



UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND

CCJS 332 Major Transitions: From Undergraduate to Professional

Fall 2026

LeFrak Hall, Room 1220

Wednesdays 1:00PM – 1:50PM

Instructor: Shannon Sibel

Email: ssibel@umd.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

Office: 2164 LeFrak Hall

Telephone: (301) 405-8094

Course Description:

CCJS 332 is a one-credit course designed to assist Criminology and Criminal Justice majors explore and prepare for entering graduate school and/or the professional work world. Topics covered in the course include graduate school, law school, and careers in federal, state, and local agencies.

Additionally 332 will incorporate job preparation skills including writing a resume, creating a cover letter, and preparing for an interview.

Course Prerequisites:

CCJS major; Sophomore, Junior or Senior standing

Learning Objectives:

In the course of this class, students will:

1. Identify strengths, interests, and professional development goals.
2. Develop a high-quality resume and cover letter.
3. Practice and refine interview skills.
4. Practice and refine professional communication and networking skills.
5. Identify career paths related to the CCJS major.

Course Text:

No textbook required

Email Policy:

The University has decided that your official email to be used in all classes is your TERPMAIL email. Therefore, all of our communication must be through your TERPMAIL email account.

Inclusive Learning Environment:

Students should be respectful of their fellow peers and the instructors and at all times feel comfortable and safe in the classroom environment. A diverse exchange of ideas is an integral part of the learning process and is essential to intellectual growth. The classroom should be a space where diverse opinions are exchanged in a non-threatening and respectful manner. No student should ever be made to feel marginalized in the classroom. If at any time you feel uncomfortable or offended with something that is said or presented in the classroom, please notify the instructor immediately. Furthermore, UMD's official policy recognizes that name and gender identity are central to most individuals' sense of self and well-being, and it is important to establish mechanisms to acknowledge and support individuals' self-identification. To this end, we ask that students honor the name and pronouns that each of us go by.

Course Expectations:**1. Mask Policy**

I will follow and enforce the official University mask policy. The official University mask policy is available on the [UMD Covid-19 website](#).

2. Attendance

CCJS 332 meets once per week for the duration of the semester and students are expected to attend every class session. Additionally, timeliness to class is expected. The university recognizes legitimate circumstances for missing a class, which include: documented illness (self or dependent) with a doctor's note; religious observance; participation in University activities at the request of University authorities; death in the immediate family; required court appearances; and compelling circumstances beyond a student's control. Campus Senate policy requires students who are absent due to illness/injury to furnish documentary support to the instructor. I require students to contact me by email before class indicating they are ill or injured. Students must provide written documentation verifying their illness/injury immediately upon their return to class. Students will not be allowed to turn in missed assignments or make up course work if you have not provided this documentation.

Documentation not presented in a timely manner will not be accepted. Additionally, if it is found that a student has falsified the documentation provided, I will refer the student to the University's Student Conduct Office.

3. Assignments

In addition to attending class, students are expected to successfully complete several assignments. Each assignment is worth a specified amount of points; students will be awarded points based on whether or not the work followed listed guidelines and is of high quality. Assignments for the PSYC123 course cannot be used to fulfill assignments for CCJS332. Students using assignments from PSYC123 to fulfill assignments for CCJS332, will receive a

zero on the assignment in CCJS332 and will be referred to the Honor Council for Self Plagiarism.

There is a strict policy regarding late assignments. All assignments are due at the very beginning of class. An assignment turned in more than **ten** minutes after the beginning of class is considered late and will lose credit. Assignments are considered Major Scheduled Graded Events and therefore the University medical excuse policy, which allows a student a signed honor statement attesting to illness, does not apply to them.

All assignments, unless otherwise stated, must be typewritten with the following guidelines:

- Font size: 12 point font maximum
- Font type: Times New Roman
- Spacing: Double Space
- Margins: 1 inch margins on top, bottom and sides
- Grammar, spelling, and presentation will be factors in the grading of assignments

4. Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty of any form will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty encompasses the traditional behavior such as cheating on exams and assignments, giving false statements, etc., but also includes activities such as possessing and/or reviewing previous semester's papers. The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized code of academic integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. The code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student, you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for students to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit the [undergraduate catalog](#).

5. Classroom Code of Conduct

Students are expected to treat each other with respect. Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. Students who are unable to show civility toward one another, guest lecturers, or us will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct or to campus police. Students are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct.

The success of this course is hinged on, not only my ability to communicate ideas and concepts, but also my ability to create an environment conducive to learning. Disruptive behaviors make sustaining a learning-conducive environment impossible and cheat students out of opportunities to learn. The University of Maryland's Code of Academic Integrity defines classroom disruption as "behavior a reasonable person would view as substantially or repeatedly interfering with the conduct of a class." Disruptive behaviors include, but are not limited to: the use of cell/smart phones, text messaging, side conversations, use of personal computers for reasons outside of taking notes (email, internet surfing, messaging, etc.),

leaving class early, coming into class late, reading outside materials, making loud or distracting noises, and sleeping. Please note the following:

- Students can use their personal computers to take class notes. If a student is found to be using a personal technology device in any way that is not related to taking class notes, the student will lose the privilege of using a personal technology device for the duration of the semester
- Cell/smart phones are not to be used in any capacity during class time. Cell/smart phones are to be turned off or silenced while in class

We are fortunate to have a number of speakers from professional fields who will address the class. It is expected that students will treat each guest with courtesy and ask appropriate questions. We ask two things of students when a guest is addressing the class:

1. Please do not engage in overtly disruptive behaviors (leaving early, texting, sleeping, etc.)
2. Please be responsive; this is your time to ask questions and network

Additional Classroom Policies:

1. University Course Related Policies

Here is a link to the University of Maryland [policies for undergraduate students](#).

2. Religious Observances:

Students will not be penalized for participation in religious observances. If students are unable to attend lecture or submit an assignment due to religious observance, students must inform me by **Monday, September 14, 2026**. Accommodations will be made regarding attendance and assignments for students who have informed us of religious observances before the end of schedule adjustment.

3. Disability Support

I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Accessibility & Disability Services Office (ADS) and provide us with a University of Maryland ADS Accommodation form, which has been updated for the Fall 2024 semester. This form must be presented to me no later than **Monday, September 14, 2026**. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with ADS or who do not provide me with documentation, which has been reviewed by ADS.

4. Course Evaluations

Student feedback about this course is very important to both the CCJS department and myself. Please complete the online evaluation towards the end of the semester. The course evaluation system will be open for students to complete their evaluations for Fall 2025 courses in November.

5. Canvas

I will use Canvas to post the syllabus, grades, handouts, and other material. Please visit <http://elms.umd.edu> and log in with your Directory ID and password to use this feature.

Course Schedule:

The course schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

Class 1 - Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Lecture topic: Constructing a resume

Class 2 - Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Lecture topic: Constructing a resume – Peer Review

Assignments: Due: Introductory Discussion Post
Due: First draft of resume (draft 1)

Class 3 - Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Lecture topic: Networking

Class 4 - Wednesday, September 23, 2026

Lecture topic: Presenting yourself professionally

Assignments: Due: Resume Feedback Meeting
Due: Final draft of resume (draft 2)

Class 5 - Wednesday, September 30, 2026

Lecture topic: Careers in Criminology and Criminal Justice

Guest Speaker: TBD

Assignments: Due: Speaker feedback form 1 (completed in class)

Class 6 - Wednesday, October 7, 2026 – Asynchronous

Lecture topic: Assessing Your Interests, Values, Personality & Workplace Preferences with PathwayU

Assignments: Due: PathwayU Assignment
(Available Monday, October 5 to Friday, October 9)

Class 7 - Wednesday, October 14, 2026

Lecture topic: Law School
Guest Speaker: UMD Pre-Law Advising
Assignments: Due: Speaker feedback form 2 (completed in class)

Class 8 - Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Lecture topic: Careers in Criminology and Criminal Justice
Guest Speaker: TBD
Assignments: Due: Speaker feedback form 3 (completed in class)

Class 9 - Wednesday, October 28, 2026 – Asynchronous

Lecture topic: Salary Negotiation: Articulating Your Value
Assignments: Due: Salary Negotiation Module
(Available Monday, October 26 to Friday, October 30)

Class 10 - Wednesday, November 4, 2026

Lecture topic: Hiring Manager Activity
Guest Speaker: Liza Lebrun, Feller Center
Assignments: Due: Speaker feedback form 4 (completed in class)

Class 11 - Wednesday, November 11, 2026

Lecture topic: Cover Letters
Assignments: Due: First draft of cover letter (draft 1)

Class 12 - Wednesday, November 18, 2026

Lecture topic: Careers in Criminology and Criminal Justice
Guest Speaker: Stephanie D'Amato, U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services
Office of the District of Maryland
Assignments: Due: Speaker feedback form 5 (completed in class)
Due: Virtual mock interview assignment

Class 13 - Wednesday, November 25, 2026

No Class – Thanksgiving Break

Class 13 - Wednesday, December 2, 2026

Lecture topic: Careers in Criminology and Criminal Justice

Guest Speaker: TBD

Assignments: Due: Speaker feedback form 6 (completed in class)

Due: Cover Letter Feedback Meeting

Due: Final draft of cover letter (draft 2)

Class 14 - Wednesday, December 9, 2026

Lecture topic: Careers in Criminology and Criminal Justice

Guest Speaker: TBD

Assignments: Due: Speaker feedback form 7 (completed in class)

Due: Informational Interview Assignment

Due: Career Center Event

Important Dates:

September 14: End of schedule adjustment

September 29: Justice & Advocacy Networking Night

October 2: University Career Center Fall Career & Internship Fair

October 12-13: Fall Break

November 11: Last day to drop a class with a "W"

December 11: Last day of classes

December 12: Reading day

December 14-21: Final exams

Grading:

Assignments	Points Available
Introductory Discussion Post	15
Resume	50
Cover Letter	50
Mock Interview and Critique	50
Informational Interview Assignment	50
Attend Career Center Event (1 event)	50
In Class Assignments (9 assignments)	135
Total Points Available	400

Final Grades:

400-387 points	A+	C+	319-307
386-374	A	C	306-294
373-360	A-	C-	293-280
359-346	B+	D+	279-267
345-333	B	D	266-254
332-320	B-	D-	253-240
		F	239-0

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