

Honors Senior Spotlight



Erin Satkowski, '21

Hometown: Oxford, CT

Major: Criminal Justice - Investigative Services

Minor: Sociology

Thesis Title: *Policing Reimagined: An Examination of Police Diversity and Training Programs Across the United States*

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Dan Maxwell

What is your thesis about?

Instances of police brutality have plagued the U.S., particularly within minority communities throughout recent years. In order to combat the rising tensions between minority communities and police, an examination of both effective and ineffective police training programs will be conducted. The results of this

research will foster changes to the training that is administered to law enforcement officers in an effort to increase police legitimacy and trust within police officers. Additionally, a survey of University of New Haven students regarding attitudes toward police will be conducted using a Likert scale to determine the level of trust within police throughout our own community.

What motivated and/or inspired you to select this as your research topic?

Innocent lives continue to be lost at the hands of police across the nation. The integrity of police officers has come into question too many times for nothing to be done. A reassessment of police training is long overdue. New initiatives that encourage diversity and emphasize communication skills rather than use of force must be implemented in departments to serve and protect the public as promised.

Do you have any advice for future Honors students thinking about writing an Honors Thesis?

Get started as soon as you can and don't procrastinate. Use your time wisely and choose a topic you are interested in.

After graduating, what are your plans?

After graduating, I hope to become a probation officer or work for an insurance company conducting private investigations.