

Justice Studies Transition to Criminology - Student FAQs

1. Do I have to switch from Justice Studies to Criminology?

A- No! If you are currently registered in the Human Justice or Police Studies program, you can graduate with that degree.

2. What if I have not yet declared my major?

A - If you want to graduate with one of the current Justice Studies Degrees, you will need to declare your major in either Human Justice or Police Studies prior to May 1st, 2026.

3. When is the transition happening?

A - From May 1st, 2026, the Department of Justice Studies will become the Department of Criminology. No students will be able to register for the current Justice Studies degree programs after this date.

4. If I switch, which degree will I graduate with?

A - The Criminology program has two degree options: the Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and the Bachelor of Arts in Police Studies. You must indicate which degree you are switching to.

5. How do I switch my degree program?

A - Please make an appointment with an Academic Advisor from the Faculty of Arts or your Federated College to discuss switching your degree program.

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6. Can I complete any diplomas, certificates, or minors under the new Criminology program? **A** - Yes, you can complete a Diploma in Criminology, a Certificate in Criminology, and a minor in Criminology.

7. Is the Professional Officer Program still available?

A - Yes, the Professional Officer Program (a year of approved induction and probationary officer training in policing, corrections or other justice professions) is an option for both the new Criminology and Police Studies degrees.

8. Will I need to complete any practicums under the new program?

A - For the new Criminology Degree, you have three options: **1)** An Academic Path, where you take more courses and do not complete any practicums; **2)** A Practicum Path, where you take fewer courses and complete both an Introductory and an Advanced practicum; or **3)** The Professional Officer Training Program (a year of approved induction and probationary officer training in policing, corrections or other justice professions).

For the new Police Studies Degree, you will also have three options: **1)** An Academic Path without practicums; **2)** The Practicum/Analyst Program; or **3)** The Professional Officer Training Program.

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9. If I stay in my current program, do I need to complete any practicums? **A** - Yes, if you stay in the current Police Studies Program, you must complete your practicum. If you stay in the current Human Justice program, you are expected to complete the Introductory Practicum and Advanced Practicum. If you have difficulty scheduling, completing or receiving an appropriate Advanced Practicum for reasons beyond your control, please meet with your Academic Advisor to discuss other options to complete your program.

10. Which degree is better for my career?

A - All Justice Studies Degrees and Criminology Degrees are excellent undergraduate degrees in Arts. They cover similar, though not identical, content on justice, law, and policing. Neither program is better than the other; it's just a matter of your personal preference!

11. I am quite far along in my degree - is it possible to switch?

A- The further along you are in your degree, the more difficult it will be to switch. That's because there are new mandatory classes in both the new Criminology and new Police Studies Degree that are not currently required in the JS Degrees. If you are in your upper years, and if you have already taken most of your electives, you might need to take additional courses beyond the 120 credits to complete a Criminology or new Police Studies degree. Be sure to make an appointment with an academic advisor to review your specific situation.

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12. What are some of the courses available under the new Criminology program?

A - Most of the required courses for both new degrees are very similar to existing JS courses. Some are completely new. All students must take new core courses on Introduction to Policing, Introduction to Corrections, Youth Justice, and a Qualitative or Quantitative Methods Course. Some required courses for Police Studies/Criminology are optional courses for the other degree program.

All students will have access to interesting brand new courses, including Crime Intelligence and Analysis, Decolonizing Justice, and Indigenous Policing in Canada, amongst many others!

13. I still have questions - what should I do? A- All information about the Criminology Degree requirements can be found in the 26/27 Academic Calendar. You can also reach out to U of R academic advisors: arts.studentservices@uregina.ca.

The JS Department will also be holding two virtual information sessions (one for current Police Studies students on February 9th from 1-2 pm, and one for current Human Justice Students on February 11th from 1-2 pm) over Zoom in February 2026. Visit the JS Department website for sign-up information.