

# BreAna J. Bell-Freeman

Spring 2026

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)  
Thesis: Missed School & Neighborhood Adversity: Examining How Neighborhood Concentrated Disadvantage Predicts Student Absences
- ❖ Committee Chair: Dr. Wade Jacobsen, Associate Professor & Director of Graduate Studies
  - ❖ Committee Members: Dr. Robert Brame, Professor; Dr. Maria Velez, Associate Professor
- 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. Record pre-treatment observations indicating public safety concerns (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 - Analyze relevant literature 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      **American Society of Criminology**  
Role: Student Member
- 2025 - Present      **Graduate Council**  
Role: Student Representative
- 2025 - Present      **Maryland Population Research Center**  
Role: Student Research Affiliate
- 2018 - 2020        **Temple University Student Power Network**  
Role: Community Liaison/Social Media Coordinator