

1. How do institutions structure my own behavior?

One major thing about being a CRIM/SOCL double major is that it taught me how to look at the work. It taught me to look through a lens on asking the why. Why do people do things? Why are things the way they are? This helps conclude certain things while also uncovering more questions to be asked.

Another concept that I have learned to develop is staying level headed and neutral when it comes to my political opinions. I have never been the biggest politics person going into college and even now as a senior, my majors have made me more neutral than anything. This helps me deal with all kinds of people with all kinds of backgrounds and opinions and forces me to stay non-bias. This is key with how the world is today with all of the negative media that law enforcement gets.

Another concept that goes along with staying neutral is seeing being able to look at a policy or media and determine if the policy works or not and how “true” the media is.

There are always many sides to a story meaning that the media is not always right.

Policies are also not always right and work well hence why they are always changing. For example, I wrote my CRIM senior seminar paper on the death penalty and I found that statistically and when it comes to crime prevention, it is not an effective policy.

One final behavior that I have grasped since being in these two majors is simply tuning into the news and what is going on outside of Virginia and the United States. I never used to be up to date with things like this because growing up, my parents never had the news on and I was in my own bubble. I have been opened up to what is going on around the world and it has bettered me as a sociologist and criminologist.

2. How can I use these skills in my future job?

All 4 skills I listed that I obtained in college being a CRIM/SOCL double major have a common attribute of being aware about what is going on around me and being non-bias. Both of which are key aspects to law enforcement. Without being aware of what is going on in the world, I would not be able to perform my job to the upmost best ability due to being disconnected to the rest of the law enforcement around the globe. Being non bias is one of the biggest factors in becoming an officer because you must be able to treat everyone fairly or else you could be violating the Constitution.