

Criminal Justice

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.

Successful completion of the two-year program described on this guide leads to an Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice or an Associate of Applied Science-Transfer degree in Criminal Justice. The AAS-T option may improve the transferability of Associate of Applied Science degrees to some four-year programs.

Degree & Certificate Options

- Criminal Justice AAS Degree
- Criminal Justice AAS-T Degree
- Criminal Justice One-year Certificate

Program: Criminal Justice

Type: Professional Technical Program

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this program, students 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 issues
- 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