

Criminal Justice (237)

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

About Our Program

The Criminal Justice certificate program at Highland Community College prepares students for entry level career opportunities with local, county, state, or federal law enforcement agencies, correctional institutions, administrative assistants, courtroom employees, and other criminal justice agencies such as probation and parole. In addition, our certificate program can prepare current criminal justice professionals for career advancements.

Those intending to transfer to a four-year baccalaureate program should speak to an advisor about our transfer program.

Program Outcomes

Students will be able to

- Describe various historical and modern day challenges confronted in dealing with deviant behavior in society and associate these with proactive evidence-based reforms and solutions.
- Examine historical origins and current social issues from a variety of philosophical and theoretical perspectives on how human behavior has shaped culture and society.
- Outline the various elements of the criminal law, Amendment provisions and protections, and how these connect to the duties of working in each realm the criminal justice system.
- Describe the history and application of punishment, sentencing, rehabilitation, community corrections, and programming for deviant behavior in the criminal justice system.
- Compare the various strengths and weaknesses of a variety of treatment programs available for offenders and special populations within the correctional realm.
- Distinguish effective law enforcement strategies and responses relating to homeland security and security threats.
- Justify the vital ethical practices for those working in the criminal justice field.
- Demonstrate effective oral and written communication pertaining to the social sciences involving quantitative research, theory, and practice.
- Develop critical thinking skills encompassing the daily operations of each component of the criminal justice systems' function within society.

Nature of Work and Employment

A broad range of employment options exist in both the private and public sectors depending upon qualifications. Examples of areas of employment would include; but not be limited to the following: law enforcement, corrections, court reporting, parks and wildlife, and social work.

Special Considerations

There are recommended prerequisites for most of the Criminal Justice classes. Some general education courses may require prerequisites. All courses within this certificate are a sub-set of the courses needed to complete the colleges Criminal Justice Associate of Applied Science degree and several of the courses can be applied to the Transfer degree.

Program Contacts

Call Highland at 815-235-6121 for the following program contacts:

- Jennifer Roser, Criminal Justice Faculty
- Amanda VenHuizen, Student Advisor
- Jim Phillips, Dean, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Fine Arts

First Semester 12 Credit Hours

CJS	101	Introduction to Criminal Justice	3
INFT	180	Introduction to Information Systems	3
CJS	202	Juvenile Delinquency	3
PHYD	212	First Aid	2
PHYD	121	Physical Fitness	1

Second Semester 12 Credit Hours

CJS	102	Introduction to Corrections	3
CJS	201	Criminology	3
MATH	111	Technical Math	3
ENGL	121	Rhetoric and Composition I	3

Total Credit Hours = 24

Recommended Elective

CJS	204	Ethics in Criminal Justice	
-----	-----	----------------------------	--