

School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration

School of Law Enforcement & Justice Administration, College of Education & Human Services



Major Program

The School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration (SLEJA) at Western Illinois University is the largest criminal justice program in the state and one of the largest in the United States. Our students comprise about 25 percent of the student enrollment on campus, 18% of the Centennial Honors College, and the SLEJA places more interns in the field than any other department or school at WIU. The SLEJA has been identified as a signature program at Western Illinois University.

The major is centered on a core of courses and requires an approved minor. The core courses include classes in juvenile justice, criminal investigation, criminal law and procedure, ethics, research, organizational administration, and management. The SLEJA offers a minor in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration for those students majoring outside of LEJA and corrections. Additional minors are offered in criminalistics, fire administration, fire science, security administration, homeland security, and legal studies.

All students seeking a baccalaureate degree in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration must complete the University's General Education requirement of 43 semester hours; the following LEJA core courses: LEJA 101, 201, 212, 255, 302, 303, 306, 312, 345, 357, 490, and 491; and three semester hours of LEJA directed electives. Students must complete each course with a grade of C or better. LEJA majors must establish and maintain a 2.25 cumulative GPA and a 2.50 GPA in the LEJA major to apply for and be assigned an internship. Students having double majors of LEJA and another major are held to the same standards in LEJA as other LEJA majors.

Internship Program

LEJA majors are required to complete a one-semester internship with a public or private criminal justice or private security organization. Internships may be done at the local, state, or federal levels. Students will spend 40 hours per week as an observer/participant in the organization. The internship provides firsthand practical experience that allows students to link education with practice. In many cases, the internship has also led to employment after graduation.

Career Opportunities

Upon completion of the degree, graduates become eligible for a diverse array of criminal justice positions. Past graduates have gone on to successful careers in professions such as municipal, county, state, and federal law enforcement; Department of National Resources positions; crime scene investigations; homeland security; corrections; juvenile service occupations; probation; parole; court services; private security; and the fire services.

Student Organizations

The SLEJA has several student organizations, and student participation is encouraged. Among the possibilities are the American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS), the American Criminal Justice Association /Lambda Alpha Epsilon, the Investigator's Club, the Corrections Club, the National Criminal Justice Honor

Society/Alpha Phi Sigma, the Concert Safety Corps, the International Society for Pre-Law/Phi Alpha Delta, and the Minorities in Blue. Participation in student organizations gives students additional learning opportunities outside of the classroom; fraternal opportunities; and, in some cases, practical experience.

LEJA Faculty

The strength of the program is directly attributed to the outstanding faculty. The SLEJA has a diverse faculty which includes a strong international component. Faculty members come from a wide array of criminal justice occupations and professions. As such, they do a tremendous job of linking theory with practice. At the heart of our philosophy is a commitment to our students. The faculty strives to guide students' intellectual development to the highest degree, and our curriculum is constantly infused with new ideas and perspectives. The SLEJA also has four dedicated advisors on staff.

Scholarships

The SLEJA offers numerous scholarships for sophomore through senior LEJA majors. Detailed information about scholarships is available from the School's Advising Office, (309) 298-1438; at Western's Scholarship office, (309) 298-2001; or on the Internet at wiu.edu/Scholarship

Honors in LEJA

To be eligible for the Centennial Honors College, entering freshmen must have an ACT score of at least 28 or have a 26 or 27 composite ACT and be in the top 15% of their graduating class; or have an ACT composite score of at least 24 and be in the top 10% of their high school graduating class. A comparable SAT score is acceptable. Transfer and current WIU students who wish to join the Honors College (including the Quad Cities Honors Program) must have a 3.4 grade point average on a 4.0 scale based upon 12 SH. Honors credit is given for honors coursework completed at other accredited institutions. To learn more, visit wiu.edu/Honors.

For More Information

For more detailed information about the LEJA program at Western Illinois University, please call (309) 298-1038 or visit the website at wiu.edu/LEJA.

Higher Values in Education

Located in Macomb (population 20,000), with a campus in the Quad Cities (Moline, IL), Western offers a caring and supportive learning environment to more than 10,000 students in west-central Illinois. Western students have all the advantages of a large public university—strong faculty, state-of-the-art technology and facilities, and a wide range of academic and extracurricular opportunities—in an atmosphere free from distractions. Western offers a broad-based athletics program, sponsoring 19 NCAA Division I intercollegiate varsity sports. Football competes in the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision through the Missouri Valley Football Conference; all other varsity sports compete at the Division I level through The Summit League. Western's presence in the Quad Cities spans more than 40 years, and that campus offers undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 1,400 students. The core values that are at the heart of the University are academic excellence, educational opportunity, personal growth and social responsibility.

Western's GradTrac and Cost Guarantee programs ensure that students can achieve their degrees within four years while paying a fixed rate for tuition, fees and room and board.

Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employer with a strong commitment to diversity. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of people, including, but not limited to, minorities, women and individuals with disabilities. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes discrimination based on an individual's membership in the following classes: sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, genetic information, veteran status, and any other classes protected by state or federal law.

Campus Visits

The Admissions Reception Center (Sherman Hall 115) is open most weekdays from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM when the University is in session. Group information sessions are available on Mondays and Fridays at 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM, and individual appointments can be made on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Campus tours are conducted at 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Appointments with advisers, faculty, or a financial aid adviser may be arranged separately during the week. The Admissions Reception Center is open from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM most Saturdays when the University is in session. A group information session is available at 10:00 AM, and a campus tour is conducted at 11:00 AM. You may schedule your visit or tour online at wiu.edu/admissions by selecting "Visit Campus." You may also schedule a visit, tour, or individual appointment by calling toll free (877) PICKWIU (742-5948) or (309) 298-3157, or by e-mailing admissions@wiu.edu.

wiu.edu/leja

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