

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Is Criminal Justice for me?

The field is for you if you ...

- Enjoy working with diverse populations.
- Want to help others.
- Like having different challenges every day.
- Enjoy having a changing work schedule.
- Desire a job with a good salary and potential for advancement.
- Have a strong sense of integrity.
- Are in good physical condition.
- Have strong communication skills.
- Function well under stress.
- Are able to think quickly and act decisively.
- Work well within a structured organization.
- Can follow written procedures.

What skills will I need for this field?

You will need to have ...

- A legal background.
- The ability to react spontaneously and maintain composure under pressure.
- The ability to make appropriate decisions and sound judgments.
- The ability to interact with people of differing cultural and socioeconomic background.
- The ability to solve problems and meet deadlines.
- Proficiency in interpersonal communication and writing proficiency.
- The aptitude for accurate details.
- The ability to persuade and influence others.
- The ability to conduct and clearly explain scientific research.

What is the work atmosphere like?

The work atmosphere within the different fields of the criminal system varies according to specific job assignments. The field of law enforcement generally involves the greatest variety of work atmosphere. The student is encouraged, once a career field is identified, to speak to someone employed within the field for more information regarding this area.

What are my degree options?

Certificate

Criminal Justice

Associate's Degree

Associate in Applied Science

Associate in Arts (AA)

Bachelor's Degree

Bachelor's degrees are available by transferring to four-colleges and universities.

Professional Certification

Many fields within the criminal justice system require some form of certification or license. A police officer generally must pass a state certification test at the police academy to continue employment. Specialized certifications or licenses may be acquired or required in certain areas within law enforcement. Each field must be investigated by the student to ascertain the need/required certification or license.

What are my career opportunities?

There are good advancement possibilities in all areas of the criminal justice system. Each field has different requirements and qualifications regarding promotions/advancements. Specifics can be obtained by contacting individual agencies within a given field. Higher education is often required or desired for promotional or advancement opportunities.

What can I do with these degrees?

If you have completed ...

High School Diploma

Conservation Officer, Correctional Officer, Deputy Sheriff, Loss Prevention Agent, Park Police Officer, Police Officer, Private Investigators, Private Security Guard

Associate in Applied Science Degree

Deputy Sheriff, Fish and Game Warden, Legal Secretary, Police Investigator, Police Officer, Secret Service Uniformed Officer, State Trooper

How can I prepare now?

Recommended courses ...

Math

Algebra 1, Geometry, Business Math

Science

Chemistry, Computer, Physics or Applied Physics

Communications

English Composition, Business Writing, Speech

Occupational Electives

Law, Business Law

Recommended Supporting Electives

Keyboarding, Sociology, Psychology, Government

Recommended Work-site Experiences

(Volunteer experience with local social service/community agencies is encouraged)

What about my articulated credit?

Check with your high school coordinator to see if you are eligible for articulated credit at College of DuPage.

Bachelor's Degree

Corrections Counselor, Domestic Violence Counselor, Federal Law Enforcement, Parole Officer, Police Officer, Probation Officer, Warden

What should I take in my first semester at C.O.D.?

Crimj 1100: Introduction to Criminal Justice

Crimj 1151: Constitutional Law

Eng 1101: Composition I

CIS 1150: Introduction to Computer Information Systems

Whom can I talk to for more information?

Health, Social, and Behavioral Sciences Division
(630) 942-2495

For more information on the Associate in Applied Science Degree curriculum, see your program coordinator or go to www.cod.edu.