

This program prepares students for careers in law enforcement agencies such as municipal police departments, county sheriffs' departments, state police and private security concerns. The program includes general education courses and provides an emphasis on criminal justice courses and supportive social science courses.

Nature of Work and Employment

Law enforcement majors pursue careers as municipal police officers, sheriffs' deputies, state troopers and private security guards. The job market in law enforcement is closely tied to legislation to fund it. If funding of tax supported law enforcement does not meet society's demand for law enforcement, growth will occur in the market for trained personnel in private security.

Special Considerations

Law enforcement students should cultivate their communications skills. Much of effective law enforcement is based on the communication skills of arresting officers. Students should also be aware of the strength and agility standards required of applicants by law enforcement agencies in Illinois. The College offers a wide range of physical education courses and a super circuit fitness center for those who are concerned about meeting these requirements. Younger students should seriously consider studying for a bachelor's degree as the job market for law enforcement majors is competitive. Previous criminal record and felony convictions can negatively impact the opportunity to gain employment in the field.

Program Contacts at Sauk Valley Community College

- Academic Advising, 815-835-6354
- Stephen F. Miko, Professor, Criminal Justice, 815-835-6256

Total Hours Required - 61 Hours

Major Field Requirements - 27 Hours

- CJS ELECTIVE-CJS 250 RECOMMENDED 3 SEMESTER HOUR(S)
- CJS 130 - Criminal Investigation (3 Semester Hours)
- CJS 200 - Ethics in Criminal Justice (3 Semester Hours)
- CJS 231 - Criminal Evidence & Procedure (3 Semester Hours)
- CJS 232 - Police and Patrol Operations (3 Semester Hours)
- CJS 233 - Community Policing (3 Semester Hours)
- CIS 109 - Introduction to Computers (3 Semester Hours)
- PSC 163 - Am Government & Politics (3 Semester Hours)
- PSY 103 - Introduction to Psychology (3 Semester Hours)

Criminal Justice Core Courses - 15 Hours

- CJS 101 - Intro to Criminal Justice (3 Semester Hours)
- CJS 120 - Introduction to Corrections (3 Semester Hours)
- CJS 135 - Criminal Law (3 Semester Hours)
- CJS 208 - Juvenile Delinquency (3 Semester Hours)
- CJS 238 - Criminology (3 Semester Hours)

General Education Requirements - 18 Hours

- Communications ENG 101 (required and one of the following: COM 131, ENG 103 or 111 6 Semester hour(s)
- Humanities/Fine Arts 3 Semester hour(s)
- Social/Behavioral Science (SOC 111 required) 3 Semester hour(s)
- Physical/Life Science 3 Semester hour(s)
- Mathematics (MAT 106 or higher required) 3 Semester hour(s)

SVCC Requirement - 1 Hours

- FYE 101 - First Year Experience (1 Semester Hours)

Suggested Program

First Semester - 16 Hours

- Mathematics (MAT 106 or higher) 3 Semester hour(s)
- CJS 101 - Intro to Criminal Justice (3 Semester Hours)
- CJS 120 - Introduction to Corrections (3 Semester Hours)
- CJS 130 - Criminal Investigation (3 Semester Hours)
- ENG 101 - Composition I (3 Semester Hours)
- FYE 101 - First Year Experience (1 Semester Hours)

Second Semester - 15 Hours

- CIS 109 - Introduction to Computers (3 Semester Hours)
 - CJS 232 - Police and Patrol Operations (3 Semester Hours)
 - COM 131 - Intro to Oral Communication (3 Semester Hours)
- OR**
- ENG 111 - Bus/Technical Communication (3 Semester Hours)
- OR**
- ENG 103 - Composition II (3 Semester Hours)
- PSC 163 - Am Government & Politics (3 Semester Hours)
 - SOC 111 - Introduction to Sociology (3 Semester Hours)

Third Semester - 15 Hours

- Humanities/Fine Arts 3 Semester hour(s)
- CJS 200 - Ethics in Criminal Justice (3 Semester Hours)
- CJS 208 - Juvenile Delinquency (3 Semester Hours)
- CJS 233 - Community Policing (3 Semester Hours)
- PSY 103 - Introduction to Psychology (3 Semester Hours)

Fourth Semester - 15 Hours

- Physical/Life Science 3 Semester hour(s)
- CJS 135 - Criminal Law (3 Semester Hours)
- CJS 231 - Criminal Evidence & Procedure (3 Semester Hours)
- CJS 238 - Criminology (3 Semester Hours)
- CJS Elective - CJS 250 Criminal Justice Practicum recommended- 3 Semester Hour(s)