

# Law Enforcement

## Associate in Applied Science in Occupational Development

### Program Description:

The Occupational Developmental Degree in Law Enforcement is offered in cooperation with the West Virginia State Police.

Admission to this program is restricted to state and local (city/county) law enforcement personnel who have been selected to attend or have completed training at the Police Academy.

The State Police Academy currently serves the state of West Virginia as the only law enforcement training facility that has been approved by the Governor's Committee on Crime, Delinquency, and Correction to provide mandatory entry-level police training.

Local law enforcement officers spend 16 weeks in residence at the State Police Academy and may receive up to 18 hours of academic credits toward Associate in Applied Science degree requirements. Remaining degree requirements may be met either on the Mountwest Community & Technical College campus or at another institution of higher education offering appropriate coursework in proximity of place of residence. The program requires 21-22 credit hours of general education; 18 credit hours of classroom instruction; 9 credit hours of occupation-specific college courses and/or certification of training, Military Police Security Training, or training received through Law Enforcement Continuing Education; and 12 credit hours of on-the-job-training.

### Career Outlook:

The opportunity for public service through law enforcement work is attractive to many because the job is challenging and involves much personal responsibility. Furthermore, law enforcement officers in many agencies may retire with a pension after 20 or 25 years of service, allowing them to pursue a second career while still in their 40s. Because of relatively attractive salaries and benefits, the number of qualified candidates exceeds the number of job openings in federal law enforcement agencies and in most state police departments—resulting in increased hiring standards and selectivity by employers. Competition should remain keen for higher paying jobs with state and federal agencies and police departments in more affluent areas. Opportunities will be better in local and special police departments, especially in departments that offer relatively low salaries, or in urban communities where the crime rate is relatively high. Applicants with college training in police science, military police experience, or both should have the best opportunities.

Employment of police and detectives is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations through 2012. A more security-conscious society and concern about drug-related crimes should contribute to the increasing demand for police services.

### Salary Forecast:

Police and sheriff's patrol officers had median annual earnings of \$45,210 in May 2004. The middle 50 percent earned between \$34,410 and \$56,360. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$26,910, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$68,880. Median annual earnings were \$44,750 in federal government, \$48,980 in state government, and \$45,010 in local government.

In May 2004, median annual earnings of police and detective supervisors were \$64,430. The middle 50 percent earned between \$49,370 and \$80,510. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$36,690, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$96,950. Median annual earnings were \$86,030 in federal government, \$62,300 in state government, and \$63,590 in local government.

### Admission Requirements:

The college adheres to an open admissions policy which means applicants with a high school diploma or a GED are eligible for admission. Applicants with neither a high school diploma nor a GED may be admitted on a conditional basis.

**Major Code - C010 • Concentration Code – C014**

<b>FIRST YEAR</b>	
<p><b>COMPONENT I- General Education</b><sup>1,2</sup></p> <p>ENL 111 Written Communication<sup>3</sup> ..... 3                      COM 112 Oral Communication<sup>3</sup> ..... 3                      IT 101 Fundamentals of Computers (EDGE)..... 3                      Science Course<sup>4</sup> ..... 3-4                      Quantitative Skills Course<sup>4</sup> ..... 3                      Social Science Course<sup>5</sup>..... 3                      General Education Elective<sup>6</sup>..... 3</p> <p><b>TOTAL CREDITS</b> ..... <b>21-22</b></p>	<p><b>COMPONENT II - A</b>  <b>CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION IN THE CLASSROOM</b><sup>7,8</sup>  <b>Classroom/Laboratory contact hours (450-750) of Occupational Education converted to credit hours at the usual ratio of 15:1 classroom or 30:1 laboratory.</b></p> <p>PST 111 Law Enforcement Orientation ..... 3                      PST 122 Police Arsenal and Weapons ..... 3                      PST 231 Fundamentals of Criminal Law ..... 2                      PST 233 Fundamentals of Criminal ..... 3                      PST 239 Criminal Evidence and Procedure ..... 3                      PST 244 Introduction to Criminalistics ..... 2                      PST 248 Traffic Administration and Enforcement..... 2</p> <p><b>TOTAL CREDITS</b> ..... <b>18</b></p>
<p><b>COMPONENT II - B</b>  <b>OTHER FORMAL POLICE TRAINING</b></p> <p>LAS 101 General Law I, LAS 102 General Law II, EME 109 Emergency Medical Technician (EDGE), or other approved courses, certifications, or Military Police Security Training, or training received through Law Enforcement Continuing Education may be substituted</p> <p><b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>..... <b>9</b></p>	<p><b>COMPONENT III</b>  <b>ON-THE-JOB TRAINING IN LAW ENFORCEMENT</b><sup>9</sup></p> <p>Maximum of 2400 contact hours of on-the-job training, converted to credit hours on a ratio of 200:1, can be counted toward the A.A.S. Degree. A letter from the employer verifying the total number of student contact hours on the job will be placed on the college record, with credit recorded immediately prior to graduation from the college.</p> <p><b>TOTAL CREDITS</b> ..... <b>12</b></p>
<b>HOURS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION: 60</b>	

**Employment Opportunities:**

- Deputy sheriff
- City police

**Earn a Degree Graduate Early (EDGE):**

This program provides students the opportunity to receive credit for their high school EDGE courses.

**Contact Information:**

Steven Brown • Latta’s Building (348 15<sup>th</sup> Street Huntington, WV 25701)  
 Phone: 304-525-1468 or 1-866-N-ROLLED (1-866-676-5533)  
 E-mail: brown175@mctc.edu

1. Student must be employed in Law Enforcement to begin this degree.  
 2. Students must complete a minimum of 3 credit hours with Mountwest Community & Technical College to establish academic residency.  
 3. Fulfills Mountwest General Education and State Communication Skills requirement for Occupational Development Degree.  
 4. Six total Quantitative Skills/ Science Experience credits are required for Occupational Development Degree and General Education Core. At least one college-level mathematics course must be selected from: MAT 115, MAT 145, or MAT 150. Students may complete the six credit requirement with a second college-level mathematics course or select a laboratory science course from the following: SCI 101, SCI 110, SCI 120, SCI 201, or SCI 257.  
 5. To fulfill Social Science Course requirements for Occupational Developmental and General Education Core Degree, select from EC 102, SS 201, SS 210, or SS 215.  
 6. Student may use a social science/humanities course to fulfill this requirement.  
 7. These hours are taken at the West Virginia State Police Academy.  
 8. These hours can be transferred to other state institutions.  
 9. Director of WV State Police must approve employment site. Call 304-746-2117 for more information.