

BreAna J. Dunn

Summer 2026

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

- 2026 **M.A. in Criminology & Criminal Justice**, University of Maryland, College Park
(Expected: Summer 2026)
Thesis: The Hidden Cost of Geographic Disparity: Examining the Link Between
Concentrated Disadvantage and Student Absences
- ❖ Committee Chair: Dr. Wade Jacobsen, Associate Professor & Director of
Graduate Studies
 - ❖ Committee Members: Dr. Robert Brame, Professor; Dr. Maria Velez, Associate
Professor
- 2022 **B.A. in Criminology & Criminal Justice**, University of Maryland, College Park
Minor: Law & Society

Research Interest

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

Awards & Honors

- 2020 - 21, 24 - 26 **Senatorial Scholarship**
2021 - 22 **Dean's List**

Fellowships

- 2027 - 2029 **Dean's Fellowship**

Research Experience

- 2024 - 25 **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 - 25 **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 - 26 **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.

Conference Presentations

- 2026 “Missed School and Neighborhood Adversity: Examining How Neighborhood Concentrated Disadvantage Predicts Student Absences,” *Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences*, Washington, DC.

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

- 2026 - Present **Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences**
Role: Student Member
- 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 - 20

Temple University Student Power Network

Role: Community Liaison/Social Media Coordinator