Choosing a Minor

CCJ majors are required to complete a minor from another four-year level academic department as part of their overall bachelor's program. Choosing a minor is an important decision for the student, as it "rounds out" your academic program and provides a secondary area of expertise. There are two main considerations to keep in mind when choosing a minor:

Choose a Minor In An Area You Really Want to Study

It makes no sense to choose a minor in an area of study that you dislike. Students do not perform well while engaged in a minor they do not enjoy. Consequently, they learn very little in their minor program and their minor grades suffer as well. By choosing a minor you are truly interested in, you will learn more and keep your grades up.

Choose a Minor That Complements Your Major Program

Students should also consider how their minor will complement or support their CCJ major. You may choose a minor from any of dozens of four-year level departments here at SIUC. The most common minors CCJ majors choose are psychology, sociology, or political science, but there are many other excellent choices of minors that will effectively complement your CCJ major program. See your CCJ advisor for help if you cannot decide on a minor.

CCJ students should begin working on their minor no later than the first semester of their junior year. As most minors involve 15 to 18 credit hours, this leaves enough time to finish a minor within a four-year graduation time frame. To declare a minor, see an advisor in the College of Liberal Arts advisement office (Faner 1229) and tell them which minor you want.
There is no rush to declare a minor when you begin your college career. Take your time, give it some thought, and make a wise choice. Remember, in a worst case scenario, your minor is probably neutral in any hiring decision. At best, your minor could be the "hook" that gets you the job. Choose wisely!