

CRIMINAL JUSTICE (A.S.) +

The Criminal Justice program will prepare you for careers in law enforcement, investigation, corrections, courts, private security, juvenile justice, or related opportunities in the legal field. You will gain an understanding of our American legal and justice system, including the interrelationship of the police, courts, the correctional system, and the role the Constitution plays in the criminal justice system.

All associate degrees include completion of general education requirements which, together with program requirements, constitute a minimum of 60 credits. In some cases program requirements also fulfill general education requirements. You may not use a single course to meet two general education requirements.

General Education Requirements

Core Competencies

Complete at least one course in each of the following:

- First semester seminar _____
- Technological Literacy _____
- Communication _____
Meets graduation standard in oral communication
- English Composition
ENG 1061 - English Composition
- Mathematics _____
- Research & Writing Intensive _____
ENG 1020 - Introduction to Research Methods

Areas of Inquiry

Complete at least one course in each of the following:

- Scientific Method _____
- Human Expression _____
PHI 1040 - Introduction to Ethics
- Human Behavior _____
SOC 1020 - Ethnicity & Diversity in the United States
or
SOC 2040 - Race, Ethnicity, Class & Gender

Integrative Approaches

- Global Perspectives & Sustainability _____
POS 2070 - National Security & Terrorism
or
SOC 2010 - Global Social Problems
- HUM 2010 - Seminar in Educational Inquiry
Meets graduation standard in writing and information literacy
- Quantitative Reasoning Assessment
Meets graduation standard in quantitative reasoning

Program Requirements

Courses are listed in the order in which we recommend you take them.

- CRJ 1010 - Introduction to Criminal Justice
- ENG 1020 - Introduction to Research Methods *
- SOC 1020 - Ethnicity & Diversity in the United States
or
SOC 2040 - Race, Ethnicity, Class & Gender *
- POS 1050 - The Constitution
- PHI 1040 - Introduction to Ethics *
- CRJ 2010 - Law Enforcement in America
or
CRJ 2150 - Community & Restorative Justice
- CRJ 2050 - Criminology
- POS 2070 - National Security & Terrorism *
or
SOC 2010 - Global Social Problems *
- CRJ 2020 - American Judicial Process
- INT 2860 - Professional Field Experience

Electives: Take nine (9) additional credits. Choose courses to focus on career areas of interest. Suggested focus areas include emergency management, substance abuse services, and human services.

Note(s)

*You may use a course to meet both a program requirement and a general education requirement; however, you may not use a single course to meet two general education requirements.

Minimum Total Credits in Degree: 60

Program Outcomes

Graduates of the Criminal Justice program will be able to:

- describe methods social scientists use to research, analyze, interpret, and report data in the field of criminal justice;
- demonstrate an understanding of the criminal justice system including the role of the Constitution and the interrelationships of the police, courts, and correctional system;
- exhibit professional conduct in a criminal justice organization including legal and ethical responsibilities, roles, and boundaries;
- demonstrate academic skills required of all CCV graduates, including competency in writing, information literacy, oral communication, and quantitative reasoning; and
- explore pathways for educational and career development in the student's field of study.

The Criminal Justice program is great for you if:

- you care about making a difference for others and serving your community;
- you are interested in working with diverse groups of people and helping others who are experiencing difficult situations;
- you are prepared for a rigorous career and can effectively manage stressful situations;
- you are willing to work unusual shift hours and overtime on a regular basis; and
- you are willing to undergo criminal background checks, and sometimes both physical and psychological testing, when applying for some positions in this field.

Key information and advice for students in the Criminal Justice program:

- Entry-level jobs in corrections and police work increasingly require an associate's degree.
- Those pursuing careers in management or crisis response will benefit from taking EMP-1010 Principles of Emergency Management, EMP-1020 Emergency Planning, and EMP-2020 Decision Making & Problem Solving in a Crisis as elective courses.
- Students pursuing careers working directly with the public will benefit by using electives for coursework in substance abuse and human services.
- Professional Field Experience (PFE) gives students practical experience in the workplace and can be a connection to employment in the Criminal Justice field.
- Many employers require at least a bachelor's degree for job promotion.
- Private sector security and investigative jobs require the same education levels and unusual hours as government agencies.
- All police and corrections agencies send officers to their academies for one to six months of further training to learn details of the job.
- A felony conviction may prevent employment in a criminal justice job. Some agencies will accept a misdemeanor conviction.
- Students should check with the agency they want to work with for its policy on prior convictions.

The Criminal Justice program prepares you for careers such as:

- Municipal Police Officer
- County Deputy Sheriff
- Emergency Planner
- Transportation Security Officer
- Victim Advocate
- Legal Assistant/Paralegal (additional training required)
- Private Industry Loss Prevention
- Law Enforcement Communications Assistant

Job outlook in Criminal Justice in the state of Vermont:

<i>Title</i>	<i>Median Salary</i>	<i>Projected Growth (10 Yrs)</i>
Correctional Officers & Jailers	\$36,300	3.7%
Police & Sheriff Patrol Officers	\$40,000	6.3%
Legal Assistant or Paralegal	\$39,500	7.6%
Security Guards	\$29,000	9.1%

Source: Vermont Department of Labor, <http://www.vtلمي.info/oic.cfm>

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