

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Curriculum: Associate of Arts Degree/Associate of Science Degree Criminal Justice Corrections Option

Major Requirements

- o Intro. to Criminal Justice
- o Criminal Law I
- o Law of Evidence
- o Introduction to Corrections
- o Probation and Parole
- o Criminal Justice Internship
- o General Psychology
- o Introduction to Sociology
- o Social Problems
- o Criminology

Curriculum: Associate of Arts Degree/Associate of Science Degree Criminal Justice Policing Option

Major Requirements

- o Introduction to Criminal Justice
- o Criminal Investigation
- o Criminal Law I
- o Law of Evidence
- o Police Administration
- o Criminal Procedure
- o The Community and the Police
- o General Psychology
- o Introduction to Sociology
- o Social Problems
- o Criminology

Curriculum: Associate of Applied Science Degree, Criminal Justice

Major Requirements:

- o Introduction to Criminal Justice
- o Criminal Investigation
- o Criminal Law I
- o Law of Evidence
- o Police Administration
- o The Community and the Police
- o Basic Emergency Care/First Responder
- o General Psychology
- o Introduction to Sociology
- o Electives

Curriculum: Associate of Science Degree, Forensic Science

Major Requirements:

- o Introduction to Biology I
- o Basic Chemistry and
Basic Chemistry Lab
or
Chemistry I and
Chemistry Laboratory I
- o Introductory Organic Chemistry
- o Introduction to Criminal Justice
- o Criminal Investigation
- o Law of Evidence
- o Criminalistics
- o Pre-Calculus Algebra
- o Human Anatomy
- o Human Anatomy Lab
- o Electives approved by the advisor

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Social & Behavioral Science



Fact Sheet

Teaching philosophy

The Casper College Criminal Justice Department is equally interested in students who want to complete a two-year degree and then transfer to another college or university and those students who want to earn a degree or take some classes and then enter the workforce in the field of criminal justice. They also welcome students who recognize the critical role that an informed citizenry plays in keeping a community safe from crime. They welcome noncriminal justice majors to take classes as general education electives or for personal enrichment.



Typical career paths

In Wyoming most people working as probation officers, parole officers, or in federal law enforcement agencies are required to have four-year college degrees. Police officers, state troopers, deputy sheriffs, detention officers and correctional officers are not required to have any college. However, two and four-year college degrees do improve one's chances of becoming employed with an agency or department. Even in agencies that do not require college degrees, many of the employees and most of the managers and administrators have a college degree. Moving up in an organization often requires a college education.

Compared to policing, there are relatively few jobs in crime labs, but well qualified students will find opportunities as the forensic science field expands. Our forensic science degree with its careful blend of criminal justice, chemistry and biology will prepare students for continuing study in a four-year degree program in chemistry or forensic science.

Contact Info.

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Room 175E
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Points of Pride

- Faculty – all with many years of professional and academic experience
- Both policing and corrections emphasis areas
- A blend of traditional classroom and hands-on instruction
- Internship opportunities with local area agencies
- Guest presentations by criminal justice practitioners
- Criminal Justice Club – fun gatherings and field trips
- Firearms program – earn up to five credits with quality instruction on handguns, shotguns and rifles
- CSI – forensic science degree option
- CJ field trips – get out and see the real world of criminal justice

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A related area is the work of the crime scene technician. If you are interested in processing crime scenes, your best choice is to become a law enforcement officer and work with your department to achieve an assignment processing crime scenes.

Detectives conduct important investigations and testify in major felony trials. In most law enforcement agencies, detectives or criminal investigators are selected from among the uniformed officers assigned to patrol.

Among the fastest growing field in criminal justice is in the area of corrections. America incarcerates around two million people on any given day. This means that there is a tremendous need for correctional officers, probation officers and parole agents.



Transfer opportunities

Graduates of this program have frequently transferred to the University of Wyoming in Laramie, the University of Wyoming/Casper College Center, Chadron State (Nebraska) College and Weber State (Utah) University. Students desiring to transfer to other schools will likely be welcomed. Each college or university will have its own rules concerning which classes and how many hours students will be allowed to transfer.

Internships/Special Partnerships

Students in the criminal justice program often complete internships with local area criminal justice agencies. Both the Casper Police Department and the Natrona County Sheriff's Department have accepted a large number of students for internships. Internships can be one, two, or three credits and the number of observation hours with the agency and the length of the required term paper vary according to the number of credits sought. Students from other communities can often be placed for a summer internship with an agency near home.

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FAQ's

Do I need a college degree to work in criminal justice?

Yes and no. No, peace officers, detention officers and correctional officers in many states are not required to have college degrees. However, a college degree, even a two-year college degree, can enhance one's resume and make employment and later promotion more likely. Yes, four-year college degrees are required for most federal law enforcement special agent positions such as FBI or DEA or U.S. Marshals, probation officers, parole agents, game wardens, juvenile probation officers, and crime laboratory scientists.

What is the difference between the A.A., the A.S. and the A.A.S. degrees?

The A.A. is an associate of arts and the A.S. is the associate of science. Students in criminal justice may earn either degree depending on which electives they take. Both degrees are designed for students who want to transfer to a four-year college or university.

The A.A.S. is an associate of applied science and is designed for students who do not anticipate transferring to a four-year college or university. Students seeking an A.A.S. degree are required to take fewer general education courses.

Do I have to pass a background check in order to be a CJ major?

No, our program is open to everyone. Employment in a criminal justice agency will, however, usually require the applicant successfully pass a thorough background investigation.

