

What is Criminal Justice?

Criminal Justice is the study of the criminal justice system which includes law enforcement (police agencies), the court/ judiciary /parole systems, corrections, and community corrections. Students will study coursework in criminal justice and criminology, law enforcement and criminal justice ethics, criminal and constitutional law, and written, verbal, non-verbal and intercultural communications.

Which Degree Do I Begin With?

There are two degree options here at Bellevue College. Please read the descriptions below to see which degree might be best for you.

- ◆ **Associate in Arts & Sciences Direct Transfer Degree AAS-DTA.** This degree allows students to transfer to a four year university and continue studies towards a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree or Bachelor of Science (BS) degree. Students may include an "Academic Concentration in Criminal Justice" by completing 20 credits of core criminal justice credits.
- ◆ **Associate in Applied Science AAS-T.** This degree is built upon technical courses required for job preparation but also includes a college level general education component. The AAS-T degree generally will not be accepted in transfer in preparation for a BA or BS degree, although a limited number of degree programs at some baccalaureate institutions have been articulated.

What Are Some Common Prerequisites that I'll Need to Take?

Every university and major concentration will require slightly different prerequisites. It is **highly recommended** that you speak with a representative at the target university in conjunction with an academic advisor here at BC to ensure that you are taking the proper courses. Double-checking requirements can be as easy as going to the university department website. Below is a general guide to the courses **recommended** for students interested in a Criminal Justice major. (this is not an official list):

Written Communication	Mathematics	Major Specific	Other	Recommended Courses
ENGL 101 ENGL 201	MATH 107 or 138*	CJ 101 CJ 106 CJ 109 CJ 110 CJ 112	PHIL 248 ANTH 215 POLS 202	Anthropology Psychology Sociology 101 Communication Studies Cultural and Ethnic Studies

Important notes about class selection above:

- ◆ **Strongly recommended:** three quarters (15 credits) of the same college level foreign language (or three years of high school). This is not a requirement at all universities.
- ◆ Students completing the Associate of APPLIED Science-T degree in Criminal Justice should follow the degree requirements listed on the AAS-T degree planning worksheet.
- ◆ Math courses will depend on university recommendations for a BA or BS degree. Forensic Science students will work on a Science track degree, please see the Science division advisor.

Course Planning Notes

Use the space below to write down a course sequence for this school year. Remember to maintain balance each quarter (i.e. try not to take all sciences or all writing-based classes in a single quarter). Also, keep in mind that 12 credit hours or more is considered full time; make sure to balance class load with your personal and/or work life. This is not an official educational plan - you should see an academic advisor if you have questions about course selection.

SUMMER		FALL		WINTER		SPRING	
COURSE	CREDITS	COURSE	CREDITS	COURSE	CREDITS	COURSE	CREDITS
TOTAL QTR. CREDITS		TOTAL QTR. CREDITS		TOTAL QTR. CREDITS		TOTAL QTR. CREDITS	

Beyond BC with a Criminal Justice Degree!

The Criminal Justice department at Bellevue College offers a variety of criminal justice courses to help prepare students either for immediate employment or for transfer to a university bachelor's degree. Past Bellevue College graduates are currently employed in the Washington State Patrol, municipal and county law enforcement agencies throughout the Northwest, as well as federal agencies, in law practice, corrections, private investigations and security.

Criminal Justice In-State Transfer Options:

Central Washington University

Central Washington University - Des Moines and Lynnwood City University

Eastern Washington University (also offers Forensic Science

Evergreen State College –articulation with the AAS-T Degree
Northwest University

Seattle University

University of Washington - Tacoma

Washington State University and Global Campus

What jobs will I be eligible for with an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice?

Police Officer
Corrections Officer
Dispatch Officer
U.S. Customs/Border Protection
Private Security
Private Investigator
Airport Security Officer

What jobs will I be eligible with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice?

Probation Officer
Parole Officer
Federal Investigator
Law Enforcement Management
Computer/Crime Lab Forensics
Community Corrections

What other steps will I need to take to be hired in law enforcement?

Written Exam
Physical Ability Test
Oral boards/interview
Background Check
Polygraph Exam
Psychological Assessment
Physical Test

Here's the Scoop! Considerations for this Major:

- Programs will differ from university to university; for example, some will not offer a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice (BS).
- Know the school's admission requirements, expectations, deadlines, and areas of specialization.
- Attend the information sessions offered by the universities.
- Most universities have foreign language admission and graduation policies; know what they are so you don't miss requirements.
- Apply to more than one university and have more than one back-up plan.
- Take the Criminal Justice Career Suitability Index. This is a list of questions which has been formulated to help prospective Criminal Justice Program students realistically assess the practicality of a career in the criminal justice or public safety field. Depending on your answers and/or the seriousness of your involvement or participation, your opportunities for employment in the field of Criminal Justice may be seriously restricted or eliminated altogether. Please see the Criminal Justice Faculty Advisor to complete the questionnaire.

Who To Contact for more Information:

Bellevue College has a variety of friendly faces and resources to help you plan and register for classes. Criminal Justice is part of the Social Science division located in D110.

- **New to College?** Connect with BC's Welcome Center via www.bellevuecollege.edu/welcome/ or email welcome@bellevuecollege.edu
- **Currently Taking Classes?** Meet with an Academic Advisor. In order to make an appointment with an academic advisor, call **425-564-2331** or **425-564-2212**
- **Need more Career Information?** Schedule an appointment with a Career Services Specialist by calling **425-564-2279**.

This is an unofficial guide only, designed to prepare students for entry into Washington State Criminal Justice programs. It is the student's responsibility to research and communicate with all community college and university programs to which he/she intends to apply to establish prerequisites and admission requirements, as they vary and are subject to change without notice.

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Updated 9/2018, Bellevue College Academic Advising, <https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/advising/transfer-center/pathway-guides/>