

Josiah Zimmerman

📞 231-555-6048 ✉️ josiah.zimmerman@example.com 💼 linkedin.com/example/josiahzimmerman 📍 Traverse City, MI 49684

SUMMARY

Early career criminal justice graduate with supervised experience supporting public assistance fraud investigations, regulatory casework, evidence review, **investigative writing**, and program integrity analysis. County practicum work involved **food assistance**, **cash assistance**, Medicaid, and **child care** scenarios involving recipients, providers, and vendors. Built chronological case files from applications, transaction histories, correspondence, and supporting records, then separated allegations from verified facts and unresolved questions. Prepared mock referrals addressing restitution, repayment, program disqualification, administrative review, and possible prosecution. Research work examined fraud, waste, abuse, improper payments, embezzlement, security threats, and control weaknesses. Clear communication, confidentiality practices, interview fundamentals, field observation, route planning, and ethical judgment support dependable investigative service across regional assignments.

EDUCATION

Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice
Grand Valley State University GPA: 3.8
Coursework: Criminal investigations, fraud examination, evidence analysis, administrative law

2026
Allendale, Michigan

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Investigation Methods:** Case analysis, fraud indicators, regulatory casework
- **Public Benefit Programs:** Food assistance, cash assistance, Medicaid
- **Child Care Programs:** Child care benefits, provider review, vendor review
- **Evidence Management:** Evidence matrices, chronology building, source review
- **Investigative Writing:** Case summaries, investigative reports, referral packets
- **Interview Techniques:** Interview fundamentals, note taking, subject interviews
- **Financial Review:** Transaction histories, overpayments, repayment analysis
- **Administrative Decisions:** Administrative review, program disqualification, restitution
- **Program Integrity:** Improper payments, control weaknesses, process recommendations
- **Records Security:** Confidential records, secure files, sensitive materials
- **Criminal Justice:** Criminal investigations, prosecution referrals, criminal charges
- **Field Operations:** Regional travel, field observation, route planning

SKILLS

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|-------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| • Fraud investigations | • Investigative writing | • Administrative referrals | • Fieldwork |
| • Regulatory investigations | • Case documentation | • Restitution concepts | • Regional travel |
| • Public assistance integrity | • Interview fundamentals | • Program disqualification | • Case analysis |
| • Evidence review | • Fraud analysis | • Records handling | |

EXPERIENCE

Regulation and Investigations Intern, County Investigations Practicum
County Investigations Practicum

January 2026 - August 2026
Traverse City, Michigan

Supported supervised regulatory and **investigative casework** through records review, evidence organization, interview exercises, investigative writing, referral preparation, and secure fieldwork. Work centered on public benefit scenarios and practical decisions involving repayment, disqualification, **administrative review**, and further investigation.

- Organized benefit applications, transaction histories, and supporting records into chronological investigative files for supervisor review
- Drafted factual case summaries separating allegations from verified evidence and unresolved questions for administrative decisions
- Applied interview and note taking methods during supervised exercises with simulated complainants and subjects
- Compared **evidence** with eligibility criteria to identify overpayments, misrepresentation patterns, and documentation gaps
- Prepared mock referral packets addressing restitution, repayment, program disqualification, or further criminal investigation
- Completed route planning exercises demonstrating readiness for **regional travel** and secure handling of sensitive materials

Public Program Integrity Research Assistant, University Research Lab
University Research Lab

September 2025 - May 2026
Traverse City, Michigan

Conducted supervised research on public program integrity, classifying indicators across benefit scenarios and translating recurring findings into practical control recommendations. Protected sensitive simulations while presenting source based conclusions through concise investigative writing and evidence matrices.

- Classified **fraud**, **waste**, abuse, and administrative error indicators across anonymized benefit program scenarios

- Built evidence matrices linking allegations, source records, corroborating facts, and open questions for consistent evaluation
- Analyzed recipient, provider, and vendor cases involving food, cash, **Medicaid**, and **child care** benefits
- Authored a research brief connecting recurring investigative findings with practical **program integrity** recommendations
- Presented findings to faculty using concise **investigative writing** and source based reasoning
- Followed confidentiality and secure file procedures for sensitive simulations involving regulated investigative information

Criminal Justice Fraud Investigation Capstone Researcher, Capstone Project

January 2025 - December 2025

Capstone Project

Traverse City, Michigan

Developed a supervised simulated benefits fraud investigation from initial allegation through evidence planning, interview sequencing, reporting, and referral analysis. Tested competing explanations, assessed source reliability, and presented defensible findings with control improvement recommendations.

- Designed a simulated benefits **fraud** investigation with an allegation, evidence plan, interview sequence, and documentation standards
- Evaluated mock financial records, applications, correspondence, and identity information to construct an evidence supported chronology
- Tested alternative explanations through corroboration and source reliability checks before reaching investigative findings
- Produced an investigative report and administrative referral explaining evidence, repayment implications, and recommended next steps
- Assessed control weaknesses exposed by scenarios and proposed earlier detection and clearer documentation processes
- Defended findings before faculty and practitioners, answering questions on ethics, confidentiality, and referral thresholds

PROJECTS

Public Assistance Evidence Matrix 📅 2026

A recurring records question became a structured evidence matrix linking allegations, source documents, corroboration, open questions, and possible administrative outcomes across public benefit scenarios.

Improper Payment Control Review 📅 2025

Research into improper payment indicators connected case findings with practical program integrity recommendations for clearer records, earlier detection, and stronger review decisions.

LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

- Dean's List, Grand Valley State University, 2024 through 2026
- Criminal Justice Capstone Excellence Award, 2026
- Undergraduate Research Presentation Recognition, 2026
- Student Coordinator, Campus Academic Integrity Workshop Series

CERTIFICATIONS

- Fraud Examination Foundations 📅 2026
- Professional Writing for Investigations 📅 2025

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Peer Mentor, Criminal Justice Student Success Program
- Campus Academic Integrity Workshop Series, Student Coordinator
- Grand Valley State University Criminal Justice Student Community

LANGUAGES

- English (Native)
- Spanish (Intermediate)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Work Status : Authorized to work in United States. No sponsorship required.

REFERENCES

AVAILABLE ON REQUEST