Law and Public Service

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.

Program of Study: Law Enforcement (Dual Credit Program)

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.

Courses

9th Grade	Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security
10th Grade	Law Enforcement I
11th Grade	Counseling and Mental Health Court Systems and Practices (San Jacinto College Course) Correctional Services (San Jacinto College Course) Federal Law Enforcement and Protective Services (San Jacinto College Course)
12th Grade	Forensic Science Criminal Investigations (San Jacinto College Course) Law Enforcement II (San Jacinto College Course)

Students must maintain a 2.5 GPA or higher to qualify for dual credit.

Work-Based Learning/Expanded Learning Opportunities

Work-Based Learning Activities	Attend court hearings and other legal procedures
Expanded Learning Opportunities	• Criminal Justice Club • Earn dual credit hours

Aligned Industry-Based Certifications

- International Academy of Emergency Dispatch 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/License

- 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%

Successful completion of this program of study will fulfill requirements of the Public Service Endorsement.
Approved Statewide Program of Study. C. E. King High School – 2026-27

Law Enforcement
Course Information

Level 1

Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security 13029200

Grade: 9-10 **Credit: 1**

Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security introduces students to professions in law enforcement, protective services, corrections, firefighting, 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, protective services, and corrections.

Level 2

Law Enforcement I 13029300

Grade: 10-12 **Credit: 1**
Recommended Prerequisite: Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security

Law Enforcement I is an overview of 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.

Federal Law Enforcement and Protective Services (San Jacinto College Course) 13029800

Grade: 11-12 **Credit: 1**
Recommended Prerequisite: Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security

Federal Law Enforcement and Protective Services provides the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare for certification in security services for federal law enforcement and protective 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, to ensure computer security, to provide information assurance, and to prevent cybercrime.

Criminal Investigations (San Jacinto College Course) 13029550

Grade: 11-12 **Credit: 1**
Recommended Prerequisite: Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security

Criminal Investigation is a course that introduces students to the profession of criminal investigations. Students will understand basic functions of criminal investigations and procedures and will learn how to investigate or follow up during investigations. Students will learn terminology and investigative procedures related to criminal investigation, crime scene processing, evidence collection, fingerprinting, and courtroom presentation. Through case studies and simulated crime scenes, students will collect and analyze evidence such as fingerprint analysis, bodily fluids, hairs, fibers, shoe and tire impressions, bite marks, drugs, tool marks, firearms and ammunition, blood spatter, digital evidence, and other types of evidence.

Court Systems and Practices (San Jacinto College Course) 13029600

Grade: 11-12 **Credit: 1**
Recommended Prerequisite: Law Enforcement I

Court Systems and Practices is an overview of the federal and state court systems. The course identifies the roles of judicial officers and the trial processes from pretrial to sentencing and examines the types and rules of evidence. Emphasis is placed on constitutional laws for criminal procedures such as search and seizure, stop and frisk, and interrogation.

Law Enforcement
Course Information

Level 3

Counseling and Mental Health **13024600**

Grade: 11-12 **Credit: 1**
Recommended Prerequisite: Principles of Human Services

In Counseling and Mental Health, students model the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue a counseling and mental health career through simulated environments. Students are expected to apply knowledge of ethical and legal responsibilities, limitations, and the implications of their actions. Professional integrity in counseling and mental health care is dependent on acceptance of ethical and legal responsibilities.

Correctional Services (San Jacinto College Course) **13029700**

Grade: 11-12 **Credit: 1**
Recommended Prerequisite: Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security

In Correctional Services, students prepare for certification required for employment as a municipal, county, state, or federal correctional officer. Students will learn the role and responsibilities of a county or municipal correctional officer; discuss relevant rules, regulations, and laws of municipal, county, state, or federal facilities; and discuss defensive tactics, restraint techniques, and first aid procedures as used in the municipal, county, state, or federal correctional setting. Students will analyze rehabilitation and alternatives to institutionalization for inmates.

Law Enforcement II (San Jacinto College Course) **13029400**

Grade: 10-12 **Credit: 1**
Prerequisite: Law Enforcement I

Law Enforcement II provides the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare for a career in law enforcement. Students will understand ethical and legal responsibilities, patrol procedures, first responder roles, telecommunications, emergency equipment operations, and courtroom testimony.

Level 4

Forensic Science (Satisfies a science credit) **13029500**

Grade: 11-12 **Credit: 1** **GPA: 4.0**
Prerequisite: Biology AND Chemistry, IPC, or Physics

Forensic Science is a course that uses a structured and scientific approach to the investigation of crimes of assault, abuse and neglect, domestic violence, accidental death, homicide, and the psychology of criminal behavior. Students will learn terminology and investigative procedures related to crime scene, questioning, interviewing, criminal behavior characteristics, truth detection, and scientific procedures used to solve crimes. Using scientific methods, students will collect and analyze evidence through case studies and simulated crimes scenes such as fingerprinting analysis, ballistics, and blood spatter analysis. Students will learn the history, legal aspects, and career options for forensic science.