



# Law and Public Service Career Cluster

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.

## Big Spring High School 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

#### Level 1

Level 2 • Law Enforcement I

Level 3 • Law Enforcement II  
• Counseling and Mental Health

Level 4 • Forensic Science  
• Career Preparation for Programs of Study

### Aligned Advanced Academic Courses

**Dual Credit** 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

- IAED Emergency Telecommunicator



### 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



### 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: 5,461  
10-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>



# Law and Public Service Career Cluster

## Statewide Program of Study: Law Enforcement

### Course Information

Level	Course	Prerequisites   Corequisites	Career Clusters
Level 1			
Level 2	<b>Law Enforcement I</b> 13029300 (1 credit)	<b>Prerequisites:</b> None <b>Corequisites:</b> None <b>Recommended Prerequisites:</b> Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security <b>Recommended Corequisites:</b> None	
Level 3	<b>Law Enforcement II</b> 13029400 (1 credit)	<b>Prerequisites:</b> None <b>Corequisites:</b> None <b>Recommended Prerequisites:</b> Law Enforcement I <b>Recommended Corequisites:</b> None	
	<b>Counseling and Mental Health*</b> 13024600 (1 credit)	<b>Prerequisites:</b> None <b>Corequisites:</b> None <b>Recommended Prerequisites:</b> Principles of Human Services <b>Recommended Corequisites:</b> None	 
Level 4	<b>Forensic Science*</b> 13029500 (1 credit)	<b>Prerequisites:</b> One credit in Biology, one credit in Chemistry, Integrated Chemistry and Physics (IPC), or Physics <b>Corequisites:</b> None <b>Recommended Prerequisites:</b> None <b>Recommended Corequisites:</b> None	
	<b>Career Preparation for Programs of Study*</b> First Time Taken: 12701121 (2 credits)	<b>Prerequisites:</b> At least one Level 2 or higher CTE course <b>Corequisites:</b> None <b>Recommended Prerequisites:</b> None <b>Recommended Corequisites:</b> None	

\* Indicates course is included in more than one program of study.

For additional information on the Law and Public Service career cluster, contact [cte@tea.texas.gov](mailto:cte@tea.texas.gov) or visit <https://tea.texas.gov/cte>



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