



# Law and Public Service Career Cluster

The Law and Public Service career cluster focuses on planning, managing, and providing legal services, public safety, protective services, and homeland security, including professional and technical support services. This career cluster includes occupations ranging from police officer and firefighter to political scientist and lawyer.

## Statewide Program of Study: Law Enforcement

The Law Enforcement program of study focuses on occupational and educational opportunities associated with the development and enforcement of laws by various branches of law enforcement. This program of study includes the history, organization, and functions of local, state, and federal law enforcement. Students will understand the role of constitutional law at local, state, and federal levels; the U.S. legal system; criminal law; and law enforcement terminology and the classification and elements of crime.



### Secondary Courses for High School Credit

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|----------------|--|
| <b>Level 1</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, &amp; Security</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Level 2</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law Enforcement 1</li> <li>Criminal Investigation</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Level 3</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law Enforcement 2</li> <li>Correctional Services</li> <li>Counseling and Mental Health</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Level 4</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forensic Science</li> <li>Practicum in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, &amp; Security</li> <li>Law Academy 1 &amp; Law Academy 2 (PRACLPS1)</li> </ul> |

### Aligned Advanced Academic Courses

<b>Dual Credit</b>	Criminal Justice Core, Occupational Certificate
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Students should be advised to consider these course opportunities to enrich their preparation. AP or IB courses not listed under the Secondary Courses for High School Credit section of this framework document do not count towards concentrator/completer status for this program of study.

### Work-Based Learning and Expanded Learning Opportunities

<b>Work-Based Learning Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shadow a detective to learn about investigations and the role of detectives in law enforcement</li> <li>Intern in dispatch at a local law enforcement agency to learn about first responder roles and processes</li> </ul>
<b>Expanded Learning Opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit a police department</li> <li>Participate in TSA or SkillsUSA</li> </ul>

### Aligned Industry-Based Certifications

- IAED Emergency Telecommunicator



Successful completion of the Law and Public Service program of study will fulfill requirements of the Public Services endorsement.



### Example Postsecondary Opportunities

#### Apprenticeships

- Security Specialist

#### Associate Degrees

- Criminal Justice
- Law Enforcement

#### Bachelor's Degrees

- Forensic Science
- Criminal Justice

#### Master's, Doctoral, and Professional Degrees

- Criminal Justice
- Criminology and Criminal Justice

#### Additional Stackable IBCs/Licensures

- Jailer – Basic County Corrections
- Basic Telecommunicator



### Example Aligned Occupations

#### Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers

Median Wage: \$64,373  
Annual Openings: 5,424  
10-Year Growth: 13%

#### Detectives and Criminal Investigators

Median Wage: \$82,090  
Annual Openings: 1,536  
10-Year Growth: 8%

#### First-Line Supervisors of Police and Detectives

Median Wage: \$97,571  
Annual Openings: 5,461  
10-Year Growth: 12%

Data Source: TexasWages, Texas Workforce Commission. Retrieved 3/8/2024.



For more information visit:

<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/college-career-and-military-prep/career-and-technical-education/programs-of-study-additional-resources>

## Law Enforcement Program of Study

Principles of Law, Public Safety,  
Corrections, & Security  
(1 Credit)  
9th-12th

Criminal Investigation  
(1 Credit)  
10th-12th

Law Enforcement 1  
(1 Credit)  
10th-12th

Law Enforcement 2  
(1 Credit)  
10th-12th

Correctional Services  
(1 Credit)  
10th-12th

Counseling & Mental Health  
(1 Credit)  
10th-12th

Forensic Science  
(1 Science Credit)  
10th-12th

Practicum in Law,  
Public Safety,  
Corrections, & Security  
(2 Credits)  
11th-12th

## Law & Public Service Cluster *Public Service Endorsement*

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