

**Somerset County Vo-Tech Program Overview**

**Law and Public Safety**



Employment of police occupations is projected to grow 7% in the next 10 years. In 2020 the median pay for a police officer was \$67,920 per year or \$32.35 per hour. The median pay for correctional officers in 2020 was \$47,440 per year or \$22.81 per hour.

(source: United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

*Law and Public Safety is a program developed in partnership with the Somerset County Sheriff's Office. Students will learn the skills that they can apply to work in criminal justice or emergency management. Students learn emergency first aid care, understand the criminal justice system, gain a working knowledge of the United States Constitution, enhance their teamwork skills, build their physical fitness, and learn basic police procedures. The program also meets a student's physical education (gym) requirements for high school education.*

**Curriculum:**

Year 1: Basic skills, first aid, first responder training, history of criminal justice, the U.S. Constitution

Year 2: Police equipment and technology, NJ traffic law, organization, report writing, organized crime

Year 3: Civil vs. criminal law, dispatching, interrogation, crime scene investigation, gathering & processing evidence

Year 4: Controlled substances, criminal corrections system, communicating with the public, guidelines for use of force

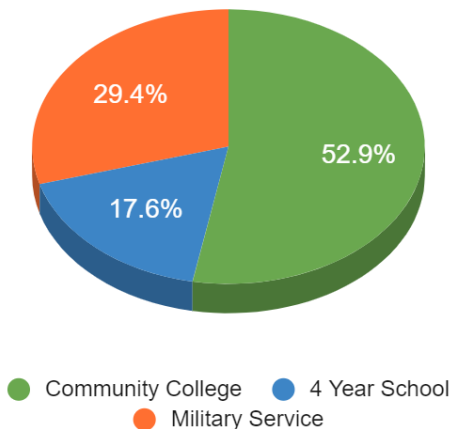
Classes meet for 3 periods/2 hours per day, 5 days a week

Average number of new students accepted per year: 12

Opportunity for professional certifications: YES

Opportunity to earn college credits: YES

**Law & Public Safety Student Plans at Graduation**



**Future Careers**

- Corrections Officer
- Dispatcher
- Fire Fighter
- Lawyer
- Paralegal
- Police Officer
- Public Safety Coordinator
- Security Officer

**Recent Student Post-Secondary Destinations**

- John Jay College
- Kean University
- Raritan Valley Community College
- Rutgers University
- Seton Hall University
- New Jersey National Guard
- United States Coast Guard

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SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA helps each student excel by providing educational programs, events and competitions that support career and technical education (CTE) in the nation’s classrooms.

SCVTHS students have the opportunity to compete for state and national recognition in the annual SkillsUSA competitions

*Recent Awards*

- 2019 Silver Medal NJ Criminal Justice competition
- 2019 Bronze Medal NJ Criminal Justice competition
- 2021 Silver Medal NJ Criminal Justice competition
- 2021 Gold Medal NJ Criminal Justice competition



All Somerset County Vocational & Technical School programs are supported by a community advisory panel. The Law and Public Safety advisory panel members include:

- Richard Borden
- Manuel Caravela
- Dr. Richard Celeste
- Ed Davis
- Brian Donnelly
- Charles O’Neil
- William Stahl

- Somerset County Sheriff’s Dept.
- Bridgewater Police Dept.
- Somerset County Police Academy
- Hunterdon County Sheriff’s Dept.
- Scotch Plains Police Dept.
- Somerset County Jail
- Somerset County Dept. of Health and Public Safety

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