



CRIM Communiqué



“The function of education is to teach one to think critically. Intelligence plus characters—that is the goal of true education.” ~Martin Luther King, Jr.

Welcome Back!

We hope your spring break revitalized you for the second half of the spring semester! Please take a few minutes to read this newsletter thoroughly. It includes important information regarding scheduling, advising information, and graduation. As always, feel free to contact an adviser if you have any questions. Scheduling is well underway, so begin planning **now!** Don't wait until the last minute to see an adviser-schedule your appointment today!

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ATTENTION:

Spring Advising Hours

Drop-in Advising Hours:

Monday & Wednesday 1:00-4:00 p.m.; Friday 9:00-11:00 a.m.

All other advising by Appointment ONLY

To schedule an appointment, please visit:

www.la.psu.edu/advising-appt/

*Finals week is reserved for emergency cases

Please note:

Please understand that advisers are unable to see students during appointment hours who DO NOT HAVE a scheduled appointment. Please respect your peers and your advisers by scheduling an appointment or coming during our regularly scheduled drop-in hours listed above. A quick question is something that should be addressed at drop-ins or via email. Advisers' time between appointments is spent entering contact reports, completing substitution requests, responding to student emails, committee and program planning, and other important administrative work.

Contacting your advisers

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www.sociology.psu.edu



Summer Advising Hours:

Remember when you went through summer freshmen orientation (now called New Student Orientation-NSO)? Part of our advising responsibilities in the summer includes afternoon NSO advising sessions. This means that we will have limited availability from the middle of May through the middle of July. We will be sending more information about our summer advising hours towards the end of the spring semester.

Scheduling an appointment versus dropping-in:

Drop-in advising is a great option if you have questions that can be answered in a relatively short amount of time. Appointments are meant for issues that you know will take longer than 10 or 15 minutes. Examples of topics that could be covered in an appointment include:

1. Change of major or concurrent major paperwork
2. Long-range planning
3. Study abroad plans
4. Major/career exploration
5. Class schedules for the upcoming semester
6. Other topics that you want to discuss in detail and would like a designated timeframe to do so

A few important points about scheduling an appointment:

- Appointments are made in 30 minute blocks.
- If you are assigned a specific adviser, you must schedule an appointment with that adviser.
- You can see any adviser during drop-in advising hours.

Information about Summer Courses

Transferring Courses from Other Institutions

Summer is often a convenient time for students to complete courses at an institution near their homes. If you're thinking about taking a summer course elsewhere, please take the following steps to make sure the class will transfer to Penn State:

- Go to: https://www.admissions.psu.edu/my_admissions/tas/.
- Follow the instructions.
- Print out the transfer evaluation form from the Admissions Web site for verification.

After you complete the course:

Have an official copy of your transcript from the college/university you attended sent directly to the Penn State Admissions Office. When Admissions receives the transcript, they will post the course(s) to your Penn State transcript.

Summer Scheduling

Are you thinking about taking a few credits this summer? Summer scheduling for all students began on February 3rd—so schedule now! Head to <http://schedule.psu.edu/search.cfm> for a full listing of summer courses.

Not sure if you can commit to a resident instruction course at University Park? You could consider taking courses through the World Campus or a Commonwealth campus. When viewing courses on the Schedule of Courses website, be sure to select "World Campus" or the appropriate Commonwealth campus to see what is offered.

Fall Scheduling

Fall scheduling has begun, so please review your audit and consider the degree requirements that you still need to satisfy. Below are a few scheduling tips to keep in mind:

- CRIM 250W is required for many of the 400 level CRIM courses.
- CRIM 250W must be scheduled and successfully completed before you are permitted to complete a departmental internship for credit.
- Strive for some balance in your schedule. In other words, don't load up on 400-level CRIM classes if you can help it.

Additional Note:

Courses within the CRIM major are designated "CRIM." Although you may see designations of "CRIMJ" listed on the audit, this is incorrect! Your audit may also incorrectly list CRIM 250W as CRIM 240W and CRIM 430 as CRIMJ230. The audit will be corrected, but it may take some time to do this. So in the meantime, remember to look for "CRIM" courses only.

As always, please feel free to contact your adviser about any scheduling concerns.

WITHDRAWALS

THOSE WHO ARE EXPERIENCING SIGNIFICANT DIFFICULTIES THIS SPRING MAY CONSIDER WITHDRAWING FOR THE SEMESTER. THE LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW FROM THE SPRING 2015 SEMESTER IS **FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2015**. AFTER THIS DATE, NO STUDENT WILL BE PERMITTED TO WITHDRAW. YOU CAN EASILY PROCESS A WITHDRAW USING ELION AT [HTTPS://ELION.PSU.EDU](https://elion.psu.edu), BUT IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED YOU TALK TO YOUR ASSIGNED ADVISER ABOUT YOUR PLANS FIRST.

LATE DROP DEADLINE

The deadline to late drop a course for this semester is **Friday, April 10, 2015 BEFORE midnight**. **This deadline is FIRM**. If late-dropping a class sounds like an option you want to consider, make an informed decision about it. Meet with your professor to accurately assess your progress in a course before you late-drop it. Discuss with your adviser the possible consequences of late-dropping a class, such as the amount of late drop credits available to you and how it may affect your full-time status (which can, in turn, affect your student aid and/or health insurance). If you determine that late-dropping a course is in your best interest, you can late-drop through eLion at <https://elion.psu.edu/> or at the Registrar's Office.

Internship Central

Summer Internship Information

If you haven't already contacted Amy Schmoeller (als63@psu.edu), the internship coordinator, about completing a summer internship, you will need to postpone your plans until the fall semester. For those students who have submitted their plan to Amy, the remaining deadline date for summer internships is as follows:

April 20 Placements should be finalized by this date. Email Amy Schmoeller with your internship site placement.

Funding is Available for Summer Internships

One of the goals of the Department of Sociology and Criminology is to involve undergraduates in internship opportunities. Accordingly, The College of the Liberal Arts and the department have modest funds to provide financial assistance to students who participate in internships. Preference for funding is given to students with demonstrated need and to students completing the internship for academic credit. If you're interested in applying for these enrichment funds, go to the Career Enrichment Network website at laus.la.psu.edu/network and click on Enrichment Funds to apply.

Fall Internship Information

If you're considering a fall internship, the internship dates are planned for **August 24–December 11, 2015**. The following are key deadline dates:

March 6 Indicate your intent to complete a Fall internship by this date by emailing Amy Schmoeller (als63@psu.edu) to let her know your plans.

May 25 Letters must be sent to three possible internship sites by this date. Send an email to Amy Schmoeller with the names of the three sites.

July 20 Placements should be finalized by this date. Send an email to Amy Schmoeller with your internship site placement. At that point you will receive instructions on how to proceed. Amy will also be in touch with your internship site supervisor with information and instructions about your internship duties and activities.

For more information about the internship process, take a look at this section of the departmental Web site: sociology.la.psu.edu/undergraduate/internships. Your advisers are available to discuss the internship process, how an internship fits into your academic plan, potential sites, and answer questions you have about internships.

Student Spotlight – Jessica Morrison

Internship: Claims Intern, Liberty Mutual Insurance

This past summer, I had the opportunity to intern at Liberty Mutual Insurance, at their office in Phoenix, Arizona. While I primarily worked in the Auto Physical Damage Claims department, I was also able to job shadow with adjusters in the Bodily Injury and Quality Assurance departments. I even sat in on an interview and went on a ride-along with the Special Investigative Unit, who are in charge investigating potentially fraudulent claims! Most of the work I did was with Independent Auto Appraisers. I assisted with the organization of independent damage appraisals in order to help Liberty Mutual customers from all across the United States with getting damage to their vehicles appraised as efficiently as possible.

My biggest long-term career goal is to investigate White Collar Crime. While my duties may not have been directly related to this, I was exposed to many different ways that Insurance Fraud is committed and investigated, as well as learning many skills that could apply to any investigation centered career. It was an incredibly rewarding experience, and I look forward to applying the knowledge from this internship to my future career.





Announcing the 2015 Criminology Student Marshal

Every year a Student Marshal is selected to represent all graduating seniors in Criminology during commencement. We are proud of all who were nominated and are pleased to announce that **Shannon Elias** has been selected to serve as the 2015 CRIM Student Marshal. Student Marshals must select a Faculty Marshal to accompany

them during commencement, and we're happy to announce that Kim has asked **Professor Jarl Ahlkvist** to take on this role. Part of the honor of a Student Marshal is recognition in the commencement bulletin and during the program, as well as attending a special reception held earlier that day.

After graduation, Shannon plans on becoming a paralegal for a year in a law firm. She then would like to enter law school the following year to fulfill her goal of becoming a prosecutor.

Congratulations, Shannon!!!



Get Involved

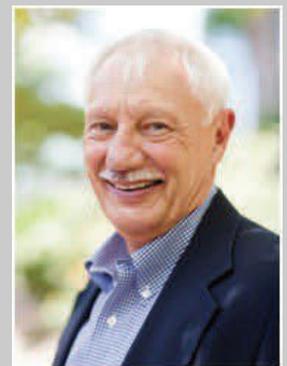
The Justice Association

The Justice Association is involved in many activities throughout the academic year, including hosting guest speakers, field trips, and community service opportunities. Guest speakers of various interests within the field of criminal justice give presentations during meetings. The areas of interest include: state/local law enforcement, various federal agencies, state and private law firms, corrections, and sociological research/academia. Examples of past guest speakers include a U.S. postal inspector, U.S. assistant attorney, state correctional institute assistant superintendent, and prison counselor, as well as special agents from NCIS, the FBI, and the CIA. The Justice Association takes part in fundraising for THON, and other community service opportunities, such as Big Brothers Big Sisters of Centre County and Centre County Youth Center (CCYC). Meetings are held each month in 203 Willard. The next meeting will be on April 13. Contact President Nickelle Highes (ndh5097@psu.edu), if you have any questions.

Happy Retirement John Kramer!

As I approach the end of my 42nd year at Penn State there are many wonderful memories, but the most exciting memory is seeing alumnae who years before sat in one of my classes who were unsure what lay ahead and who now have established their careers in the field. There are many such memories. Consequently, whenever I walked into a classroom over the past few years I see not just students, but young people who have many exciting and challenging paths ahead. That is why I always tell my students to "keep in contact" and ask them to remember the importance of internships and employment for later Penn State students. That so many alumnae have served as mentors and contacts for our students is a credit to our program and to the tremendous educational experience that Penn State provides.

I have been so fortunate that many years ago someone asked whether I would be interested in coming to Penn State. I had little inkling as to how much of a difference in my life that opportunity would provide. I became a part of an institution dedicated to building our knowledge base and educating wonderful undergraduate and graduate students. It has been an unbelievable career and I look forward to now spending time with my three grandchildren and testing my fishing and golfing skills.



Information for Graduating Seniors



Seniors, you're in the home stretch. The graduation ceremony for the College of the Liberal Arts is scheduled for **Saturday, May 9, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Bryce Jordan Center. If your family and friends ask about needing tickets to attend, please tell them that tickets are not required for the ceremony. However, we recommend you and your supporters arrive early to find your seats. Any last minute questions about the ceremony? Be sure to check this Web site: <http://commencement.psu.edu/future.html>.

Reception

You've worked hard, and it's time to acknowledge the end of your undergraduate career at Penn State and the beginning of the next phase in your lives. We'd like to celebrate with you and your families, so please plan to join us at our departmental reception before the graduation ceremony, on the lawn in front of the library; the time will be announced soon. Faculty and staff will be on hand to congratulate you and wish you well. Enjoy some food, fellowship, and fun before we head to the Bryce Jordan Center for the ceremony.

You're Invited!

What: Departmental Reception

Who: SOC and CRIM graduating seniors and their families

When: Saturday, May 9, 2015 - Time and location will be announced soon!

Hope to see you there!

August 2015 Graduation

If August is when you plan to graduate, please **activate your intent to graduate from May 11 - June 19, 2015**. Activating your intent to graduate is very simple and very important! If you don't activate your intent, we have no way of knowing that you're planning to graduate, and your audit will not be checked to make sure you have met all the requirements for graduation. Activate your intent to graduate as soon as the summer session starts via eLion at <https://elion.psu.edu/>. Summer commencement will be held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, **August 15, 2015**, in the Bryce Jordan Center.

*Remember if you have been approved to walk in May graduation, but are taking summer classes to finish requirements, this applies to you.

Important Semester Dates At-A-Glance

April 20	Finalize Summer 2015 internship site
April 10	Late drop deadline Last day for graduating seniors to declare a minor
May 1	Withdrawal deadline Classes end
May 4-8	Final exams
May 9	Spring commencement



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