



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 all aspects of the military, 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

Level 1

- Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security

Level 2

- Law Enforcement I
- Criminal Investigation
- Federal Law Enforcement and Protective Services

Level 3

- Law Enforcement II
- Correctional Services
- Forensic Psychology
- Counseling and Mental Health
- Crisis Care (TBD)

Level 4

- Forensic Science
- Practicum in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security
- Practicum in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security + Extended Practicum in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security
- Career Preparation for Programs of Study
- Career Preparation for Programs of Study + Extended Career Preparation

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, or TPSA

Aligned Industry-Based Certifications

- Certified Protection Officer (CPO)
- County Jailer
- IAED Emergency Telecommunicator
- Mental Health Technician Certification (MHTC)
- Non-Commissioned Security Officer Level II License
- Private Security - Commissioned Security Officer
- Telecommunicator License



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: \$74,014
Annual Openings: 5,461
10-Year Growth: 13%

Detectives and Criminal Investigators

Median Wage: \$89,394
Annual Openings: 1,555
10-Year Growth: 8%

First-Line Supervisors of Police and Detectives

Median Wage: \$105,836
Annual Openings: 526
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/lps-law-enforcement-extendedpptx.pdf>