**What are the different types of Criminology Research?**

[Criminology](http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-criminology.htm) attempts to analyze criminal acts as both an individual and societal phenomenon. Depending upon his area of professional interest, a [criminologist](http://www.wisegeek.com/what-does-a-criminologist-do.htm) may study blue collar crime,[organized crime](http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-organized-crime.htm), [corporate crime](http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-corporate-crime.htm), political crime, or [white collar](http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-white-collar-crime.htm) crime. Juvenile delinquency, domestic violence, and vigilantism are also common topics of interest for people with criminology degrees.

Theories of criminology research can be broken into three general areas: social structure theories, individual theories, and symbolic interactionism theories. Within these areas, a criminal act is defined as behavior that either violates a governmental law or an accepted societal belief. This is sometimes referred to as a consensus view of crime.

Social structure theories of criminology research tend to attribute crime to problems within a society. They often link an increase in crime rates to an increase in [poverty](http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-poverty.htm) and the accompanying community deterioration. Strain [theory](http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-a-theory.htm), or social class theory, is a social structure theory that states crime happens when unequal access to opportunities such as higher education and jobs that pay a living wage prevents people from reaching the American Dream of prosperity through legitimate means.

Individual theories essentially attribute the cause of crime to individual deficiencies. Social bond or social control theory, one common example of individual theories of criminologyresearch, states that people commit crimes when they fail to develop belief in the moral validity of rules, commitment to achievement, strong attachment to others, and involvement in conventional activities. Individual theories of criminology research do not claim there is a gene for criminal behavior, but they do investigate the link between brutalization or witnessing criminal acts as a child and subsequent deviant acts. In this way, individual theories hope to explain how criminal behavior tends to continue within families from generation to generation.

Symbolic interactionism theories of criminology research suggest the cause of crime lies in the complex relationship between more powerful and less powerful groups within society. In the area of juvenile delinquency, for example, youngsters labeled as troublemakers by teachers, counselors, and other people in positions of authority have been found to act out at higher rates. Essentially, they turn their label into a self-fulfilling prophesy.

As an interdisciplinary branch of the behavioral sciences, criminology research incorporates elements of theoretical perspectives such as [psychoanalysis](http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-psychoanalysis.htm), [Marxism](http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-marxism.htm), [systems theory](http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-systems-theory.htm), and postmodernism. The classic nature vs. nurture debate is also an important component of study within the field. Although it's difficult to draw definitive conclusions as to the exact cause of crime, criminology research is valuable in that it can help to shape public policies that work towards developing a more lawful society.

**Criminology Research**

* Although some jobs in **criminology** are available to those with a bachelor's degree, to conduct **criminology** **research**, employers require upper-level degrees. Those who receive a master's degree will be able to get into the **research** field, but they likely will work under the supervision of a doctoral criminologist.
* In this way, individual theories hope to explain how criminal behavior tends to continue within families from generation to generation. Symbolic interactionism theories of **criminology** **research** suggest the cause of crime lies in the complex relationship between more powerful and less powerful groups within society.

**Criminal Justice And Criminology Research Methods**

* Law enforcement officers include those with local police departments **and** sheriffs' offices, as well as federal agencies, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation **and** U.S. Marshals Office. These **criminal** **justice** jobs involve investigating crimes, handling calls for service, **and** making arrests.
* **Criminal** **justice** programs can be broken down into several different categories, especially for those who are seeking a four-year degree. These categories will include, **criminal** **justice** theory, forensic science, **criminology** **and** perhaps even psychology. Some may choose more than one specialty by getting a double major, thereby increasing their choices in the future.

**MA Criminological Research**

**If you want to ...**

* investigate contemporary policy debates and perspectives in crime control
* consider how policy debates inform the politics of crime control
* explore cutting theories of criminology
* develop your quantative research skills

**... then MA Criminological Research is the course for you.**

MA Criminological Research will enable you to develop your research skills within a criminological context, and enhance your knowledge of criminological theories, policies and research.

This course will provide you with the key skills that will enable you to critically analyse debates within criminology and carry out methodologically rigorous research. You will also examine a wide range of research theory and methods, and develop practical skills in the field.

Research-specific study makes up a large percentage of this MA programme. You will undertake small research projects within a group context and an individual basis. You will be involved in research design, data collection, processing, analysis and the writing-up of findings.

The distinctiveness of this course lies in the balance it strikes between the development of critical awareness, and appreciation, of research and the practical skills that you will acquire during your course of study.

We have specifically designed the programme for students that aspire to further academic research or professional research careers within the field of criminology and criminal justice.