

# Law and Public Service Career Cluster

Revised –March 2024



The Law and Public Service career cluster focuses on planning, managing, and providing legal services, public safety, protective services, and homeland security, including professional and technical support services. This career cluster includes occupations ranging from police officer and firefighter to political scientist and lawyer.

## Statewide Program of Study: Law Enforcement

The Law Enforcement program of study focuses on occupational and educational opportunities associated with the development and enforcement of laws by various branches of law enforcement. This program of study includes the history, organization, and functions of local, state, and federal law enforcement. Students will understand the role of constitutional law at local, state, and federal levels; the U.S. legal system; criminal law; and law enforcement terminology and the classification and elements of crime.



### Secondary Courses for High School Credit

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|----------------|---|
| <b>Level 1</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security</li></ul>               |
| <b>Level 2</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Law Enforcement I</li><li>Federal Law Enforcement and Protective Services</li></ul> |
| <b>Level 3</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Law Enforcement II</li><li>Correctional Services</li></ul>                          |
| <b>Level 4</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Forensic Science</li><li>Extended Career Prep for Programs of Study</li></ul>       |



### Example Postsecondary Opportunities

#### Apprenticeships

- Security Specialist

#### Associate Degrees

- Criminal Justice
- Law Enforcement

#### Bachelor's Degrees

- Forensic Science
- Criminal Justice

#### Master's, Doctoral, and Professional Degrees

- Criminal Justice
- Criminology and Criminal Justice

#### Additional Stackable IBCs/Licensures

- Jailer – Basic County Corrections
- Basic Telecommunicator



### Aligned Advanced Academic Courses

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|--------------------|---|
| <b>Dual Credit</b> | Dual credit offerings will vary by Local Education Agency |
|--------------------|---|

Students should be advised to consider these course opportunities to enrich their preparation. AP or IB courses not listed under the Secondary Courses for High School Credit section of this framework document do not count towards Concentrator/Completer status for this program of study.

### Work-Based Learning and Expanded Learning Opportunities

#### Work-Based Learning Activities

- Shadow a detective to learn about investigations and the role of detectives in law enforcement
- Intern in dispatch at a local law enforcement agency to learn about first responder roles and processes

#### Expanded Learning Opportunities

- Visit a police department
- Participate in TSA or SkillsUSA

### Aligned Industry-Based Certifications

- Non-Commissioned Security Officer Level II License



### Example Aligned Occupations

#### Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers

Median Wage: \$64,373  
Annual Openings: 5,424  
10-Year Growth: 13%

#### Detectives and Criminal Investigators

Median Wage: \$82,090  
Annual Openings: 1,536  
10-Year Growth: 8%

#### First-Line Supervisors of Police and Detectives

Median Wage: \$97,571  
Annual Openings: 5461  
0-Year Growth: 12%

Data Source: TexasWages, Texas Workforce Commission. Retrieved 3/8/2024.



For more information visit:  
<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/college-career-and-military-prep/career-and-technical-education/programs-of-study-additional-resources>

Successful completion of the Law and Public Services program of study will fulfill requirements of the Public Services endorsement.

COURSE INFORMATION			
COURSE NAME	COURSE NUMBER AND CREDITS	PREREQUISITES (PREQ) COREQUISITES (CREQ)	GRADE
Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security	8730 (1 credit)	None	9-10
Federal Law Enforcement & Protective Services	8735 (1 credit)	Principles of Law	10
Law Enforcement I Regular or Dual Credit	8731 or 8731D1 and D2 (1 credit)	Regular: Prin Law Dual Credit: Prin Law and SWTX requirements	11
Law Enforcement II Regular or Dual Credit	8736 or 8736D1 and D2 (1 credit)	Regular: Law I Dual Credit: Law I and SWTX requirements	12
Correctional Services Dual Credit	8733D1 & D2 (1 credit)	Law Enforcement I DC and SWTX requirements	12
Forensic Science	8737 (1 credit)	Biology & Chemistry	11-12
Extended Career Prep for Programs of Study Reg or DC	8607 (3 credits) or 8607DC & D2 (3 credits)	Law I or Federal Law DC: pre-req & SWTX reqs.	12

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS	
<p><b>Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, &amp; Security</b></p> <p>This course introduces students to professions in law enforcement, security, corrections, and fire and emergency management services. Students will examine the roles and responsibilities of police, courts, corrections, private security, and protective agencies of fire and emergency services. The course provides students with an overview of the skills necessary for careers in law enforcement, fire service, security, and corrections.</p>	
<p><b>Federal Law Enforcement &amp; Protective Services</b></p> <p>Federal Law Enforcement &amp; Protective Services provides the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare for certification in security services. The course provides an overview of security elements and types of organizations with a focus on security measures used to protect lives, property, and proprietary information.</p>	
<p><b>Law Enforcement I Regular or DC:</b></p> <p>This course provides an overview of the history, organization, and functions of local, state, and federal law enforcement. This course includes the role of constitutional law, the United States legal system, criminal law, law enforcement terminology, and the classification and elements of crime.</p>	College Credit for DC: CRIJ 1301 & CJSA 1351
<p><b>Law Enforcement II Reg or Dual Credit:</b></p> <p>This course provides the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare for a career in law enforcement. This course includes the ethical and legal responsibilities, operation of police and emergency telecommunication equipment, and courtroom testimony.</p>	College Credit for DC: CRIJ 1307 & CJLE 1303
<p><b>Correctional Services Dual Credit:</b></p> <p>Students prepare for certification required for employment as a correctional officer. The student will learn the role and responsibilities of a correctional officer; discuss relevant rules, regulations, and laws; and discuss defensive</p>	College Credit: CRIJ 2313
<p><b>Forensic Science:</b></p> <p>“CSI” in the classroom: Through the use of case studies and simulated crime scenes, students will take on various roles as crime scene investigators, scientists, and medical examiners in order to learn how to process crime scenes. Students will solve crimes by questioning and interviewing, collecting, and analyzing evidence such as DNA, fingerprints, blood spatter and ballistics. They will document their findings in lab reports and present them to a student/class jury.</p>	satisfies a Science credit for graduation requirements
<p><b>Extended Career Prep for Programs of Study Reg or DC:</b></p> <p>Students are given the opportunity to work in their program of study while earning high school credit and develop employment experiences, which must be related to the student's current program of study alongside advanced classroom instruction. The goal is to prepare students with a variety of skills to transition from job- to career-mindedness. This course provides a continuing focus on collaborative feedback between the employer, teacher, and student. Students are taught about finding their future careers, keeping, as well as leaving, a job, and how to expound on their employable talents.</p>	College Credit: BMGT 1382