B.A. CRIMINOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Each year of this plan includes milestones that support the four pillars of career development — self-discovery, exploration, experience, and action. These milestones are here to guide you, not limit you — your journey may move at a different pace, and that's completely okay.

YEAR 1 | BUILD FOUNDATIONS

- ❍ Visit Garnet Gate & the August Student Org Fair to explore and join clubs or orgs for your major
- ❍ Check your major map & verify all first year academic grade requirements
- ❍ Examine success/support options including the Office of Student Advocacy
- ❍ Explore Criminology & Criminal Justice employers and fields/industries to work in
- ❍ Review your personal brand, specific interests, & next steps with a CC or PPA and develop a resume
- ❍ Attend the Part-Time Job Fair in the fall/spring
- ❍ Explore the What Can I Do With This Major? website to discover potential career paths
- ❍ Identify your career goals and take career & personality assessments to understand your skills, interests, and values
- ❍ Explore your options to see where criminology & criminal justice alumni are working & what skills they have developed
- ❍ Get involved to build your eight Career Competencies employers look for
- ❍ Engage in extracurricular activities to network & develop skills or volunteer with charitable organizations by connecting with the Leadership and Service Center
- ❍ Attend Career Center workshops & presentations and look for summer experiences related to your goals/interests

YEAR 2 | EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES

- ❍ Consider new experiences, part-time on- or off-campus jobs, leadership roles, or the Summer Research Program to gain experience & new skills
- ❍ Take the GradStats personality assessment & review your custom personality report
- ❍ Consider a summer internship and/or participate in job shadowing
- ❍ Join Mentorship Hub and LinkedIn to connect with USC Alum
- ❍ Visit the Career Center in TCL to review your resume and explore the CC Toolkit for additional career readiness resources
- ❍ Conduct Informational Interviews with alumni & professionals in the field
- ❍ Consider a minor and take courses that will expand your skill development
- ❍ Explore study abroad/exchange programs for a global perspective
- ❍ Take advantage of Beyond the Classroom events
- ❍ Attend Career Center workshops & presentations, graduate or professional school events, or employer events to learn about different career paths
- ❍ Attend career & internship fairs to gain exposure to programs/jobs
- ❍ Start or continue volunteering with relevant organizations

YEAR 3 | FIND FOCUS

- ❍ Assess previous involvement & participation in leadership roles, and join a club or organization to network and enhance skills
- ❍ Secure a summer internship/co-op, micro-internship, job shadowing or research opportunity to build on skills and enhance professionalism
- ❍ Explore courses, trainings or certifications to enhance skills and knowledge
- ❍ Attend panels, workshops, on-site visits, job shadowing on-site, and informational interviews to gain confidence & grow connections
- ❍ Reflect on your experiences and skills to see what areas need more development and update your resume
- ❍ Review past career assessments to see what your top work values and skill sets are during year 3
- ❍ If considering graduate/professional school, prepare for entrance exams, and contact Pre-Professional & Graduate School Advising for assistance with admission requirements
- ❍ Join professional organizations related to your specific interests
- ❍ Maintain relationships with faculty and past employers for networking and assistance
- ❍ Start thinking about graduation plans & desired career path and work with a CC to make a game plan
- ❍ Follow employers of interest and research education requirements for careers of interest
- ❍ Use online resources & the Career Center to connect with alumni & employers

YEAR 4 | PREPARE FOR LAUNCH

- ❍ Reach out to professors, supervisors, and key connections to write recommendation letters or to serve as references
- ❍ Join professional groups and set alerts for your job search
- ❍ Utilize any relevant resources to network and reach out to contcts
- ❍ Research online to know more about the companies and positions you are interested in and explore career paths, job titles, and salaries
- ❍ Attend fairs & events to gain info on specific jobs, programs & opportunities
- ❍ Review and update your professional documents and online profiles
- ❍ Review your top skills & experiences from the last four years that are most relevant to a professional career
- ❍ Conduct a senior audit to make sure you meet graduation requirements
- ❍ Meet with a CC or PPA to create a plan for your job search, grad school applications, or gap year
- ❍ Engage in interview preparation & practice - create a document with your most relevant experiences and apply the STAR method
- ❍ Complete the Graduation Survey to share your post-grad plans

Legend

CC Career Coach
PPA Pre-Professional Advisor
Handshake
Gamecock GradStats

Revised June 2026

Career Center
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
sc.edu/career

GAMECOCK GRADSTATS DATA

Average Annual Salary of USC B.A. Criminology & Criminal Justice Graduates*

$63,023

** 5-7 years after graduation*

Skills Employers Look for

(in no particular order)

Administration
Communication
Customer Service
Data Analysis
Data Entry
Digital Marketing
Leadership
Legal Research
Management
Microsoft Office
Organizational Skills
Problem Solving
Public Speaking
Sales
Social Media Marketing

DON'T FORGET THESE IMPORTANT TASKS!

- ❍ Build & update your **Handshake** profile.
- ❍ Create & update **professional documents** (resume, CV, references, etc.).
- ❍ **Schedule an appointment** with Career Coaches and/or Pre-Professional Advising staff.

DISCOVER EMPLOYERS HIRING YOUR MAJOR

CAREER CENTER TOOLS

Check out the links below and explore all the tools the Career Center has to offer.

CANDID CAREER

Candid Career is our provider for thousands of video informational interviews with industry professionals. You can get real insight on careers, as well as tips to sharpen your the job search.

CAREERSHIFT

CareerShift is an online tool that allows you to search, select and store job listings from all job boards and all company job postings. You can also find up-to-date contact information for millions of companies.

GAMECOCK GRADSTATS

Explore the possibilities! Search & view USC students' post graduation career paths: where they work, skills they use, & how much they earn.

HANDSHAKE

Handshake is the Career Center's online resource for jobs, internships, events and employer connections. Handshake is also where you can find resources and make appointments with a career coach.

INTERSTRIDE

Interstride is a one-stop-shop that empowers you to thrive internationally.

MENTORSHIP HUB

Mentorship Hub is an online platform that connects the USC community. The platform provides career support, career resources, and an opportunity to mentor or seek mentorship.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH THIS MAJOR?

Explore unexpected career possibilities for your degree and see how other students turned their major into amazing careers.

Other Campus Resource Links:

- Academic Advising
- Center for Integrative and Experiential Learning
- Leadership and Service Center
- Office of Undergraduate Studies
- Undergraduate Research

The Career Center realizes that every student has a unique journey during their time here at the University of South Carolina. All students move at different paces along different paths. We acknowledge your individual needs and will meet you at whatever stage you are in. This document is meant to serve as a milestones guide to help you plan your future and your goals.