

PRAIRIE STATE COLLEGE  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE





# CRIMINAL JUSTICE

## AT PRAIRIE STATE COLLEGE

In today's security conscious world, the need for skilled criminal justice personnel is greater than ever. Prairie State College's (PSC) criminal justice program prepares students for employment in the criminal justice system and helps those currently employed advance their careers. It also provides a background in criminal justice for those preparing to study pre-law or pursuing advanced study in law enforcement and security management.

# DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES

## ASSOCIATE IN ARTS (A.A.)

Criminal Justice

## ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE (A.A.S.)

Criminal Justice Services

## CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

Criminal Justice Services

## Criminal Justice

### A.A. Degree

This curriculum is designed for students pursuing baccalaureate degrees in the fields of corrections, criminal justice, law enforcement and security management. Students are strongly encouraged to complete the Associate in Arts degree prior to transfer.

### I. General Education Core

37-38 credits

#### Area A: Communication

9

ENG 101	[C1 900] Composition I - with a grade of C or better	3
ENG 102	[C1 901R] Composition II - with a grade of C or better	3
COMM 101	[C2 900] Principles of Communication	3

#### Area B: Humanities and Fine Arts

9

Select three courses from the list for Area B with at least one course from humanities and one from fine arts.

#### Area C: Mathematics

3

Select one course from:

MATH 112	[M1 904] General Education Mathematics	3
MATH 115	[M1 902] General Education Statistics	3

#### Area D: Physical and Life Sciences

7-8

Select one life science course and one physical science course from the list for Area D. One course must have a lab component.

#### Area E: Social and Behavioral Sciences

9

Select three courses in at least two different disciplines.

PSYCH 101	[S6 900] Introduction to Psychology - recommended	3
SOCIO 101	[S7 900] Introduction to Sociology - recommended	3

### II. Area of Concentration/Major Field

12 credits

CJ 101	[CRJ 901] Introduction to Criminal Justice	3
CJ 102	[CRJ 912] Introduction to Criminology	3
CJ 106	[CRJ 911] Introduction to Corrections	3
CJ 204	[CRJ 914] Juvenile Justice	3

### III. Electives

12-13 credits

Select additional general education electives or refer to the program requirements for the university you plan to attend.

CJ 201	Introduction to Criminal Law - recommended	3
ITAPP 101	Introduction to Computers - recommended	3

### Required A.A. Degree Program Total

62 credits

**Foreign Language Requirements:** Some universities have a foreign language requirement. Generally, four years of a single foreign language in high school or four semesters of language in college will fulfill this requirement. It is recommended that students complete the entire sequence at one institution.

# Criminal Justice Services

## A.A.S. Degree

This program provides a foundation in criminal justice for individuals planning careers in the fields of law enforcement, corrections, probation, parole, or private security. The core criminal justice classes focus on the major components and operations of our system of justice at the local, county, state, and federal levels. Students study criminal law and procedure, corrections, and the courts. They also review the administration, organization, and processes of the overall criminal justice system.

### I. General Education Core 18-19 credits

#### Area A: Communication 9

ENG 101	Composition I - with a grade of C or better	3
ENG 102	Composition II - with a grade of C or better	3
COMM 101	Principles of Communication	3

#### Area B: Humanities and Fine Arts 3

Select one course from the list for Area B

#### Area C: Mathematics (demonstrated competence required)

Placement into MATH 095 or completion of MATH 090 - with a grade of C or better

#### Area D: Physical And Life Sciences 3-4

One course from the list for Area D

#### Area E: Social and Behavioral Sciences 3

POLSC 140	Introduction to U.S. Government & Politics - <b>required</b>	3
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### II. Area of Concentration/Program Requirements 42 credits

CJ 101	Introduction to Criminal Justice	3
CJ 102	Introduction to Criminology	3
CJ 103	Law Enforcement Organization and Administration	3
CJ 106	Introduction to Corrections	3
CJ 110	Community Based Policing	3
CJ 120	Introduction to Homeland Security	3
CJ 201	Introduction to Criminal Law	3
CJ 202	Civil and Criminal Laws/Procedures	3
CJ 203	Principles of Criminal Investigation	3
CJ 204	Juvenile Justice	3
CJ 208	Principles of Criminalities	3
CJ 270	Computer Forensics	3
ITAPP 101	Introduction to Computers	3

#### Select one course from:

CJ 299	Criminal Justice Internship	3
PSYCH 101	Introduction to Psychology	3
SOCIO 101	Introduction to Sociology	3

### Program Total 60-61 credits

# ABOUT THE CURRICULUM

PSC's program provides a foundation in criminal justice services for those who are planning careers in the social and criminal justice fields. Students learn to think critically, use complex problem-solving skills, and manage information. Students also learn how to apply the principles of communication and human behavior to their jobs. Field trips to correctional institutions and other facilities supplement the curriculum. PSC's classrooms and labs provide a hands-on environment for the high-quality training employers look for in potential employees.

## PROFICIENCY CREDIT AVAILABLE

Proficiency credits are available for actively working full-time police officers (and corrections officers) who are certified by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board as a Law Enforcement Officer or Corrections Officer. These officers must have completed the Approved Basic Law Enforcement (or Corrections) Officer Training Academies (400 or 480 hours) and have one year or more of full-time experience as a police (or corrections) officer, and they must have completed their probationary period.





## ADMISSIONS

PSC offers “open admission” that encourages diversity and admits all high school graduates or the equivalent.

Here’s how to start your college career at PSC:

- Provide a high school diploma or GED.
- Take the placement test or submit a copy of ACT or SAT scores.
- Meet with an advisor from Counseling and Advising to select courses. For questions, contact an academic advisor at (708) 709-3506.

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## Criminal Justice Services

### Certificate

This program is designed for part-time students already employed in the fields of law enforcement, corrections and private security. The curriculum prepares students to advance their careers as public police officers and investigators, correctional officers, 911 telecommunications, or private security officers and investigators.

### Program Requirements 24 credits

CJ 101	Introduction to Criminal Justice	3
CJ 102	Introduction to Criminology	3
CJ 103	Law Enforcement Organization and Administration	3
CJ 120	Introduction to Homeland Security	3
CJ 201	Introduction to Criminal Law	3
CJ 204	Juvenile Justice	3
ENG 101	Composition I	3
ITAPP 101	Introduction to Computers	3

### Select two courses from: 6 credits

CJ 106	Introduction to Corrections	3
CJ 110	Community-Based Policing	3
CJ 202	Civil and Criminal Laws/Procedures	3
CJ 203	Principles of Criminal Investigation	3
CJ 270	Computer Forensics	3

### Program Total 30 credits

## Financial Aid Information

PSC’s tuition is affordable, and financial aid is available through a variety of sources. Additional information at [prairiestate.edu/finaid](http://prairiestate.edu/finaid).

### Find out more today by contacting Patrick Dwyer

Coordinator, Criminal Justice  
[pdwyer1@prairiestate.edu](mailto:pdwyer1@prairiestate.edu)

### Gainful Employment Disclosure

The U.S. Department of Education requires colleges with financial aid eligible programs that “prepares students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation” to disclose certain information about these programs. For more information about our graduation rates, the median debt of students who have completed the program, and other important information related to the program, please visit our website at [prairiestate.edu/ge](http://prairiestate.edu/ge). We hope that this information is helpful in making informed choices about your education.



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