

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

All areas of Criminal Justice require that individuals possess the personal and physical qualities essential to become effective peace officers. Many employment opportunities currently exist for individuals desiring entrance into law enforcement and corrections related fields at various governmental levels. Security and corrections are fast-growing professions. Individuals interested in these professions should understand that the work is demanding, requiring a combination of training, education, and experience, along with mental and physical stamina.

The Criminal Justice program is designed to develop a student's understanding of the various operational functions within the criminal justice system. The educational emphasis will be the examination of crime causation, functions of law enforcement, the criminal court system, and corrections. Students majoring in this subject area can prepare themselves for careers in law enforcement, corrections, and security at both the operational and administrative levels.

Career Opportunities

Careers in the criminal justice field are found at the federal, state, county, and city levels.

Employment opportunities include:

- Communications Technician/Dispatcher
- Correctional Officer
- Criminalist
- Criminologist
- Deputy Sheriff
- Forensic Technician
- Juvenile Correctional Officer
- Police Officer
- Probation Officer
- Security Officer and Manager
- Special Agent/Investigator
- Deputy Coroner
- School Police Officer
- Reserve Police Officer/Sheriff's Deputy

Careers at the state, county, or city level usually require a high school diploma, but an associate's degree is preferable. Careers in law enforcement usually start with Police Academy Training. The modular format provides the opportunity to become a reserve officer while completing Module II and III of training.

Faculty

Gutierrez, Lupe

Transfer

- California State University, San Bernardino: Criminal Justice major
- University of California Riverside Extension

For the most up-to-date information on these programs and others, visit [assist.org](http://www.assist.org) (<http://www.assist.org>). Please stop by the Transfer Center in Building 23 or make an appointment with a counselor if you have questions.

Programs of Study

- Administration of Justice, AS-T (<https://catalog.vvc.edu/degrees-certificates/criminal-justice/administration-justice-ast/>)
- Campus Law Enforcement Course: PC 832.3 Certificate of Career Preparation (<https://catalog.vvc.edu/degrees-certificates/criminal-justice/campus-law-enforcement-course-pc-8323-ccp/>)
- Correctional Science Certificate of Achievement (<https://catalog.vvc.edu/degrees-certificates/criminal-justice/correctional-science-ca/>)
- Criminal Justice Certificate of Achievement (<https://catalog.vvc.edu/degrees-certificates/criminal-justice/criminal-justice-ca/>)
- Criminal Justice, AS (<https://catalog.vvc.edu/degrees-certificates/criminal-justice/criminal-justice-as/>)
- Forensic Specialist Certificate of Career Preparation (<https://catalog.vvc.edu/degrees-certificates/criminal-justice/forensic-specialist-ccp/>)
- Law Enforcement Module II Basic Course Certificate of Achievement (<https://catalog.vvc.edu/degrees-certificates/criminal-justice/law-enforcement-module-ii-basic-course-ca/>)
- Law Enforcement Module III Basic Course Certificate of Career Preparation (<https://catalog.vvc.edu/degrees-certificates/criminal-justice/law-enforcement-module-iii-basic-course-ccp/>)
- PC 832 Firearms Only Certificate of Career Preparation (<https://catalog.vvc.edu/degrees-certificates/criminal-justice/pc-832-firearms-ccp/>)
- PC 832 Laws of Arrest Course Certificate of Career Preparation (<https://catalog.vvc.edu/degrees-certificates/criminal-justice/pc-832-laws-arrest-course-ccp/>)
- Police Technician Specialist Certificate of Career Preparation (<https://catalog.vvc.edu/degrees-certificates/criminal-justice/police-technician-specialist-ccp/>)

Program Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) are statements of the kind of learning a program hopes a student will achieve. The PLOs describe the knowledge, skills, problem-solving, communication and values that apply to all certificates and/or degrees within that program.

Upon completion of this program, students should be able to:

- a. Demonstrate a comprehension and appreciation of the connections, contributions, experiences, and potential conflicts of various ethnicities, races, and genders as they interact with the criminal justice components.
- b. Demonstrate an understanding of the criminal justice system and how the student as an individual understands career opportunities in the field as well as individual / community rights and responsibilities.
- c. Demonstrate an awareness of crime causation, roles of the components of the criminal justice system, and social and economic impact of crime on society.
- d. Critically analyze and evaluate behaviors and situations for violations of law; evaluate the lawful admissibility of evidence; and assess legal defenses.
- e. Communicate effectively, orally and in written formats, to the various professional role players within the Criminal Justice system.
- f. Critically evaluate Vehicle Code violations to determine the cause for an accident. Perform the fundamentals of firearm safety, shooting accurately, and cleaning a pistol.

- g. Critically analyze and assess various sample fingerprints and accurately classify each fingerprint.
- h. Critically evaluate the search and/or seizure of evidence and determine the admissibility of evidence based on current Federal Supreme Court Decisions.
- i. Critically analyze and evaluate the procedures in the preliminary investigation of specific crimes.
- j. Critically examine and evaluate the types of evidence, admissibility of evidence given fourth and fifth amendment restrictions; analyze exceptions to the exclusionary rule.
- k. Critically evaluate the processes involved in recognizing evidence and investigating any specific crime scene; recognize the barriers to an effective interviews and/or interrogations.
- l. Critically analyze and describe the criminal trial processes from pre-arrest to sentencing.
- m. Critically analyze and evaluate the proper procedures in conducting a criminal investigation involving crimes against persons, property, sex crimes, crimes against children, bombs and explosions, and vice and narcotics.
- n. Critically evaluate and analyze the development of the role players, training and education, and present day challenges of the criminal justice system to include police, courts, and corrections.
- o. Perform the duties and responsibilities of a Level II Reserve.
- p. Critically appraise the legal restraints imposed on a peace officer by the US Constitution; critically evaluate the duties and responsibilities of a Level III Reserve.
- q. Explain the sociological theories of criminology that relate specifically to juvenile delinquency.
- r. Recognize and explain the development of the Juvenile court system.
- s. Recognize and explain the role of parens patriae and its role in the social development of the juvenile offender.
- t. Perform the duties, role, and function of a state certified correctional officer in a county jail or private prison.
- u. Perform the duties and responsibilities of a campus Peace Officer employed on a K-12 or Community College campus.
- v. Perform the duties and responsibilities of a California Correctional Officer in a local city, county, or private facility, as defined by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC)
- w. Execute skills necessary for entry level employment in a variety of jobs within the Criminal Justice area.
- x. Apply for entry level employment in a variety of jobs within the Criminal Justice area.
- y. Students will have the knowledge and skills to correctly classify any fingerprint and successfully identify an unknown fingerprint to a known fingerprint.
- z. Collect evidence with accuracy.
- aa. Perform the duties and responsibilities of a Level III Reserve Peace Officer as prescribed in POST regulations . This certificate satisfies

the prerequisite for entry into Module II Basic Law Enforcement Course.

- bb. Perform the duties and responsibilities of a Level II Reserve Officer as prescribed by POST. Or, perform the duties of a peace officer in a State Hospital, Code Enforcement officer for city and county agencies, or perform the duties of a gaming officer in a casino.
- cc. Students awarded this certificate have demonstrated the safe handling of a firearm, cleaning principles, and have qualified on a firearms course of fire as prescribed by POST.
- dd. Perform the Laws of Arrest as prescribed by POST for peace officers with limited peace officer powers.
- ee. Be prepared for a variety of employment opportunities with any Law Enforcement Agency.

Criminal Justice Courses

CJ 8 PC 832.3 Campus Law Enforcement (2.0 Units)

This course complies with the state requirements for K-12 and Community College peace officer training per Penal Code 832.3g, certified by the state Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training. This course includes the role and responsibilities of campus police, search and seizure, student discipline and records, Crimes against persons and property, mandatory reporting of child abuse, and Disaster Preparedness. This course does not apply to the Associate Degree.

Lecture Hours: 36.0

Transfer: Not transferable

CJ 010 Victim Prev and Basic Self-Defense Wmn (0.0 Units)

This course is designed to empower women with the knowledge and basic skills necessary to help prevent them from being victims of crime. They will learn the importance of awareness and assertiveness in reducing the risk of victimization. Learners will identify everyday risk factors of victimization and learn tools to reduce the impact of those risk factors. Topics will include situational awareness, cyber security and oversharing, and basic home safety. The course will also build learner self-confidence and assurance by using a low-stress environment to teach command presence skills, weaponless defense tactics, chemical agents familiarization, and basic firearms handling and safety.

Lecture Hours: 1.5; Lab Hours: 4.5

Transfer: Not transferable

CJ 020 Pre-Academy Orientation for Cj 80 (0.0 Units)

This course will serve as the academy orientation for CJ 80, the Level III Modular Law Enforcement Academy. Students enrolled in the CJ 81 Level II Modular Academy, who completed the Level III Academy at an institution other than Victor Valley College are also encouraged to enroll in this orientation.

Lab Hours: 9.0

Transfer: Not transferable

CJ 30 PC 832 Firearms (0.5 Units)

This course satisfies the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) firearms certification for PC 832. Additional, this course exceeds the State of California firearms safe handling and use certification required from any person purchasing a firearm in California. This course does not apply to the Associate Degree. Prerequisite: DOJ criminal records check for firearms clearance through NLETS, CLETS, and FBI databases. Pass/No Pass.

Lab Hours: 27.0

Transfer: Not transferable

CJ 58 PC 832 Laws of Arrest (2.0 Units)

This course complies with the requirements of the Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training for certification in PC 832. This course includes professionalism, law, evidence, investigation, arrest methods and control, community relations, and communication skills for interviewing and interrogation. Pass/No Pass.

Lecture Hours: 27.0; Lab Hours: 27.0

Transfer: Not transferable

CJ 67 Crime Scene Investigation (3.5 Units)

This course will focus on the technical aspects of evidence collection, crime scene reconstruction, crime scene photography, evidence packaging, and courtroom testimony. This course will prepare the student to distinguish between trace, stain, and impression evidence and the role of these types of evidence in criminal investigations.

Lecture Hours: 54.0; Lab Hours: 27.0

Transfer: Not transferable

CJ 80 Module III Law Enforcement Basic Course (8.0 Units)

This course complies with the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) requirements for the Module III Law Enforcement Basic Course. This course includes professionalism and ethics, criminal law, laws of arrest and search and seizure, report writing, vehicle operations, use of force and force options, chemical agents, and firearms training. Prerequisite: DOJ Criminal Record Clearance for Firearms (State Mandated) Pass/No Pass. State Mandated.

Lecture Hours: 117.0; Lab Hours: 81.0

Transfer: Not transferable

CJ 81 Module II Law Enforcement Basic Course (10.2 Units)

This course includes community relations, victimology, crimes against property and persons, crimes against children, specific sex crimes, search and seizure law, investigative report writing, crimes in progress and patrol tactics, use of force, defensive tactics, and firearms training. There are a minimum of 144 hours of lecture and 60 hours lab. Prerequisite: CJ 80, Module III Law Enforcement Basic Course and DOJ Criminal Record Clearance. Pass/No Pass Prerequisite : DOJ criminal records clearance for Firearms. Must have completed Module III within three years and passed the End of Course Final Exam within one year.

Prerequisite(s): CJ 80, Minimum grade C, and DOJ Criminal Record Clearance. Must have completed Module III within three years and passed the End of Course Final Exam within one year.

Lecture Hours: 162.0; Lab Hours: 67.5

Transfer: Not transferable

CJ 92 Writing for Criminal Justice (3.0 Units)

Techniques of communicating facts, information, and ideas effectively in a simple, clear, and logical manner in the various types of criminal justice system reports: letters, memoranda, directives, and administrative reports with an emphasis on criminal justice terminology in note taking and report writing.

Lecture Hours: 54.0

Transfer: Not transferable

CJ 101 Introduction to Criminal Justice (3.0 Units)

This course introduces students to the characteristics of the criminal justice system in the US. Focus is placed on examining crime measurement, theoretical explanations of crime, responses to crime, components of the system, and current challenges to the system. This course will examine the evolution and practices of the police, courts, corrections and their respective role players. This course will examine the ethics, education and training requirements for the respective role players in the criminal justice system. C-ID: AJ 110. CSU/UC

Lecture Hours: 54.0

Transfer: Transfers to both UC/CSU

CJ 102 Criminal Trial Processes (3.0 Units)

Legal processes from pre-arrest through trial, sentencing and correctional procedures. An analysis of ethical decisions made by police, prosecutors, defense attorney, and the judiciary; conceptual interpretations of criminal trial procedural law as reflected in court decisions. A study of case law methodology and case research as the decisions impact upon the procedures of the justice system. C-ID: AJ 122. CSU

Lecture Hours: 54.0

Transfer: Transfers to CSU only

CJ 103 Criminal Law (3.0 Units)

This course offers an analysis of the doctrines of criminal liability in the US and the classification of crimes against persons, property, morals, and public welfare. Special emphasis is placed on the classification of crime, general elements of crime, the definitions of common and statutory law, and the nature of acceptable evidence. This course utilizes case law and case studies to introduce students to criminal law. The completion of this course offers a foundation upon which upper-division criminal justice course will build. This course also includes criminal culpability and defenses to crimes. C-ID: AJ 120. CSU/UC

Lecture Hours: 54.0

Transfer: Transfers to both UC/CSU

CJ 104 Legal Aspects of Evidence (3.0 Units)

Origin, development, philosophy, and constitutional basis of evidence; constitutional and procedural considerations affecting arrest, search and seizure; kinds and degrees of evidence and rules governing admissibility and exclusion; judicial decisions interpreting individual rights and case studies viewed from a conceptual level. C-ID: AJ 124. CSU

Lecture Hours: 54.0

Transfer: Transfers to CSU only

CJ 127 Introduction to Criminology (3.0 Units)

An introduction to major types of criminal behavior, characteristics of offenders, factors which contribute to crime and delinquency. An examination of the criminal justice process; the function of law enforcement, the courts, probation, parole and institutions. Explore the changes in crime control and treatment processes, the role of society. CSU,UC

Lecture Hours: 54.0

Transfer: Transfers to both UC/CSU

CJ 132 Introduction to Corrections (3.0 Units)

A survey of the field of correctional science. Historical development, current concepts and practice; explanations of criminal behavior; functions and objectives of the criminal justice system concerned with institutional, probation, and parole processes as they modify the offender's behavior; survey of professional career opportunities in public and private institutions. C-ID: AJ 200. CSU

Lecture Hours: 54.0

Transfer: Transfers to CSU only

CJ 135 Juvenile Law & Procedures (3.0 Units)

An overview and history of the Juvenile Justice System that evolved in the American Justice System. This course examines the sociological theories of delinquency, constitutional rights of juveniles, investigative procedures regarding juveniles, and the judicial proceedings of juveniles from intake to custodial resolutions. C-ID: AJ 220. CSU

Lecture Hours: 54.0

Transfer: Transfers to CSU only

CJ 145 Introduction to Criminal Investigations (3.0 Units)

This course explores the techniques, procedures, and ethical issues in the investigation of crime, including organization of the investigative process, crime scene searches, interviewing and interrogating, surveillance, source of information, utility of evidence, scientific analysis of evidence and the role of the investigator in the trial process. C-ID: AJ 140. CSU

Lecture Hours: 54.0; Lecture Hours: 3.38

Transfer: Transfers to CSU only

CJ 148 Special Topics (0.5-3 Units)

Special Topics

Lecture Hours: 54.0; Lab Hours: 54.0

Transfer: Transfers to CSU only

CJ 150 Introduction to Forensic Science (3.0 Units)

This course introduces the role of forensics in the criminal justice system. The course includes: crime scene processes and analysis; interpretation of patterns for reconstruction; physical pattern evidence; fingerprint identification and patterns; questioned document examination; toolmarks and firearms examinations; biological evidence and DNA; arson and explosives evidence, and drug analysis C-ID: AJ 150. CSU

Lecture Hours: 54.0; Lecture Hours: 3.38

Transfer: Transfers to CSU only

CJ 201 Community and the Justice System (3.0 Units)

This course examines the complex, dynamic relationship between communities and the justice system in addressing crime and social conflict with an emphasis on the challenges and prospects of administering justice within a diverse multicultural population. Topics may include ethics, consensus and conflicting values in culture, religion, and law. C-ID: AJ 160. CSU

Lecture Hours: 54.0; Lecture Hours: 3.38

Transfer: Transfers to CSU only