

# Open University of Mauritius

## BSc (Hons) Criminology [OUbs021]

### 1. Objective and Rationale

The aim of this program is to enable the learners to earn a high level, specialist qualification, while also acquiring a skill set and expertise that could benefit any individual. In this program, learners will acquire the basic tenets of Criminology. This will prepare them for careers as criminologists or positions in the police service, correctional services, NGOs and the legal system.

### 2. General Entry Requirements

- I. **EITHER** "Credit" in at least three subjects at School Certificate or General Certificate of Education O-Level or equivalent and "Pass" in at least two subjects at Higher School Certificate or General Certificate of Education Advanced Level or equivalent;
- II. **OR** An appropriate equivalent Diploma/Certificate/Foundation Course approved by The Open University of Mauritius.
- III. Learners who do not qualify under options I and II may register for Foundation Courses offered by The Open University of Mauritius. Those who complete the Foundation Courses successfully will be eligible for registration for the relevant degree programmes.
- IV. **OR** Qualifications awarded by other universities and institutions, which have been approved by the Open University of Mauritius as satisfying the minimum requirements for admission.
- V. Mature candidates having a strong background of work experience and uncertified learning may be assessed for entry to programmes through the Accreditation of Prior learning (APL) and the Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL). Please consult the General Rules and Regulations of the Open University of Mauritius for further details.

### 3. Programme Requirements

As per general entry requirements.

**4. Minimum Requirements for Awards****Degree Award**

For the award of the degree, all modules of the programme, including work placement, must be completed. Except for the work placement module, every module carries 4 credits except the dissertation carries 6 credits.

**5. Programme Duration**

	<b>Normal</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
Diploma:	2 years	3 years
Degree:	3 years	6 years

**6. Credits per Year:** Maximum 42 credits and minimum 18 credits.

**7. Minimum Credits Required for Degree Award:** 116

**8. Assessment**

Each module will be assessed over 100 marks (i.e. expressed as %) with details as follows (unless otherwise specified) :

Assessment will be based on a written examination of 3 hours duration which would account for 70% of the final module grade and continuous assessment would account for 30% of the final module grade. The continuous assessment would include a compulsory class test. For a learner to pass a module, an overall total of 40% for combined continuous assessment and written examination components would be required without minimum thresholds within the individual continuous assessment and written examination.

Written examinations for all modules, whether taught in semester 1 or in semester 2 or both, will be carried out at the end of the semester (unless otherwise stated).

**9. Grading**

<b>Marks (x) %</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Grade Point</b>
$x \geq 70$	Excellent	A	5
$60 \leq x < 70$	Very Good	B	4
$50 \leq x < 60$	Good	C	3
$45 \leq x < 50$	Satisfactory	D	2
$40 \leq x < 45$	Pass	E	1
$x < 40$	Ungraded	U	0

**10. Award****BSc (Hons) Criminology with**

1 <sup>st</sup> Class with Honours	CPA $\geq$ 70
2 <sup>nd</sup> Class 1 <sup>st</sup> Division with Honours	60 $\leq$ CPA < 70
2 <sup>nd</sup> Class 2 <sup>nd</sup> Division with Honours	50 $\leq$ CPA < 60
3 <sup>rd</sup> Class	45 $\leq$ CPA < 50
Pass	40 $\leq$ CPA < 45
No Award	CPA < 40

If CPA < 40, the learner will have to repeat the entire academic year, and retake the modules as and when offered. However, s/he will not be required, if s/he wishes, to retake module(s) for which Grade C or above has been obtained. Learners are allowed to repeat twice once over the entire duration of the Programme of Studies. No award is made if CPA < 40.

**11. Programme Plan**

<b>YEAR 1</b>		
<b>SEMESTER I</b>		
<b>Code</b>	<b>Module Name</b>	<b>Credits</b>
Oubs021111	Introduction to Criminology	4
Oubs021112	Victims and Reduction of Crime	4
Oubs021113	Fundamental Penology	4
Oubs021114	Psychology in Society	4
Oubs021115	IT Essentials	4
<b>SEMESTER II</b>		
Oubs021121	Reaction to crime	4
Oubs021122	Psychological Processes in Work Context	4
Oubs021123	Quantitative methods for Business	4
Oubs021124	Introduction to Mauritian Legal System	4
Oubs021125	Ethical Information and Communication Technologies for Development Solutions	4
<b>YEAR 2</b>		
<b>SEMESTER I</b>		
Oubs021211	Crime Risk Perspectives	4
Oubs021212	Principles of Crime Prevention, Reduction and Control	4
Oubs021213	Dealing with Juvenile Delinquency	4

OUBs021214	Child and Youth Misbehaviour	4
OUBs021215	Introduction to Correctional Management	4

**SEMESTER II**

OUBs021221	Research Methods in Criminology	4
OUBs021222	Personality Theories	4
OUBs021223	Community Psychology: Re-imagining Community	4
OUBs021224	Forensic Psychology	4
OUBs021224	Explanation of Crime	4

**YEAR 3****SEMESTER I**

OUBs021311	Crime Typologies	4
OUBs021312	Formal Reaction to Crime	4
OUBs021313	Social dynamics in a Correctional Centre	4
OUBs021314	Victimology	4
OUBs021315	Dissertation	8

**SEMESTER II**

OUBs021321	Correctional Services Management I	4
OUBs021322	Contemporary Criminological Issues	4
OUBs021323	Evidence: Presentation and Assessment of Evidence	4
OUBs021324	Dissertation	8

**OUBs021111 - Introduction to Criminology**

The purpose of this module is for students to gain knowledge, problem solving skills and competencies about crime, offenders and criminal behaviour. The object of this course is to accompany and guide learners as they acquire knowledge and understanding of the phenomenon being studied; as they form attitudes and values, and as they acquire general and specific skills. In order to expand learners' idea of criminology, this module helps them to become more closely acquainted with the field of study and the schools of thought in criminology, the crime problem, offenders (the people in the crime situation) and the criminal behaviour (causes and explanations).

UNIT 1: What is criminology?

UNIT 2: Crime in Context

UNIT 3: Individuals in the crime situation

UNIT 4: Explanation of criminal behaviour

### **OUBs021112 - Victims and Reduction of Crime**

The objective of this course is to accompany and guide you as you acquire knowledge and understanding as well as problem-solving skills related to crime victims and reducing crime.

UNIT 1: General Introduction To Victims Of Crime

UNIT 2: Victim Vulnerability, Specific Categories Of Victims And Victim Empowerment

UNIT 3: Crime Prevention And Reduction

### **OUBs021113 - Fundamental Penology**

This module is intended to provide scientific knowledge of certain aspects of fundamental penology. Its contents form part of fundamental penology and its aim stems from the chief aim of the Penology course, which is to provide with a scientific knowledge of the phenomenon of “punishment”.

UNIT 1: Social control and crime

UNIT 2: The concept of punishment

UNIT 3: Penal objectives: revenge and retribution

UNIT 4: Deterrence as a penal objective

UNIT 5: Protection as a penal objective

UNIT 6: Rehabilitation as a penal objective

UNIT 7: Various approaches to crime prevention

UNIT 8: Crime prevention through punishment

### **OUBs021114 - Psychology in Society**

Students who complete the module can demonstrate introductory knowledge about a variety of topics from the intrapersonal and health domains of Psychology, and assess the acquisition, presentation and application of psychological knowledge for selected purposes. The knowledge, skills and values required for successful completion of the module are fundamental to further studies in Psychology. The course material will enable the students to: demonstrate a critical understanding of interpersonal, group and societal psychology, demonstrate a critical understanding of the acquisition of psychological knowledge, demonstrate a critical

understanding of the presentation of information and to demonstrate a critical understanding of the application of psychological knowledge.

### **OUBs021115 - IT Essentials**

Module Aim: The module provides an introduction to information technology, computers, and computer networks and their application. Learners will also learn how communications systems can help boost productivity.

- UNIT 1: IT and Computers
- UNIT 2: Stepping in the Computer
- UNIT 3: Input and Output Devices
- UNIT 4: Secondary Storage
- UNIT 5: Systems Software
- UNIT 6: Systems Development
- UNIT 7: Computer Networks
- UNIT 8: Issues and Trends in IT

### **Semester 2**

#### **OUBs021121 - Reaction to crime**

In this module, students will look at a practical and functional, or pragmatic, approach to the objectives of criminology and shows that the subject has important social relevance and therefore interfaces with or takes account of a community that demands services. It will provide a better understanding of the way society reacts to crime and the adjudication of crimes. Secondly, by providing guidelines to assist in solving problems within the criminal justice environment, learners will be equipped to apply the information supplied in this guide in everyday life and/or the criminal justice system.

- UNIT 1: The Informal Response to Crime
- UNIT 2: The Criminologist's Interest in Certain Aspects of the Law
- UNIT 3: The Composition and Purpose of the Criminal Justice System
- UNIT 4: The Role of the Criminal Justice System

#### **OUBs021122 - Psychological Process in Work Context**

The module provides an introduction to industrial and organisational psychology. It includes information of general psychology processes and social psychology, which will enhance the study of industrial and organisational psychology in future years of study. General psychological processes involve different factors that play a part in every individual's behaviour. Social behavioural processes involve the individual in interaction with other people and with society. General psychological processes and social processes play a part in the behaviour and adjustment of the individual in general and in the work situation. The work situation is not necessarily distinguishable from the individual's other life situations, because different life roles are interwoven.

UNIT 1: Introduction: Schools of thought in Psychology, and Industrial and Organisational Psychology

UNIT 2: Individual behavioural processes

UNIT 3: Social behaviour and processes

### **OUBs021123 - Quantitative methods for Business**

Module Aim: The objective of this module is to help learners to understand issues in the collection and analysis of quantitative data for supporting management decision making. Learners will learn how to apply a range of basic statistical methods which are relevant to managerial decisions.

UNIT 1: Quantitative methods, numbers and business

UNIT 2: Frequency distribution – Summary measures. Probability & probability distributions

UNIT 3: Measures of location and spread

UNIT 4: Introduction to Statistical inference: Sampling distributions; source, types and arrangement of data Uses of quantitative and qualitative data

UNIT 5: Correlation analysis

UNIT 6: Simple linear regression analysis

UNIT 7: Time series analysis of data

### **OUBs021124 - Introduction to Mauritian Legal System**

This module will teach learners about the basics principles of law and the criminal justice system. It will provide an overview of existing laws and their applications.

## **OUBs021125 - Ethical Information and Communication Technologies for Development Solutions**

Students who successfully complete this module will be able to present critical arguments around ICTs for development, while appreciating ethical dimensions within an information society in relation to copyright and intellectual property rights, privacy, conduct and expectations. In addition, successful students will be able to demonstrate their ability to maintain efficient, organised and secure electronic working environments by managing digital files, systems and application software, as well as capabilities related to engaging with textual and numerical data to present information in various formats.

### **Second Level**

#### **Semester 1**

### **OUBs021211 - Crime Risk Perspectives**

The purpose of this module is for students to gain knowledge, problem solving skills and competencies about crime risk perspectives.

UNIT 1: Universal factors that increase the risk of crime and victimisation

UNIT 2: Implications of illegal substance abuse

UNIT 3: Community safeguarding and security

### **OUBs021212 - Principles of Crime Prevention, Reduction and Control**

After completing this module, students will comprehend the evolution, development and application of approaches, models and structures in the commission and prevention of crime.

UNIT 1: The evolution, Development and Application of crime prevention approaches, models and structures.

UNIT 2: The role of the National crime prevention strategy in the successful prevention of crime.

UNIT 3: Role players in the criminal justice system: The Police Service and Correctional services.

UNIT 4: The role, function and jurisdiction of criminal courts

UNIT 5: The role of traffic control as a component of the criminal justice system

UNIT 6: Community Management of high risk offenders

### **OUBs021213 - Dealing with Juvenile Delinquency**

The purpose of this module is for students to gain knowledge, problem solving skills and competencies about juvenile justice. After completing this module, learners should be able to:-

- Understand the philosophical cornerstones in juvenile justice.



- Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the development of juvenile justice.
- Demonstrate systematic knowledge and insight into policy developments and law reform regarding juveniles accused of crime.
- Demonstrate systematic knowledge and insight into various official and unofficial options relating to the disposition of youthful offenders

UNIT 1: The history and development of juvenile justice

UNIT2 : The development of child justice legislation in Mauritius

UNIT 3: Child justice legislation in Mauritius

UNIT 4: Criminal capacity and liability of young offenders

UNIT 5: Pre-trial procedures and pre-trial detention in terms of the child justice act

UNIT 6: Assessment of juvenile offenders

UNIT 7: Diversion

### **OUs021214 - Child and Youth Misbehaviour**

The purpose of this module is for students to gain sufficient knowledge on matters of risk, pertinent issues, prevention and policy pertaining to youth offending and to apply this acquired knowledge in practice to contribute to the intervention and control of young lawbreakers.

UNIT 1: The Nature and Extent of Child and Youth misbehaviour

UNIT 2: Crimogenic factors for juvenile offenders

UNIT 3: The prevention and control of youth misbehaviour.

### **OUs021215 - Introduction to Correctional Management**

Module Aim: Learners who complete this module should be able to explain the nature/type/origins/sources/management of conflict in a correctional environment, apply motivational techniques and strategies in the correctional environment and explain sexual harassment as a phenomenon in a correctional environment between different role players. Learners should also be able to explain the management of safety and security information of inmates with regard to different functions and events in a correctional environment, manage health and safety, accommodation and discipline and punishment in a correctional environment and the management of the movement and control of people in corrections.

UNIT 1: Conflict management

UNIT 2: Motivating people

UNIT 3: Sexual harassment

UNIT 4: Management of security information (inmates), and safety of inmates and staff

UNIT 5: Management of health and safety, accommodation, discipline and punishment

UNIT 6: Movement control

## **Semester 2**

### **OUBs021221 - Research Methods in Criminology**

The purpose of this module is to introduce learners to research methodology in criminology. The main focus is to familiarise them with the different methods and techniques applied in research, as well as the different approaches that are utilised specifically in the study field of criminology. This module will equip students with the knowledge that is needed to understand the research process and to be able to plan a research project in criminology.

UNIT 1: Introduction to Research

UNIT 2: Research in Criminology

UNIT 3: The Role Of Criminological Theory In Research

UNIT 4: Planning of Research

UNIT 5: Quantitative and Qualitative Research

UNIT 6: How To Write A Scientific Report

UNIT 7: Research Ethics

### **OUBs021222 - Personality Theories**

This aim of this module is to introduce the learner to selected personality theories and to equip learners with knowledge in order to interpret and explain everyday human behaviour in terms of a given personality theory.

UNIT 1: Personology and historical overview of psychological thinking

UNIT 2: The psychoanalytical theory of Sigmund Freud

UNIT 3: The social cognitive learning approach

UNIT 4: The self-actualisation theory of Abraham Maslow

UNIT 5: The self-concept theory of Carl Rogers

UNIT 6: The existential theory of Viktor Frankl

UNIT 7: African perspectives.

### **OUBs021223 - Community Psychology: Re-imagining Community**

This aim of this module is to provide critical, social constructionist, participatory, and liberatory perspectives on community psychology and give a broad introduction to community psychology, power and social formations.

UNIT 1: Stories about self in communities

UNIT 2: Families, culture and history: Stories about selves in community

UNIT 3: Where am I now? Making and mapping community

UNIT 4: Community Psychology

UNIT 5: Celebrate Community

### **OUBs021224 - Forensic Psychology**

Learners are expected to be able to do the following: demonstrate basic competencies in the theory and practice of forensic psychology.

UNIT 1: Introduction to Forensic Industry

UNIT 2: Forensic context

UNIT 3: Forensic Assessment

UNIT 4: Practicing Ethical Forensic Psychology

UNIT 5: Forensic Psychology in Criminal cases

UNIT 6: Personal Injury claim

UNIT 7: Assessment for competency: Custody and Curatorship

UNIT 8: Assessment for compensation

UNIT 9: Human Development and abnormal psychology

UNIT 10: Understanding the psychological functioning of the brain

UNIT 11: Personnel psychology

### **OUBs021224 - Explanation of Crime**

This module will focus on certain local and national concerns about crime.

UNIT 1: The Rational Actor Model

UNIT 2: The Predestined Actor Model

UNIT 3: Social Positivism: Structure Theories

UNIT 4: Social Positivism: Process Theories

UNIT 5: The Victimised Actor Model

### **Third Level**

#### **Semester 1**

### **OUBs021311 - Crime Typologies**

The purpose of this module is for students to gain comprehensive knowledge and problem solving skills concerning the various typologies of crime including their nature and extent.

UNIT 1: Crime Taxonomy

UNIT 2: Organised Crime

UNIT 3: Conservation Crime

UNIT 4: White-Collar Crime

UNIT 5: Public Order and Victimless Crime

### **OUBs021312 - Formal Reaction to Crime**

The aim of this module is for students to gain comprehensive knowledge and problem solving skills concerning formal reaction to crime. It also includes an understanding of the process of the adjudication and disposition of offenders, the penal motives, the reintegration process and performance appraisal of the criminal justice system.

UNIT 1: Sentencing

UNIT 2: Sentencing and the aims of punishment

UNIT 3: The Disposition of Offenders: A Criminological Approach

UNIT 4: Reintegration process

### **OUBs021313 - Social dynamics in a Correctional Centre**

Module aim : Learner credited with this module will be able to demonstrate a clear understanding of the dynamics and challenges correctional officials face in a correctional centre, explain the diversity of behaviours encountered in a correctional centre, give an account of the attitudes and patterns of behaviour typically displayed by prisoners, explain the dynamics that underlie the patterns of prisoner behaviour , describe specific behaviour problems of prisoners in a correctional environment and discuss the basic principles of prisoner supervision.

UNIT 1: Dynamics and challenges correctional officials face in a correctional centre

UNIT 2: Understanding personality and behavioural Differences an a Correctional Centre

UNIT 3: Attitudes and patterns of behaviour typically displayed by prisoners

UNIT 4: Dynamics Prisoner Behaviour

UNIT 5: The Fundamentals of prisoner supervision

### **OUBs021314 - Victimology**

Learners will be explained the basic tenets of victimology , risk factors and related issues. The module also explores victim support and needs.

UNIT 1: The history, development and scope of victimology which includes:

UNIT 2: Victimization risk factors

UNIT 3: Victim empowerment and support

UNIT 4: Understanding the criminal justice system and victims needs

UNIT 5: Categories of vulnerable victims

### **OUBs021315 - Dissertation**

## **Semester 2**

### **OUBs021321 - Correctional Services Management I**

Module Aim: To develop knowledge of learners to the general management ethics in correctional services and responsibilities of such services. Learners will be provided an overview of organisational cultures and the human resource management

Unit 1: Management ethics

Unit 2: Social responsibility

Unit 3: Learning organisations

Unit 4: Organisation culture

Unit 5: Human Resources Management.

### **OUBs021322 - Contemporary Criminological Issues**

Module aim: To gain comprehensive knowledge and problem-solving skills concerning contemporary crime issues, including an understanding of the incidence of violent crime in Mauritius, the causes of various categories of violent crime, theoretical explanation of violent behaviour and the prevention of crimes of violence.

### **OUBs021323 - Evidence: Presentation and Assessment of Evidence**

The purpose of the learning in this module is for students to gain knowledge, skills, attitudes and competencies to analyze and solve practical problems relating to the presentation and assessment of evidence.

UNIT 1: Witnesses

UNIT 2: Stages in the trial process, and the presentation of oral evidence

UNIT 3: Real evidence

UNIT 4: Documentary evidence

UNIT 5: Evidence of uncertain classification

UNIT 6: Judicial notice

UNIT 7: Presumptions

UNIT 8: Statutory presumptions

UNIT 9: The onus of proof in criminal matters

UNIT 10: The onus of proof in civil cases

UNIT 11: The assessment of evidence

UNIT 12 Corroboration

UNIT 13 Cautionary rule

**OUs021324 - Dissertation**

The research project will allow the learner to examine thoroughly an area or a problem related to criminology. The project will draw upon significant concepts and techniques introduced during the taught part of the course and will look for to merge the theory and practice of criminology through the achievement of a considerable and related in-depth piece of work. The review of the final year project will be based on the compliance of a report which should be in the range of 12,000–15,000 words.