



SOCIAL SCIENCE / HUMAN SERVICES

Corrections and Police Science

Careers

A.S. Police Science
LCCC May 2003

Correctional officers are charged with overseeing individuals who have been arrested, are awaiting trial or other hearing, or who have been convicted of a crime and sentenced to serve time in jail, reformatory or penitentiary. Police officers, detectives and special agents are responsible for enforcing statutes, laws and regulations designed to protect life and property.

Correctional officers maintain and observe inmate conduct and behavior to prevent disturbances and escapes. Many correctional officers work in small county and municipal jails or as deputy sheriffs or police officers with wide-ranging responsibilities. Others are assigned to large state and federal prisons where job duties are more specialized. Regardless of the setting, correctional officers maintain order within the institution, enforce rules and regulations and may supplement whatever counseling inmates receive from psychologists, social workers or other mental health professionals.

Many law enforcement officers spend much of their time interviewing witnesses and suspects, apprehending fugitives and criminals, collecting evidence and providing testimony in court. Others spend most of their time patrolling a designated area to preserve the peace and to prevent crime. They resolve problems within the community and enforce laws governing motor vehicle operations. Sheriffs and deputy sheriffs generally enforce the law in rural areas or places where there is no local police department. Detectives and special agents work as plainclothes investigators, gathering facts and collecting evidence for criminal cases. They conduct interviews, examine records, observe the activities of suspects and participate in raids or arrests.

Job Outlook

Employment of correctional officers is expected to grow 16 percent between 2006 and 2016, faster than average. Job opportunities in most local police departments will be excellent for qualified individuals, while competition is expected for jobs in State and Federal agencies. Average employment growth is expected.

Increasing demand for correctional officers will stem from population growth and rising rates of incarceration. Mandatory sentencing guidelines calling for longer sentences and reduced parole for inmates are a primary reason for historically increasing incarceration rates. Some States are reconsidering mandatory sentencing guidelines because of budgetary constraints, court decisions, and doubts about their effectiveness.

Earnings

Median annual earnings of correctional officers and jailers were \$35,760 in May 2006. The middle 50 percent earned between \$28,320 and \$46,500. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$23,600, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$58,580. Median annual earnings in the public sector were \$47,750 in the Federal Government, \$36,140 in State government, and \$34,820 in local government. In the facilities support services industry, where the relatively small number of officers employed by privately operated prisons is classified, median annual earnings were \$25,050.

Median annual earnings of first-line supervisors/managers of correctional officers were \$52,580 in May 2006. The middle 50 percent earned between \$38,920 and \$67,820. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$33,270, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$81,230. Median annual earnings were \$51,500 in State government and \$52,940 in local government.

Related Careers

- Correctional Treatment Specialist
- Detective
- Gaming Surveillance Officer
- Probation Officer
- Security Guard

Corrections and Police Science Careers

Educational Opportunities in Corrections and Police Science at LCCC

Certificate of Proficiency in Police Science

The objective of the Certificate Program is to supply current information and knowledge to the police science fields to individuals already employed as criminal justice officers or persons who are preparing themselves for full or part-time employment in a local police agency. The program is structured that the general needs of the student are met as far as practicable in a certificate program. All coursework listed below can be used to satisfy the requirements of the Associate Degree in Police Science. Lorain County Community College has articulation agreements with colleges and universities including programs offered by Lorain County Community College's University Partnership.

Associate of Applied Science in Justice Systems – Police Science

A police science graduate could expect to seek and gain employment in either public or private agencies and organizations requiring employment of those with law enforcement, investigative and related backgrounds. Lorain County Community College has articulation agreements with colleges and universities including programs offered by Lorain County Community College's University Partnership.

Associate of Applied Science in Justice Systems – Corrections

The Justice Systems-Correction program leads to employment or advancement in local, state and federal public and privately-managed corrections facilities and community-based corrections programs. Corrections graduates also find employment in the expanding areas of crisis intervention, post-incident care, personal and group counseling services, in substance abuse response, and with local, juvenile justice systems. Lorain County Community College has articulation agreements with colleges and universities including programs offered by Lorain County Community College's University Partnership.

Other Related Educational Opportunities at LCCC

LCCC Police Academy

This course of training consists of approximately 640 hours of instruction, which exceeds the minimum OPOTC requirement of 558 curriculum hours. Classes will generally be scheduled Monday through Friday from 8am – 5pm. However, the LCCC Police Training Academy reserves the right to schedule limited evening and Saturday sessions for specialized training.

Candidates who successfully complete the Police Academy will receive 23 hours of credits. Financial aid may be available for those who are eligible. The course of instruction offered at the Lorain County Community College (LCCC) Police Training Academy will qualify the student to take the required Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) certification test for the position of Police Officer.

Educational Offerings through LCCC's University Partnership

Youngstown State University

Bachelor of Science in Applied Science in Criminal Justice

The Criminal Justice degree program is designed for those students who have completed an associate degree in criminal justice. The goal of the BSAS program is to provide advanced educational opportunities beyond the technical scope of the student's associate degree. The program provides students with additional knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that will enhance their career mobility in the criminal justice field.

In addition, the degree program allows students to pursue further education at the graduate level. The program is based on a two-plus-two concept where the associate degree courses provide the technical education for the first two years of the baccalaureate degree program. The plus-two component consists of additional criminal justice core courses, a selection of multi-disciplinary courses, and general University requirements. The general education courses can all be LCCC courses.

Faculty interests include criminology, juvenile delinquency, juvenile violence, police management, correctional counseling, judicial processes, legal research, criminal law and procedure, crime prevention, victimology, research methods and statistics, and computer applications in criminal justice.

Cleveland State University

Bachelor of Arts in Public Safety Management

The bachelor of arts in public safety management degree is designed to equip public safety officials with additional management and communication skills to address the needs of their urban constituents; allow for in-depth study of community safety needs and problems, as well as providing; analytical tools for addressing injustice for those living and working in urban settings; provide access to faculty members with governmental and public management expertise; and prepare students for future career challenges in public safety services.

About Lorain County Community College

Lorain County Community College continues to experience enrollment growth because attending LCCC is the most economical way to reach educational goals that help graduates become valuable players in the future economic growth of the county and region. Because of the variety and quality of learning opportunities LCCC provides, enrollment has grown 78 percent since 2000.

Lorain County Community College, which opened in 1963, is one of Ohio's leading colleges delivering credit programs at its Elyria campus and outreach centers in downtown Elyria, Lorain, Wellington and Brunswick. Plus more than 200 courses are offered via distance-learning education options, and the Associate of Arts degree can be completed entirely online.

Students can choose from more than 80 educational programs. Students can complete the first half — and sometimes more — of a bachelor's degree through LCCC's University Partnership, which brings eight universities to the LCCC campus offering 40 bachelor's and master's degree programs. Students can upgrade, retrain and improve current life skills.

In addition to providing a great education for those who enter college with aspirations of a degree, LCCC helps those who have changed their career goals, who want to broaden their horizons, and who want to return to work. LCCC provides learning and training for those who want to move up but find they need new or improved skills for the kind of professional opportunities they seek.

LCCC faculty is recognized locally and nationally for their work as professors and in other areas. They all have advanced degrees and real world experience and understand their primary responsibility at LCCC is to teach classes.

LCCC is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, which is the regional accrediting authority for Ohio colleges and universities. Since opening its doors, LCCC has served more than 300,000 people. More than six million students enroll annually in credit courses at America's community colleges, representing about 46 percent of all students in higher education and about 56 percent of all first-time college entrants.



**Lorain County
Community College**



**The University
Partnership**

of Lorain County Community College

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