

My name is Brianna Alston and I attend Mississippi Valley State University where I am studying criminal justice and mathematics. I am not exactly sure what I want to do in the future, but I know I want it to be along the lines of helping find whenever something illegal happens in a bank account and more.

I have some experience with computers because I was a part of the Science Gateways Community Institute for coding. There, I learned how to use Python and I became familiar with Jupyter Notebook and GitHub. Not only that, but I learned how to create a webpage by using html, and I became very proficient at it. I also learned a little bit on how to use Docker and Kubernetes. Before I became a part of the coding institute, I already had experience programming in C++. In school, I took a course where we learned how to program on C++ specifically, so that was the only programming software we used. I can also create spreadsheets on excel and I know my way around PowerPoint very well.

Mathematically, I have taken up to calculus 3, as of right now, and I am most proficient in algebra. I took algebra throughout high school, so that is my strong suit. I have tutored math in the past and I am also helpful to my peers in explaining problems. In the past year, I have learned about L'Hopital's rule in calculus and how to properly use derivatives. In addition to that, I learned how to find intervals of regular and infinite numbers. Calculus also showed me how important geometry is because we have to know and understand the degrees of the angle for the circle of pi and the circumference.

Next, I am about halfway done with my criminal justice major so I still have plenty more to learn, but so far I have taken criminology, intro to criminal justice, juvenile justice and more. Criminology taught me the importance of looking at why people commit crimes. There are many different theories that come with criminology, but to sum it up it could be a mental health issue, it could have something to do with location or the people that surround the criminal, etc. The criminal justice course I took was a broad explanation of what the purpose of the criminal justice system is and what the police are there to accomplish. Lastly, juvenile justice taught me about what crimes children are most likely to commit and why. It also explained how the juvenile justice system has evolved over the years. I have taken more courses, but those three really caught my eye because I think it is very interesting how many different ways people can be subconsciously led to committing a crime.

My goal is to put all of this together in some way to hopefully create something that can catch illegal behavior, but in order to do that I of course need to keep learning. I have been trying everything and soaking in information to find what career will best suit me. I am getting closer so I am excited to see where I end up.