

### *Dear Students*

Being a criminologist is exciting! The work can be “gruesome,” but the type of personality that likes the intellectual task of understanding patterns and deviations from patterns is well challenged in this profession. If you’ve ever wondered what a criminologist does, read this edition and find out; learn if a career in criminology might be for you.

*- Martina*

## WHAT IS CRIMINOLOGY AND WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?

Criminologists examine the systems which bring people accused of crimes, to justice. They attempt to explain the reasons for criminal behaviour and suggest ways of reducing crime. They study the ways that certain criminal justice agencies operate, including the law courts, police services, prisons and community-based correction centres.

Criminologists analyse and interpret data received on the incidence of crime and the operation of the justice system and are thus able to provide information about crime and the ways in which people are processed by the criminal justice system.

They also catalogue information about the possible causes of crime and the crimes committed and compile crime statistics and develop ways in which crime-solving resources can be best used. Criminologists analyse and develop crime prevention strategies and generally evaluate all aspects of crime and the criminal justice system. They research criminological issues such as those pertaining to offenders, victims of crime and sentencing.

Criminologists play an important role in the criminal justice system. They conduct research, teach and work with various law enforcement agencies. They study the social and psychological factors that cause people to commit crimes and research which approaches to rehabilitation work and don't work.

## ASPECT OF THE JOB INVOLVES

Criminologists may specialise in organisational research, victimology, corporate crime or juvenile justice. They may work in the legal field that tries to ensure that laws keep up with changes in society. They may also work in the social / psychological fields, which study the effects of the criminal justice system or the factors that contribute to offending behaviour by individuals.

The job of a criminologist often includes:

- Compiling statistical data
- Conducting surveys
- Conducting research interviews
- Formulating policy recommendations
- Writing research papers and articles
- Working with law enforcement and corrections personnel
- Studying criminal behavior
- Devising strategies to help reduce crime

### Inside this issue:

1. Why is Criminologist so important?
1. Aspects of the Job
2. Skills and abilities
3. Requirements
4. Interesting facts



## SKILLS & ABILITIES

In addition to education and experience, there are other skills and interests that can help you excel in this position, such as:

- **Research:** The specific job of a criminologist is primarily one of research. If you are academically inclined, you may enjoy working in this field.
- **Public policy interest:** A career as a criminologist can allow you to positively influence public policy and help devise new strategies to fight and prevent crime.
- **Good with statistics:** You will likely need to have a firm grasp of mathematics, especially in the area of probability and statistics, and people with a talent for interpreting and explaining statistical data, as well as those who have a strong desire to help their communities, will enjoy working as criminologists.
- **Excellent organizational skills:** You will need to keep large quantities of data well-organized.
- **Interpersonal skills:** Some jobs may require interviewing or meeting with other criminal justice professionals and criminals, so good interpersonal communication skills will also be helpful.
- **Strong writing skills:** Lastly, you'll need to have strong writing skills because you may need to write reports that state and summarize the results of your data analysis.



## **REQUIREMENTS**

### **Secondary Education**

University of Namibia and Namibia Univ of Science and Technology (NUST) requires a NSSCH/IGCSE/NSSCO Grade 12, or equivalent qualification, with passes in five subjects and a minimum of 25 points on the UNAM / NUST point evaluation scale.

### **Recommended subjects**

Each institution has its own subject requirements.



### **Tertiary Education**

NUST offers a Certificate in Criminal Justice, as a first exit level. It is designed to equip students with the requisite knowledge and skills in dealing with criminal justice issues in different organisations, including state and private security agencies, and to provide the basis for further learning. Students who exit with a Certificate in Criminal Justice will be employed in the public and private sectors as Police Officers and Correctional Management Officers at entry level. Bachelor degree holders will find employment as Correctional Management professionals in the public and private sectors.

At UNAM, for admission to the Certificate in Criminal Justice, Constitutionalism and Human Rights the candidate: should be in possession of a minimum Grade 10 certificate or any other equivalent qualification and should have five (5) years related working experience OR be in possession of a Grade 12 certificate, with a minimum of 17 points in five subjects according to UNAM rating with at least an E symbol in English as a Second Language or higher.

Other institutions offer a Degree: BA or BSc with relevant majors, such as: Criminology at UFS, UNISA, UCT, Monash, UP

Criminal Justice - UCT, Monash, Intec, Damelin

Criminal Law - UCT, UFS, UNISA.

Other useful courses - Statistics, Sociology, Social Anthropology etc.

### **Personality**

You should have personal integrity, an interest in welfare and human behavior. You should be interested in marginalised and disadvantaged groups.

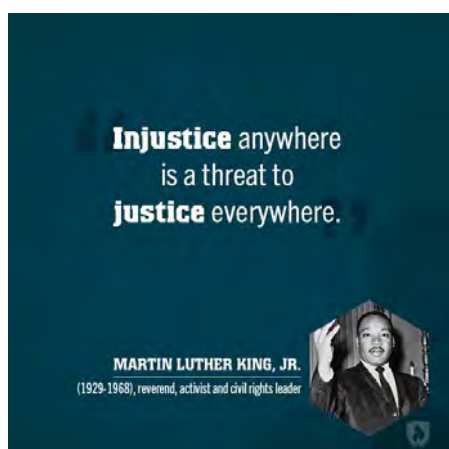
### **Work Opportunities**

Government departments, tertiary institutions, universities as academics and researchers department of justice, as research officers and advisers on policy, law reform, juvenile justice, crime statistics and adult correction police departments, courts, corrective institutions and private welfare agencies

## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Why are young offenders treated differently? Why can't prisons be the answer to each and every single crime? And what is the best way to ensure an easy transition for offenders that are about to be released? Julian Roberts, author of *Criminal Justice: A Very Short Introduction*, tells us the top 10 things everyone should know about criminal justice, and what the chances and limitations of the Western system are.

- 1.The components of criminal justice include police, prosecution, judiciary, prisons, probation, and parole.
- 2.The criminal justice system has multiple and often conflicting objectives: the interests of the victim have to be balanced with the due process rights of the defendant, the broader public interest, as well as considerations of cost effectiveness.
- 3.Preventing crime is at least as important as punishing offenders. The three kinds of situational crime prevention, like robbing a bank, involve increasing the effort that offenders must spend to commit a crime, increasing the risk of detection and reducing the rewards gained by criminal behaviour, for example by lowering the amount of cash held in a facility.
- 4.The key principles that guide the practice of criminal justice in Western nations include that criminal prosecution should remain a last resort, that criminal justice interventions should be the minimal response necessary (i.e. if a warning is sufficient, don't send the offender to prison), and that the severity of the sentence should increase as the crime becomes more serious.
- 5.Of all crimes, only about 10 per cent are reported to the police. Reasons for that include that the crime was not that serious, it is felt that the police can't do anything about it or that the victim is worried of not being believed
- 6.There are several different ways to punish an offender: financial penalties, community-based punishment (i.e. imprisonment), community service, a curfew, and a residence requirement, among others.
- 7.A suspended prison term is especially effective with young or first time offenders as the mere threat of punishment is often sufficient.
- 8.The judicial response to crime varies greatly from one society to another, even though the crime rates are similar. In Holland, for example, imprisonments account for about 7 per cent of all sentences imposed, whereas in the US about 70 per cent of sentences involve custody.
- 9.We expect our prisons to punish *and* to rehabilitate – we want offenders to come out as better people. But even if offenders had a change of mind after getting out of prison, their criminal record sticks with them forever and their employment prospects are greatly diminished, worsening the chances to lead a fulfilled life.
- 10.In England, it costs about £38,000 (\$60,000) per year to house one prisoner. For this reason alone it is important to ensure that no-one is sent to prison unless it is absolutely necessary.



References : <http://www.pacecareers.co.za> ; [www.thebalancecareers.com/criminologist](http://www.thebalancecareers.com/criminologist); [www.unam.na](http://www.unam.na); [www.nust.na](http://www.nust.na)

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