

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

 Frederick Community College



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Criminal Justice

The Criminal Justice program prepares students for careers in law enforcement, detective work, governmental agencies, parole and probation, and corrections. Students may choose to directly enter the workplace or transfer to a four-year institution to earn a bachelor's degree in criminal justice or a related field.

The Program

The criminal justice field offers many exciting and rewarding career opportunities. While people may associate criminal justice with local police forces, the field also offers career options in agencies that oversee parole and probation, corrections, and juvenile justice at the local, state, and national levels. Each career path allows those who serve to have a direct, positive impact on individuals and society as a whole.

The Criminal Justice program helps students identify the best path—police or detective work, governmental agency, parole, or corrections—for their unique skills and interests. Classes are small, and taught by criminal justice professionals who bring real-world experience to the classroom. Students visit the local detention center and courts to talk directly with police officers, judges, lawyers, and correctional officers.

Criminal justice workers must be able to:

- Think quickly in sometimes volatile situations
- Solve problems with patience and creativity
- Communicate clearly and effectively both orally and in writing
- Adapt to all types of situations

In addition to developing these skills, students in the Criminal Justice program learn:

- Principles underlying technical skills and procedures involved in law enforcement
- Technical skills and procedures, including rules of arrest and criminal law
- Knowledge of the administration and operation of criminal justice organizations
- Insight into psychological and sociological origins of human behavior

Criminal Justice A.A. Degree

The Criminal Justice Area of Concentration within the A.A. in Social Sciences introduces students to the highly specialized and sophisticated area of criminal justice. Students are acquainted with the principles underlying technical skills and procedures, administration and operation of criminal justice organizations, and psychological and sociological origins of human behavior.

Students will learn components of the criminal justice system, study the U.S. Constitution and Supreme Court decisions affecting individual rights and law enforcement practices, and learn about the Maryland court system. Criminal justice professionals including police officers, judges, lawyers, and correctional officers will meet with students and bring real-world experience to the classroom.

At the completion of the program, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the major components of the criminal justice system
- Describe the methods of gathering crime data
- Demonstrate an understanding of the United States Constitution and Supreme Court decisions affecting individual rights and law enforcement practices
- Explain the history of the criminal justice system in the United States
- Explain the Maryland court system

Corrections Training

Corrections **courses concentrate on** sentencing and treatment of offenders convicted of crimes. **Three courses are** designed to **enhance practice of employees** in the corrections field, including state and federal prisons and county detention centers. The certificate program is designed **for** corrections officers **to develop** work-related skills and advance within their chosen careers.

At the completion of the program, students will be able to:

- Explain the correctional system at the local, state, and federal levels and how they function and interact
- Demonstrate an understanding of the history of corrections in the United States
- Explain how an offender passes through and is dealt with by the judicial system after being charged with criminal acts
- Identify the treatment programs offered in the local, state, and federal levels of corrections
- Explain the function of parole, probation, and mandatory release
- Explain the process of the death penalty in the United States

Growth Potential & Estimated Salaries*

The median annual wage for police and detectives was \$63,380 in May 2018 and the median annual wage for probation officers and correctional treatment specialists was \$53,020. Employment of police, detectives, probation officers, and correctional treatment specialists is projected to grow six to seven percent **by** 2026, as fast as average for all occupations.

*Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Police and Detectives and Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialists

Financial Assistance

Frederick Community College (FCC) provides a tuition payment plan for students who wish to spread payment over several months. Scholarship and loan assistance is available for eligible students. In addition to general scholarships and loans, the following scholarships are available to criminal justice students:

- Michael D. Boyd Scholarship
- The McCauley Group and J. Scott & Debra McCauley Endowment Fund
- W. Allen Yingling, Jr. Memorial Endowment Scholarship Fund

For complete scholarship information, contact Financial Aid.

Transfer Note

Students can transfer to any four-year institution in Maryland. To find more information about how credits will transfer from FCC to a state four-year institution, consult a College advisor. Students who plan to transfer should speak with an advisor or program manager from their chosen transfer institution **when** selecting elective courses.

View required course listings:
frederick.edu/criminal-justice

A drug screening and/or criminal background check is often required to obtain and maintain employment in this career field. Individuals whose criminal histories may interfere with their ability to secure employment should discuss any questions with FCC faculty.

Frederick Community College prohibits discrimination against any person on the basis of age, ancestry, citizenship status, color, creed, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, genetic information, marital status, mental or physical disability, national origin, race, religious affiliation, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status in its activities, admissions, educational programs, and employment. Frederick Community College makes every effort to accommodate individuals with disabilities for College-sponsored events and programs. If you have accommodation needs or questions, please call 301.846.2408. To request a sign language interpreter, please visit <http://fcc-interpreting.genbook.com>. If you have interpreting related questions, please email Interpreting@frederick.edu. Sign language interpreters will not be automatically provided for College-sponsored events without a request for services. To guarantee accommodations, requests must be made at least five workdays in advance of a scheduled event. If your request pertains to accessible transportation for a College-sponsored trip, please submit your request at least 21 calendar days in advance. Requests made less than 21 calendar days in advance may not be able to be guaranteed. Gainful employment information is available at www.frederick.edu/GE.