminology will be charged tuition fees as detailed below:

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Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,250 per year
Part-time UK	Not applicable
Full-time EU/International	£15,090 per year
Part-time EU/International	Not applicable

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Students are likely to incur other costs for essential reading materials amounting to approximately £240 per year.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).