Crime Analyst

BACJ- related certificates and concentrations: GIS Certificate, Law Enforcement or Victims and Victim Services Certificate, Pathways degree with graduate statistics

BACJ- related courses:
- CRJU 2041 - Criminological Theory (3 credit hours)
- CRJU 3100 - Research Methods (3 credit hours)
- CRJU 3150 - Statistics for Criminal Justice (3 credit hours)
- CRJU 4331 - Crime Analysis and GIS (3 credit hours)
- CSCI 1001 - Computer Forensics I (3 credit hours)
- GEOG 2080 - Introduction to Mapping and Map Analysis (3 credit hours)
- GEOG 4080 - Introduction to GIS (pre-req GEOG 2080) (3 credit hours)
- CRJU 4540 – Evidence-Based Approaches in Law Enforcement (3 credit hours)

Complementary/recommended minors: GIS, English Writing, minors to complement criminal justice such as psychology or sociology to contextualize data.

Recommended extracurricular activities and experiences: Independent research projects, law enforcement officer ride-along, Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honor Society, study abroad, other community involvement and equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) experiences such as a student association or club, volunteering in the community, or other experiences that expose you to communities and cultivate a service-minded perspective. Criminal justice national conferences.

Internship: An internship within law enforcement or other governmental entity, preferably within an analysis unit.

Duties and Responsibilities: Often housed within law enforcement agencies, crime analysts serve to collect data, perform quantitative and qualitative analysis on crime data, create reports to various governmental entities such as the city in which the law enforcement agency resides, and interpret results as well as offer recommendations. These functions typically have the purpose of helping to identify trends, reasons for crime, and help to inform preventative measures. Other entities may also hire crime analysts such as state public safety offices, judicial, corrections, non-profit and social justice groups, and sometimes media.

Work Environment: Typically office-related work and sedentary. Some agencies are offering remote work options for analysts.

Work Schedule: Tends to be a standard core business hours around 8am-5pm

Career Path/Promotion: Often analysts with a government agency will begin their career within a classification system. For instance, the State of Colorado has classifications for analysts such as Research Analyst I, II, III, IV, or Statistical Analyst I, II, III, IV. A new graduate will likely need some experience to begin as a stat analyst II, and a master's degree would be most beneficial to enable an analyst to move up through the classifications. Graduate statistics classes are particularly important to statistical analyst roles. Often entities may have multiple classifications within a unit that may become available for the analyst to move into as they learn more, but often smaller agencies will only have 1 or 2 analyst positions and you may have to leave the agency in order to advance.

Education, Training and Certification: Bachelor's Degree with some experience, Master's Degree often preferred. Graduate statistics may be required.

Special Considerations: Crime analysts often have access to large amounts of sensitive data. While records are public, entities do not disclose identifying information of victims, offenders, or other. Due to this, some agencies may require extensive background checks. Within the State of Colorado, Division of Criminal Justice, for example, new employees are required to undergo an approximately 40 page relatively invasive background submission and verification, fingerprinting (sometimes more than one), a polygraph and any other assessments that may be required. You should be prepared to provide details on crimes you've committed or have been a victim of as well as any drug use in the past or present. Past issues do not necessarily preclude you from employment, but your suppression of the past information might.

Skills and Competencies: Analytical skills, emotional intelligence, ability to work independently, statistical programming, research methods.

Colorado Salary Averages:
For crime analysts the range can vary widely with years of experience, the employing agency, or classification level, or classification type such as: a research analyst IV may make upward of $85,000, whereas a statistical analyst IV may make $90,000.
Salary.com reports:
Bottom 10%: $42,150
Top 10%: $62,019
Median: $56,190

Average Salary in U.S. as of 2021: $49,608

https://govsalaries.com/salaries/crime-analyst-salary