University of Suffolk

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	**BSc (Hons) Criminology and Sociology**
Awarding Bodies	**University of Suffolk**
Level of Award[1]	**FHEQ Level 6**
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	**None**
Credit Structure[2]	**360 Credits** **Level 4: 120 Credits** **Level 5: 120 Credits** **Level 6: 120 Credits**
Mode of Attendance	**Full-time**
Standard Length of Course[3]	**3 years full-time**
Intended Award	**BSc (Hons) Criminology and Sociology**
Named Exit Awards	**BSc Criminology and Sociology** **DipHE Criminology and Sociology** **CertHE Criminology and Sociology**
Entry Requirements[4]	**Typical Offer:** **112 UCAS tariff points (or above), BBC (A-Level), DMM (BTEC) or Access to HE Diploma - a minimum of 45 Level 3 credits at merit grade or above.** **All applicants are required to hold GCSE English and Maths at Grade C/4 or above.**
Delivering Institution(s)	**University of Suffolk**
UCAS Code	**L301**

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BSc (Hons) Criminology and Sociology course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2026-27 academic year[5].

Course Summary

Criminology and Sociology have distinct histories, philosophies, priorities and rationales in the social sciences, but with important similarities in terms of theoretical models used and approaches to research. Criminology and Sociology at University of Suffolk is a 'rendezvous'

[1] For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2024)
[2] All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the Higher education credit framework for England.
[3] Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards.
[4] Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the Admissions Policy and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the University's DBS webpage.
[5] The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the Admissions Policy.

programme that incorporates insights, methods and priorities from not only Criminology and Sociology but also Psychology, Law, Social Policy and Philosophy. This interdisciplinary focus exposes you to a range of contemporary theoretical and empirical debates concerning crime, responses to criminal behaviour and pressing developments in domestic and global society. As a Criminology and Sociology student, you will be encouraged to develop good analytical and reasoning skills across the programme, engaging with diverse academic literature and evaluating a rich body of research and evidence that can shed light on the key challenges facing society, and how to overcome them

As a Criminology and Sociology student, you will be encouraged to critically engage with national and international dimensions of crime, justice and fairness. Strong emphasis is placed on challenging “common-sense‟ notions of crime, harm and injustice by critically examining research and making informed decisions based on available evidence. You will be introduced to varying research methods and ethical considerations, so you can challenge and understand the limits and ambiguities of research whilst assessing its value. This will provide an excellent theoretical and practical platform for completion of a third-year independent project in an area of personal or career interest.

Criminology and Sociology at University of Suffolk also places emphasis on the real world, seeking to develop the skills needed for careers across the private and public sectors. By examining such complex and challenging topics as inequality, violence, social change, globalisation, migration, and gender, you will become sensitive to the wider context of our lived experience and learn to look beyond a narrow focus on the individual in any situation. This attention to interdisciplinary context will allow you to make more informed and evidence-based decisions. Studying Criminology and Sociology will equip you with analytical, decision-making and research skills necessary for many vocations. This course will empower you to be innovative, ask awkward questions, and develop good teamwork skills. It is this combination that makes Criminology and Sociology graduates employable.

Course Aims

1. Provide you with a critical and interdisciplinary understanding of the key concepts, theories, and debates in Sociology and Criminology, enabling them to explore the complex relationships between individuals, social structures, crime, and justice.

2. Develop your ability to apply a range of research methods and analytical techniques to investigate social and criminological issues, fostering intellectual curiosity, methodological competence, and ethical awareness.

3. Cultivate your capacity for critical thinking, independent judgement, and evidence-based reasoning, enabling them to engage with contemporary social challenges and contribute to informed debate and policy development.

4. Enhance your communication, digital, and professional skills, including the ethical use of AI and data, preparing them to effectively convey complex ideas to diverse audiences and operate in a variety of professional contexts.

5. Support your personal and professional development, encouraging reflective practice, self-directed learning, and the acquisition of transferable skills necessary for graduate employment, further study, and active citizenship.

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Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BSc (Hons) Criminology and Sociology course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 4/5/6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)[6].

1. Demonstrate advanced and coherent knowledge of key theories, concepts, and approaches in both Sociology and Criminology, including social change, criminalisation, victimisation, and the social, legal, and cultural meanings of crime.

2. Critically analyse and evaluate social diversity, inequalities, and major social problems at local, national, and global levels, using interdisciplinary perspectives and ethical frameworks.

3. Apply appropriate methods of sociological and criminological enquiry, including qualitative, quantitative, comparative, and mixed methods, to design, conduct, and report research using primary and secondary sources.

4. Use scholarly research and credible data to develop compelling, evidence-based arguments, solve problems, and evaluate competing perspectives in both sociological and criminological contexts.

5. Critically assess and apply relevant analytical techniques and theoretical frameworks to initiate and conduct independent projects, demonstrating intellectual flexibility and methodological rigour.

6. Formulate and investigate sociologically and criminologically informed questions, making judgements based on critical evaluation of arguments, assumptions, and evidence.

7. Communicate information, ideas, and solutions effectively and professionally to both specialist and non-specialist audiences, using appropriate academic conventions and digital tools, including ethical use of AI.

8. Demonstrate self-awareness and employability skills, including independent learning, decision-making, ethical practice, and the ability to reflect on personal and professional development in preparation for graduate employment or further study.

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks:

- Criminology (2022)
- Sociology (2019)

Course Structure

The BSc (Hons) Criminology and Sociology comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6. Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

[6] As set out in the QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2024)

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

When selecting modules, students must ensure that their choices provide equal coverage of both subjects. Across Levels 5 and 6, students are required to complete 120 credits in each subject, with a minimum of 30 credits in each subject at each level.

	Module	Credits	Module Type[7]
Level 4			
	Sociological and Criminological Imagination	30	R
	Introduction to Criminology	30	R
	Migration, Ethnicity and Population	30	R
	Research Methods	15	R
	Media and Crime	15	R
Level 5			
	Social Theory	30	R
	Racialisation, Social Justice and Policy	30	O
	Punishment and Rehabilitation	30	O
	Criminal Justice	15	O
	Youth Crime and Justice	15	O
	Globalisation	15	O
	Green and Southern Criminology	15	O
	Technology and Artificial Intelligence	15	O
	Environment	15	O
	International Law and Human Rights	15	O
	Work Placement	15	O
	Drugs and Society	15	O
	Mental Health Policy and Practice	15	O
	Criminal Exploitation	15	O
	Organised and Corporate Crime	15	O
	Violence, Order and Freedom	15	O

[7] Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards

	Research Design, Analysis and Visualisation	30	R
	Individual Literature Paper (Recovery Module)	30	O
Level 6			
	Independent Project	30	M
	Gender and Sexuality	30	R
	Criminal Justice	15	O
	Youth Crime and Justice	15	O
	Globalisation	15	O
	Green and Southern Criminology	15	O
	Technology and Artificial Intelligence	15	O
	Environment	15	O
	International Law and Human Rights	15	O
	Work Placement	15	O
	Drugs and Society	15	O
	Mental Health Policy and Practice	15	O
	Criminal Exploitation	15	O
	Organised and Corporate Crime	15	O
	Violence, Order and Freedom	15	O
	Victimology and Victimisation	30	R
	Applied Studies (Recovery Module)	30	O

Optional modules available in any year will be communicated to you prior to your enrolment to facilitate module choice. Some optional modules may not run in every year of study, and the availability of optional modules depends on the level of student demand, the availability of specialist staff and timetabling constraints. In addition, we regularly review our curriculum to ensure it is up-to-date, relevant, draws on the latest research and addresses contemporary issues. As a result, the modules we offer may change over the course of your degree.

Optional recovery modules are only available in the exceptional circumstances where a student must retrieve credits to ensure progression or where a standard optional module cannot be delivered.

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BSc (Hons) Criminology and Sociology. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a BSc Criminology and Sociology on successful completion of 300 credits (including at least 180 credits at Level 5 or

above and at least 60 credits at Level 6); a DipHE Criminology and Sociology on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5; a CertHE Criminology and Sociology on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at level 4.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full-time on BSc (Hons) Criminology and Sociology are likely to have approximately 12 contact hours for level 4, 9 contact hours for level 5 and 9 contact hours for level 6. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, seminars, practical activities, tutorials, workshops and guided learning activities through the online learning environment. Students will normally be expected to undertake 28 hours of independent study in an average week but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

Course Costs

Students undertaking BSc (Hons) Criminology and Sociology will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK/EU	£9,790 per year
Full-time International	£15,900 per year

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy. Students are likely to incur other costs for essential reading materials amounting to approximately £240 per year.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the website.