



Degree Guide:

Criminal Justice, Associate in Applied Science (AAS) Degree

Program

[Criminal Justice \(CJ/CJ&\)](#)

Degree Type

Professional Technical Degree

Offered Online

Yes

Program Coordinator

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Program Description

The Criminal Justice program is comprised of professional and general education courses and is designed to provide the student with a broad exposure to criminal justice theory and process as well as contemporary issues and problems. The curriculum provides a balanced approach to both law enforcement and corrections, with supporting courses that enhance both perspectives. The program has been developed in conjunction with active professionals in the field of criminal justice who serve as members of an advisory committee.

Program Length: 6 Quarters

Program Code: CJLCJAPT

Career Opportunities and Earnings

The demand for trained personnel has grown significantly over the past several years and is expected to continue as police agencies expand to meet the demands for crime control. Graduates typically find employment in the criminal justice system at the federal, state, and local levels of government. Security-related employment in the private sector also provides a wide variety of career possibilities. The demand for persons trained in criminal justice is expected to remain strong over the next several years.

Prospective criminal justice students should be aware of the fact that criminal justice and security employment candidates are subject to extensive background checks that may include drug screening, polygraph testing, physical and psychological examinations, and oral and/or written proficiency examinations. Successful completion of the program does not necessarily guarantee that students will obtain employment in the field of criminal justice. The goal of the program is to provide students with an educational opportunity that prepares them for the rigors of employment competition within the scope of criminal justice career planning. The criminal justice program manager will work diligently to assist qualified students in finding meaningful employment.

- Adult and juvenile probation officers
- Correctional officers
- Law enforcement officers
- Parole officers
- Private security officers

For current employment and wage estimates, please visit and search for the relevant occupational term: [bls.gov/oes](https://www.bls.gov/oes).

Program Outcomes

When this program is completed, the student will be able to:



- Correctly identify the major steps of the criminal justice process
- Develop an understanding of the function of each step of the criminal justice system and the key decisions that are made at each step
- Define each step and critically analyze how a case proceeds through the criminal justice system
- Articulate the functions of policing in the United States in terms of its historical roots, structure, and contemporary issue
- Develop an understanding of the court system in the United States in terms of constitutional issues and historical precedents
- Identify and understand correctional practices in the United States in relation to philosophies of punishment, sentencing practices, victim’s rights and institutional limitations
- Demonstrate knowledge of the purpose, function, and historical evolution of the American criminal justice system in terms of the three major branches of criminal justice: police, courts, and corrections
- Articulate the differences between the major criminological theories of the causes of crime and how those theories relate to policies toward crime and criminal behavior
- Apply individual criminological theories to specific types of offending and criminal behaviors
- Demonstrate an understanding of the steps in the research process as it relates to the scientific method
- Apply basic computational skills to practical applications
- Communicate in writing for a variety of purposes and audiences
- Demonstrate competencies to succeed in the selected career pathway workplace

Program Prerequisites

College-level skills in English and math (eligibility for courses numbered 100 or higher) are required before registering for the English, math, or applied math courses required in this program. Students may need to complete prerequisite coursework. The placement test will help determine placement level if not known. Previous coursework may also indicate placement level.

Approximate Additional Costs

Books, supplies and miscellaneous fees (per quarter): \$230

Sample Schedule

This sample schedule is provided as a guide for a full-time student starting in fall quarter whose goal is to earn an AAS. The typical student schedule is based on entering the program during the fall quarter, however some programs allow students to enter in the winter or spring as well. Since not all do, please confirm with an advisor whether this program must be started during a specific quarter or not.

First Quarter (Fall)

Catalog #	Course Title	Credits
CJ& 101	Introduction to Criminal Justice	5
CJ& 110	Criminal Law	5
ENGL& 101	English Composition I	5
HUMDV 101	Success in the Online Classroom	1



Second Quarter (Winter)

Catalog #	Course Title	Credits
AMATH 121 or MATH& 107 or above		5
CJ 115	Constitutional Issues in Criminal Justice	5
CJ 121	Criminal Evidence	5
CJ 136	Law Enforcement Report Writing	5

Third Quarter (Spring)

Catalog #	Course Title	Credits
CJ 211	Criminal Investigation	5
CJ& 105	Introduction to Corrections	5
CJ& 106	Juvenile Justice	5

Fourth Quarter (Fall)

Catalog #	Course Title	Credits
CJ 236	Introduction to Patrol Procedures	5
SOC& 101	Introduction to Sociology	5

Fifth Quarter (Winter)

Catalog #	Course Title	Credits
CJ 250	Supervision for Law Enforcement	5
ECON 101	Introduction to Economics	5
SOC 115	Understanding Diversity	5

Understanding Diversity ([SOC 115](#)) or an advisor approved social science course.



Sixth Quarter (Spring)

Catalog #	Course Title	Credits
CJ 241	Ethics in Criminal Justice	5
CMST& 102	Intro to Mass Media	5
PSYC& 100	General Psychology	5

Your personal educational plan will vary based on many factors including:

- The quarter you begin
- How many classes/credits you plan to take in each quarter
- Your math and English placement; Learn more about placement options by visiting the [Assessment and Placement website](#).
- If you start in our [Transitional Studies](#) program

Total Credits **91**