



Victim Research Specialist Career Brief

BACJ-related certificates and concentrations: Victims and Victim Services concentration

BACJ-related courses:

- CRJU 4170 – Victimology (3 credit hours)
- CRJU 3285 – Trauma in the Criminal Justice System (3 credit hours)
- CRJU 3250 - Violence in Society (3 credit hours)
- 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)
- CRJU 3280 - Trauma Among Correctional Populations (3 credit hours)
- CRJU 4140 - Domestic Violence and Crime (3 credit hours)
- CRJU 4150 - Sex Offender and Offenses (3 credit hours)
- HDFR 1080 - Lifespan Issues in Family Violence (3 credit hours)
- PSYC 3611 - Psychology of Women (3 credit hours)
- SOCY 4460 - Hate Groups and Group Violence (3 credit hours)
- SOCY 4780 - Violence in Relationships (3 credit hours)
- CRJU 4600 - Special Topics (3 credit hours) - some of these topics are victim related such as Human trafficking.

Complementary/recommended minors: Spanish, Psychology, Sociology, Human Development & Family Relations, English Writing, Communication, Law Studies

Recommended extracurricular activities and experiences: 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. Some agencies or nonprofits have volunteer victim advocate positions available to gain experience before seeking a paid position. Perform victim research or evaluation for the Research and Creative Activities Symposium.

Internship: Many victim services organizations offer internships and many law enforcement agencies have victim services units, these may be useful in experiencing first-hand the topic area you will be researching.

Duties and Responsibilities: The preferences of those affected by crime vary, some prefer to be called victims and others prefer to be called survivors. For the purpose of this brief, we primarily use the term “victim” to adhere to the BACJ concentration moniker.

Often housed within law enforcement agencies or nonprofits, victim researchers serve to collect data, develop research questions and processes, perform quantitative and qualitative analysis on victimization rates, victim experiences, or evaluate victim programs. As a victim researcher you will likely create reports to various nonprofits and governmental entities such as the city in which the agency resides, and interpret results as well as offer recommendations. These functions typically have the purpose of helping to identify trends, reasons for victimization, and help to inform preventative measures. Other entities may also hire victim researchers such as state public safety offices, judicial, corrections, non-profit and social justice groups, and sometimes media.

Work Environment and Schedule: This is typically a standard 8am-5pm office hours.

Career Path/Promotion: The career path for a victim researcher is a varied one, but may involve beginning as a research analyst in a government position or for a non-profit and advancing to higher classifications with high-level duties and responsibilities. You may even find yourself aiming to become a research director at one of these organizations.

Education, Training and Certification: Bachelor's degree for entry-level, victim program evaluation, or research assistant positions.

Special Considerations: People may be drawn to victim research because of their own victimization experiences. It's incredibly important to strongly consider one's own healing, health and self-care relative to the information you may be exposed to as a researcher. Being exposed to traumatic event information and data on a regular basis, and being expected to provide analyses, is an important but taxing position. Please consider your own history and well-being, and ability to perform victim research tasks if you are still healing from your victimization.

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

Colorado Salary Averages:

For victim researchers 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