

Foundations of Criminal Justice

Career Studies Certificate

Program Coordinator: Robin Widener • rwidener@vhcc.edu • 276-739-2408

Length: One to Two Semesters

Purpose: The curriculum in the Foundations of Criminal Justice Career Studies Certificate is designed to improve the knowledge and skills of the practitioner in the foundations of criminal justice, focusing on general knowledge and communication skills. This level is to prepare individuals for career service or advancement in the field.

Occupational Objectives: The curriculum will provide skills for the advancement and/or employment in the following occupations: law enforcement officer, investigator, probation and parole officer, security officer, juvenile services worker, officer, local, state, and federal enforcement officers.

Program notes: In addition to meeting the admission requirements established for the college, students in the Criminal Justice Program will need to meet the specialized requirements for the criminal justice agency with which he or she plans to seek employment. This includes the absence of any felony convictions or misdemeanor convictions involving moral turpitude or violence. ADJ students are required to earn a "C" or higher grade in the ADJ classes and in SOC 235 and SOC 236. If a student earns below a "C" in those classes, he or she must repeat the course and earn a final grade of "C" or better.

Course Number	Course Title	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Credits
ENG 111	English Composition I	3	0	3
SDV 101	Orientation to College Success	1	0	1
ITE 119 or ITE 152	Information Literacy or Introduction to Digital and Information Literacy and Computer Applications	3	0	3
ADJ 100	Survey of Criminal Justice	3	0	3
ADJ 130	Criminal Law	3	0	3
ADJ 133	Ethics & the Criminal justice Professional	3	0	3
SOC 236	Criminology	3	0	3
Total		19	0	19

Total Credits for Career Studies Certificate 19

Law Enforcement

Career Studies Certificate

Program Coordinator: Robin Widener • rwidener@vhcc.edu • 276-739-2408

Length: Two Semesters

Purpose: The curriculum in the Criminal Justice Career Studies Certificate is designed to improve the knowledge and skills of the practitioner in either the field of corrections or law enforcement. This program focuses more intensely on the aspect of each field and allows the student to obtain certifications in CPR and Mental Health First Aid. This Career Studies Certificate is designed to prepare individuals for career service or advancement in the either the field of corrections or law enforcement.

Occupational Objectives: The curriculum will provide skills for the advancement and/or employment in the following occupations: law enforcement officer, investigator, probation and parole officer, security officer, juvenile services worker, corrections officer, local, state, and federal enforcement officers.

Students must complete the Foundations of Criminal Justice Career Studies Certificate prior to enrollment in the Law Enforcement Career Studies Certificate unless the Program Coordinator grants approval

Program notes: In addition to meeting the admission requirements established for the college, students in the Criminal Justice Program will need to meet the specialized requirements for the criminal justice agency with which he or she plans to seek employment. This includes the absence of any felony convictions or misdemeanor convictions involving moral turpitude or violence. ADJ students are required to earn a "C" or higher grade in the ADJ classes and in SOC 235 and SOC 236. If a student earns below a "C" in those classes, he or she must repeat the course and earn a final grade of "C" or better.

Course Number	Course Title	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Credits
First Semester (Fall)				
ADJ 118	Crisis Intervention	3	0	3
ADJ 171	Forensic Science I	3	3	4
ADJ 236	Principles of Investigation	3	0	3
Total		9	3	10
Second Semester (Spring)				
ADJ 237	Advanced Criminal Investigation ¹	3	0	3
ADJ 138	Defensive Tactics ²	2	0	2
HLT 121	Introduction to Drug Use and Abuse	3	0	3
Total		8	0	8

Total Credits for Career Studies Certificate 18

Footnotes:

¹Prerequisite: ADJ 236 or division approval

²Includes CPR/First Aid Certification