

Criminal Justice, AAS

Academic Year 2024-2025

Program Description:

This program of study was developed to provide individuals with a necessary criminal justice background to successfully work in law enforcement or private security. The Criminal Justice degree is available to on-campus students, with prior learning credits available to those students who have attended an approved law enforcement academy. With the advent of a more security-conscious society, there is an increased demand for more police and security services. Graduates with an Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice will have the skills to obtain employment as police officers, federal marshals, private investigators, and private security agents.

Career Outlook:

The opportunity for public service through law enforcement or security 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 for employment in the public sector will be better with local or special police departments, especially in departments that offer lower starting salaries, or in urban communities where the crime rate is relatively high. Applicants with college training in criminal justice, military police experience, or both should have the best opportunities for selection. Employment opportunities for police officers, security personnel, and private detectives are expected to continue to grow. With the advent of a more security conscious society and citizen's concern about drug-related and property crimes should contribute to an increasing demand for more police and security services.

Salary Forecast:

For the most current salary information please refer to the Bureau of Labor Statistics “Occupational Outlook Handbook” found at www.bls.gov/ooh/.

Program Outcomes:

- Differentiate between the three primary components of the criminal justice system: law enforcement, the courts, and corrections
- Adhere to ethical and legal standards impacting criminal justice professionals working in law enforcement, the courts, and corrections
- Practice basic law enforcement techniques concerning investigation, crime scene preservation, crime scene analysis, and report writing
- Explain the development of criminal law and criminal procedure
- Examine the development of the corrections system in the United States, including the systems of probation and parole
- Conclude which theory of crime causation explains an individual's criminal action
- Determine how law enforcement, the courts, and the corrections system must operate in relation to the United States Constitution and its amendments

Contact Information:

Erin Rich
Room 223
Phone: 304-710-3411
E-mail: riche@mctc.edu

Heather Hussell
Room 249
Phone: 304-710-3412
E-mail: hussell8@mctc.edu

Mountwest empowers students to learn and lead in the community and in the workforce.

Criminal Justice ¹ Major Code – CF10

Name:		ID Number: 942-					
Educational Advisor:							
Faculty Advisor:							
COURSE	REQUIREMENTS	SEM	HRS	GR	SUBSTITUTE/REPEAT CRS	SEM	CR
CJS 101	Introduction to Criminal Justice		3				
CJS 102	Introduction to Corrections		3				
ENL 101	Written Communication ²		3				
IT 101	Fundamentals of Computers		3				
MAT 120	Applied Professional Math ³		3				
			15				
BIOL 101	Unified Principles of Biology		3				
BIOL 101L	Unified Principles of Biology Lab ⁴		1				
COM 112 or COM 125	Oral Communication or Interpersonal Communication		3				
CJS 231	Fundamentals of Criminal Law		3				
CJS 234	Criminology ⁶		3				
	Criminal Justice Elective ^{5,6,**}		3				
			16				
CJS 239	Criminal Procedure ⁶		3				
CJS 246	Criminal Justice Reports ⁶		3				
CJS 251	Criminal Justice Ethics ⁶		3				
	Criminal Justice Elective		3				
	Social Science Elective ⁷		3				
			15				
CJS 233	Fundamentals of Criminal Investigation		3				
CJS 254	Constitutional Law ⁶		3				
CJS 298	Criminal Justice Internship		3				
	Criminal Justice Elective ^{5,6,**}		5				
			14				
Hours Required for Graduation: 60							

¹ Students must complete 15 hours with Mountwest to establish academic residency.

² ENL 101 has a prerequisite of placement in 100-level English or a corequisite of ENL 095. Students must earn a "C" or better in ENL 101 to graduate.

³ MAT 120 have a prerequisite of placement in 100-level Math or minimum ACT Math score of 19 or SAT Math score of 510.

⁴ BIOL 101L has a co-requisite of BIOL 101.

⁵ Choose from AH 216, CJS 237, CJS 242, CJS 249, CJS 256, CJS 261, CJS 263, CJS 265, CJS 267, CJS 269, CJS 280-283, EME 105, LAW courses (3-6 cr. hrs.), and CHEM 220.

⁶ CJS 234, CJS 237, CJS 239, CJS 242, CJS 246, CJS 251, CJS 254, CJS 256, CJS 261, CJS 263, and CJS 265 have a prerequisite of CJS 101.

⁷ Choose from any EC, POLS, PSYC, or SOCI 100-level or above.

* Police Academy participants and graduates, please see your program advisor for CJS electives not listed above.

** All Electives **do not** have to be taken during final semester.