

Preface

Students as Researchers

This is an institutionally approved research project through Rhode Island College, located in Providence, RI, USA. This project came about because many students often ask what they can do after graduation with a Bachelor's Degree in justice studies/sociology. Many students are interested in pursuing graduate studies or enter the work force directly after graduating. This wiki book examines some of the careers in the justice studies arena, from local policing to social work to legal professionals.

For this project, students were required to take a series of quizzes to earn certification from the Collaborative Institute Training Initiative for research with human subjects

(<https://www.citiprogram.org/aboutus.asp?language=english>). Once they acquired their CITI certification, they contacted local professionals, either known to them personally or arranged through contacts from department faculty, who work in fields related to law and society. The vast majority of these interviews profile law enforcement officers, including correctional officers, local police detectives, and federal agents. Other students interviewed social workers, judges, and lawyers. Based on the approved research protocol, 13 pre-approved questions were asked of the interviewees in face to face interviews, or in one or two cases, by telephone. The researchers transcribed their interview notes, sent their interviewee a draft of their interview for approval, and then worked with other researchers to put together a chapter for this wikibook. In most cases, the interviewees approved the use of their real name; however in some cases, interviewees chose an alias. If you are interested in learning more about the research protocols and methodology used in this project, please contact Jill Harrison, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology, Rhode Island College, Providence, RI 02908 or jharrison@ric.edu

December 2012