Centralia College
Criminal Justice Program

The Industry

“A shortage of qualified applicants currently exists in our state.”

Even though this industry is expected to grow just 7 percent by the year 2020, those working in the criminal justice industry are, and will continue to be in high demand. According to a recent article in the “New York Times”, the number of new applicants seeking employment in law enforcement and corrections is down by 50 percent nationwide. Many law enforcement agencies and correctional institutions are currently experiencing a severe shortage of “qualified applicants” to fill existing positions. These same agencies and institutions are actively engaged in an ongoing recruiting and hiring process throughout the state of Washington and the United States. This means the demand for qualified personnel with academic backgrounds in criminal justice will only continue to grow. As salaries and benefits continue to improve, it’s not uncommon for law enforcement officers to earn annual salaries in excess of $50,000 with three to five years of on-the-job experience.

Our Criminal Justice Program

The Criminal Justice program will ensure you have the “cutting-edge” academic, communication and problem-solving skills essential for building a career in this exciting field. In addition, Centralia College frequently sponsors criminal justice career fairs and a “Crime & Justice in America Lecture Series” that’s designed to promote the availability of our students to fill these personnel shortages.

The Criminal Justice program currently offers an Associate of Technical Arts degree in Criminal Justice. This degree is designed to prepare our students to successfully pursue careers as entry-level Peace Officers with municipal, county or state law enforcement agencies. In addition, our program offers students the opportunity to earn Certificates of Completion or Proficiency in the following specialized career fields: Criminal Justice (Associate in Arts), Criminal Justice (Associate in Technical Arts, and Crime Scene Investigation (Certificate of Proficiency).

Occupational Outlook, Job & Salary Statistics

For statistics on criminal justice occupations, see:
• http://www.dol.gov
• http://www.bls.gov/ooh/Protective-Service/Police-and-detectives.htm
• http://www.wois.org

600 Centralia College Blvd • Centralia WA 98531 • 360.736.9391, ext. 427 • From Olympia 360.753.3433
www.centralia.edu

Important notice to students:
Individuals with prior or pending felony, misdemeanor or domestic violence charges or convictions, and those persons with a history of serious or repeated traffic convictions may be ineligible for employment opportunities in the criminal justice field. If you have any infractions, please consult with an attorney prior to entering this program.