

BreAna J. Bell-Freeman

Fall 2025

Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice
University of Maryland - Lefrak Hall
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Education

- Present **M.A. in Criminology & Criminal Justice**, University of Maryland, College Park (Expected: Spring 2026)
Relevant Coursework: Seminar on Qualitative Analysis; Fundamentals for Criminological Research; Advanced Statistics - Limited Dependent Variables; Research Methods
- 2022 **B.A. in Criminology & Criminal Justice**, University of Maryland, College Park
Minor: Law & Society
Relevant Coursework: Seminar on Offender Re-Entry; Race, Crime, & Criminal Justice; Criminal Justice Research Methods; Law & Legal Institutions; Corrections; Marijuana, Law, & Society

Research Interest

Race; Systemic Community Inequality; Disinvestment of Marginalized Neighborhoods; Mixed Methods; Participatory Action Research

Awards & Honors

- 2020 - 21, -24, -25 **State Delegate & Senatorial Scholarship**
- 2021 - 22 **Dean's List**

Research Experience

- 2024 - 2025 **Baybrook Violence Reduction Plan Implementation and Expansion**
Project Goal: Assess the overall impact of the violence reduction program by analyzing changes in objective measures of disorder and changes in perceptions of safety.
Lead: Dr. Lauren Porter
Role: Research Assistant - Conduct systematic self-observations (SSOs) of high-risk areas in Baybrook and its surrounding areas for further analysis. Recording pre-treatment observations that display public safety perceptions (e.g., needles, trash, broken windows, etc.).
- 2024 - 2025 **Evaluation of the Baybrook Community-Based Group Violence Intervention Program**
Project Goal: Reduce violence, provide resources to high-risk individuals, and reduce recidivism of those who utilize suggested resources.
Lead: Dr. Bianca Bersani
Role: Research Assistant - Conduct a literature review to decide the best course of action for follow-up interviews of high-needs youth in the Baybrook community.

Professional Experience

- 2024 - Present **Maryland Crime Research and Innovation Center - Baltimore Police Department**
Role: Embedded Analyst in the Policy & Research Unit - Provide analytical support to the unit by cleaning qualitative and quantitative administrative data. Extract and analyze data to align with the U.S. Department of Justice compliance and meet project deadlines. Produce reader-friendly graphs and visuals for monthly and annual publicly accessed reports.
- 2022 - 24 **Maryland General Assembly - Delegate Nicole Williams**
Role: Chief of Staff - Analyze relevant data from state agencies, elected officials, external state legislation, and case law to strengthen the Delegate's legislation and testimony. Work alongside organizations and elected officials to ensure the legislative effectiveness of each proposed policy.
- 2021 - 22 **Department of Justice**
Role: Pathways Student Trainee - Assist attorneys with deposition preparation by organizing and analyzing case-related information. Coordinate with attorneys to assemble, close, and send litigation case files to governmental agencies. Perform classified research on individuals of interest by collaborating with IRS agents and collecting information from the LexisNexis database to assist attorneys with active civil cases.

Skills

- Qualitative Dedoose (proficient), NVivo (beginner)
- Quantitative ArcGIS (intermediate), R (proficient), Stata (beginner)
- Other Adobe Acrobat (proficient), Canva (expert), Google Workspace (expert), LexisNexis (proficient), Microsoft Office (expert), IAPro (beginner)

Professional Involvement

- 2025 - Present **Maryland Population Research Center**
Role: Student Research Affiliate
- 2025 - Present **American Society of Criminology**
Role: Student Member
- 2018 - 2020 **Temple University Student Power Network**
Role: Community Liaison/Social Media Coordinator