FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

NEW/CHANGE PROGRAM REQUEST
Undergraduate Programs

UUPC Approval 3-30-26
UFS Approval _____
Banner _____
Catalog _____

Department School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

College Social Work and Criminal Justice

Program Name	☑ **New Program*** / ☐ **Change Program***	**Effective Date** *(TERM & YEAR)*
Criminal Law Minor		Fall 2026

Please explain the requested change(s) and offer rationale below or on an attachment.

Please see the attached documents, which includes the following:

1. Background and rationale for the proposed Criminal Law Minor (pages 2-4).
2. Proposed catalog language for the minor (pages 4-5).
3. Letters/emails of support from the Department of Philosophy and Department of Political Science (pages 6-7).
4. Links to syllabi (Simple Syllabus) for required and elective courses that are proposed for the minor (page 8).

*All new programs and changes to existing programs must be accompanied by a catalog entry showing the new or proposed changes.

Faculty Contact/Email/Phone	**Consult and list departments that may be affected by the change(s) and attach documentation**
Sigal Rubin, rubins@fau.edu, (321) 754-8112	Department of Philosophy and Department of Political Science

Approved by	***Date***
Department Chair Ryn Wales	1/14/26
College Curriculum Chair Sigal Rubin	1/14/2026
College Dean Maelys Luna	1/26/26
UUPC Chair Korey Sorge	3-30-26
Undergraduate Studies Dean Dan Mecroff	3-30-26
UFS President	
Provost	

Email this form and attachments to mjenning@fau.edu seven business days before the UUPC meeting.

New Minor Proposal

Criminal Law (to begin Fall 2026)

Contact

Sigal Rubin, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (SCCJ) Undergraduate Coordinator, rubins@fau.edu

Background

The SCCJ has offered electives entitled Issues in Criminal Law (CCJ 4931) and Judicial Administration and Criminal Courts (CJL 4510) for numerous years. Many students who speak with the SCCJ staff at Explore FAU, Choose FAU, and other recruitment events express interest in pursuing criminal law as part of their potential career paths. As such, the SCCJ is proposing a new Criminal Law minor for undergraduate students. The Criminal Law minor within the SCCJ is designed for students interested in pursuing a future career related to criminal law, particularly for those who desire to prepare for law school. Students with an interest in becoming criminal defense attorneys or prosecutors, paralegals, or who might seek to conduct law-related research will benefit greatly from an understanding of the basics of criminal law. The curriculum for the proposed Criminal Law minor can be found below on pages 4-5 in the section titled "Proposed Catalog Language for Criminal Law Minor."

Criminal Law Programs at other SUS Universities and Peer Institutions

Table 1 below displays a course catalog search ("Criminal Law Major," "Criminal Law Minor") among institutions with a college, school, or department of criminal justice and/or criminology. As can be seen, while some SUS universities have legal studies majors/minors or pre-law certificates, no SUS universities have Criminal Law as its own unique major or minor. Only one peer institution—East Carolina University—has a minor in Criminal Law and Legal Process. This will set FAU apart from other SUS universities and almost all peer institutions.

Table 1. Comparison of Undergraduate Criminal Law Major/Minor among SUS Universities and Peer Institutions

	No Criminal Law	Criminal Law Major/Minor	Other (related)*
State University System of Florida			
Florida A&M University	x		
Florida Gulf Coast University	x		Legal studies major and minor
Florida International University	x		Pre-law certificate
Florida Polytechnic University	x		
Florida State University	x		
New College of Florida	x		

**Note: Does not include Colleges of Law that offer JDs.*

Table 1. Continued

	No Criminal Law	Criminal Law Major/Minor	Other (related)*
University of Central Florida	x		Legal studies major
University of Florida	x		
University of North Florida	x		
University of South Florida	x		
University of West Florida	x		Legal studies pre-law major and minor
(Some) National & SACS Regional Peer Institutions			
East Carolina University		Minor in Criminal Law and Legal Process	
Georgia State University	x		
Old Dominion University	x		
Texas State University	x		
University of Memphis	x		
University of New Mexico	x		
University of North Carolina	x		
University of North Texas	x		

**Note: Does not include Colleges of Law that offer JDs.*

Additional Resources Needed to Offer the Minor

Minimal additional resources will be required of the university to run this minor, and **no additional funds from outside the College will be needed for this program.** The SCCJ has healthy and robust enrollment numbers and a pool of instructors and adjuncts who are already identified to teach within this minor. The SCCJ already offers Judicial Administration and Criminal Courts (CJL 4510) and Issues in Criminal Law (CCJ 4931), which we will be replacing with Criminal Law (CJL 4410), courses every semester. Criminal Law and the Constitution in Florida (CJL 4214) will be a new elective (paperwork is being submitted alongside, but separately from this proposal) and will be taught by an existing adjunct. This, however, will replace a duplicate section of a different elective course (taught by an adjunct)—making it net neutral to offer.

Summary

1. The interest of students has been overwhelming as seen through existing class offerings as well as potential students at recruiting events and student involvement in the FAU Mock

Trial Team.

2. Student enrollment within the existing criminal law-related course offerings is at peak capacity each semester.
3. A criminal law minor is not offered at any SUS universities in Florida and among only one peer institutions.

These facts collectively support the creation of a Criminal Law Minor to meet our students' needs and the growing needs of the criminal justice system. The SCCJ, therefore, seeks the Committee's approval for this new minor proposal.

Moving forward, the SCCJ would be greatly interested in exploring how we can work with interested Colleges to offer classes or perhaps create additional programs that would serve to develop the overall expertise of Florida Atlantic graduates.

Proposed Catalog Language for Criminal Law Minor

A minor in Criminal Law is open to all undergraduate students at Florida Atlantic University. The minor consists of 12 credit hours, of which at least 9 credits must be at the upper-division (3000–4000) level. At least 75 percent of the credits required for the minor must be completed at FAU. Students completing the minor must earn a minimum overall FAU grade point average of 2.0 in the coursework required for the minor. The minor includes nine required credits in Criminal Law and related coursework and three elective credits selected from approved law-related courses. Each course applied toward the minor must be completed with a minimum grade of "C."

Note: The CCJ and CJL courses taken to satisfy the requirements of the Criminal Law Minor cannot also be counted toward the requirements of the criminal justice major or minor.

Required Courses (3 courses; 9 credits)

For the Criminal Law Minor, students must complete all three courses listed below. Each course must be completed with a minimum grade of "C." Courses within the minor have no specific required path or order.

- CJL 4410 – Criminal Law (3 credits)
- CJL 4510 – Judicial Administration and Criminal Courts (3 credits)
- CJL 4214 – Criminal Law and the Constitution in Florida (3 credits)

Elective Course (1 course, 3 credits)

Students must complete one of the following courses. The course must be completed with a minimum grade of "C."

- CCJ 4361 – Death Penalty (3 credits)
- CCJ 4196 – Immigration and the Criminal Justice System (3 credits)
- CCJ 4293 – Drug Courts (3 credits)
- CCJ 4694 – Human Trafficking (3 credits)
- CCJ 4940 – Field Experience (Internship) – Must be related to criminal law (3 credits)
    - E.g., Internship at criminal defense attorney firm, office of public defender, state

attorney office, etc.

- CCJ 4934 – Special Topics (acceptable with approval from the SCCJ Undergraduate Program Coordinator when law-related) (3 credits)

    - E.g. Women in the Law, Criminal Procedure
- SOW 4141 – Family Violence (3 credits)
- SOW 4700 – Substance Use Disorders in Social Work (3 credits)
- SYP 3570 – Social Control and Deviance (3 credits)
- SYP 3530 – Adolescence and Delinquency (3 credits)
- POS 4606 – The United States Supreme Court (3 credits)
- POS 4603 – Constitutional Law: Government Power and Its Limits (3 credits)
- POS 4604 – Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties (3 credits)
- POS 3691 – Law and American Society (3 credits)
- POS 4931 – Special Topics (with approval when law-related)
- PHM 3400 – Philosophy of Law (3 credits)

Links to Syllabi for Required and Elective Courses

Required Courses

- CJL 4410 – Criminal Law
- CJL 4510 – Judicial Administration and Criminal Courts
- CJL 4214 – Criminal Law and the Constitution in Florida
    - *Note: Currently being offered as a special topics course.*

Elective Courses

- CCJ 4361 – Death Penalty
- CCJ 4196 – Immigration and the Criminal Justice System
- CCJ 4293 – Drug Courts
- CCJ 4694 – Human Trafficking
- CCJ 4940 – Field Experience (Internship)
- CCJ 4934 – Special Topics
    - E.g. Women in the Law, Criminal Procedure
- SOW 4141 – Family Violence
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- POS 4604 – Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties
- POS 3691 – Law and American Society
- POS 4931 – Special Topics (with approval when law-related)
- PHM 3400 – Philosophy of Law