State-Approved (Chapter 74)
Program Overview

Criminal Justice

There are plentiful career opportunities in Criminal Justice—in the court system, emergency response, police, prisons, parole, and federal agencies such as the FBI, U.S. Marshals and Department of Homeland Security.

What Students Learn & Do

Sometimes known as Legal and Protective Services, Criminal Justice programs provide career exposure to the range of agencies that work within the criminal justice system. Students learn foundational skills and pursue technical certifications that are relevant to careers in law enforcement, public safety, emergency response, animal welfare, child welfare and the legal system.

Topics covered include Community Policing, Crime Scene Investigation, Criminal and Constitutional Law, Environmental Safety, Court Stenography, Emergency Preparedness, Surveillance and Interviewing Techniques, and Cybersecurity, among others. The importance of safety, stress management, ethics, and communication are emphasized throughout the curriculum as students interact with professionals in the field and learn from scenario-based experiences. To help students prepare for careers in law enforcement, physical fitness is a daily component of student training.

Criminal Justice students are required to meet the same high academic standards as their peers in other high school programs. These standards are set by the State of Massachusetts. In addition, the curriculum enhances and reinforces aspects of social studies, science, and English language arts.

Licenses & Certifications

Programs will prepare students to earn industry-recognized credentials, and typically students will be able to complete one or more before they graduate from high school.

- First Aid/CPR/AED - Adult, Child, Infant
- National Academies of Emergency Dispatch Certification
- FEMA Leadership in Emergency Management Certification
- OSHA 10 hour - General

Options After High School

State-Approved (Chapter 74) programs provide precise training needed for entry-level employment in this in-demand career field. Here are some possible career opportunities for Criminal Justice program graduates.

High School Diploma

- 911 Dispatcher
- Parking Enforcement
- Security Guard
- Victim Services Advocate
- Armed Forces

Advanced Training and License

- Paralegal
- Forensic Science Technician
- Police Officer
- Court Reporter

Bachelor's Degree (4 Years of College)

- Agent: FBI, ATF, DEA, Homeland Security
- Crime Scene Investigator
- Fire Investigator
- Emergency Management Director

Advanced Degree

- J.D. - Lawyer, Judge
- Ph.D. - Criminologist
- MD - Medical Examiner

Questions to Ask a Program You Are Considering

1. **What workplace experiences do you offer to students - at school, or with an employer?**
2. **What are some common next steps for graduates of this program and how do you support them to get there?**

Learn about the differences between State-Approved (Chapter 74) and Local programs:
http://www.doe.mass.edu/ccte/cvte/cte-families/state-vs-local.html