The department of Crime and Justice Studies (CJS) brings together the academic fields of criminology, criminal justice, and justice studies, successfully bridging the social sciences and humanities. We offer a multi-disciplinary program that specializes in the study of the criminal justice system’s history, policies, politics, and procedures.

Skills developed
Offering criminology, criminal justice, and justice studies together in one department allows students interested in the various branches of work in this field (law enforcement, courts, corrections, probation, parole, social services, youth services, community organizations and more) to begin cross-agency dialogue with each other, within our classrooms, and before they enter the workforce. This allows CJS students to grasp more comprehensive perspectives on the various (and at times conflicting) expectations that exist within the many institutions and agencies that make up the criminal justice system. CJS students also learn to analyze the nature of structural, institutional, and transnational violence and gain knowledge and skills they can use towards better understanding and transforming unjust conditions, so that students can contribute to the improvement of society and their communities.

Curriculum overview
The department of Crime and Justice Studies offers an innovative curriculum drawing upon research from the social sciences, humanities, arts, sciences, business and law to create nuanced understandings of how crime and justice have been constructed over time, and how these understandings continue to affect our lives. We are a multidisciplinary department with faculty who research, publish and teach across many areas of local, regional, national and global expertise.

Course offerings include:
- A History of Criminology
- Abolitionism
- Beyond Borders: Immigration and Justice
- Crimes Against Humanity
- Criminal Law and Procedure
- Digging for Justice: Forensic Anthropology
- Environments of Justice
- Foundations in Justice Studies
- Law and Society
- Prison Industrial Complex
- Race, Colonization, and Inequality: The American Indian Story
- Roots and Realities of Nonviolence
- The Politics of Policing
- The War on Drugs
- Transformative Justice
- Youth, Crime and Justice

Contact info: umassd.edu/programs/crime-justice-studies/