

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Law Enforcement Field Services

Career and Technical Education Series



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Law Enforcement Field Services Course Overview

The Introduction to Law Enforcement Services course will introduce students to the field of law enforcement and the local, county, state, and federal laws that law enforcement personnel are sworn to uphold. The student will also gain an understanding of the career options available in this field and the skills, education, and background experience needed to succeed in these careers. Students will learn about the evolution of the role of law enforcement in the United States and the interplay between individual freedoms and the government's need to protect the country. They will also learn about key changes affecting law enforcement following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, including the creation of new laws, the restructuring of many departments within the federal government, and the creation of the Department of Homeland Security. Students will learn about the interaction between local, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. The lessons will emphasize the importance of interagency communication and information sharing. Students will learn about the technological advances and new federal programs that aid cooperation between agencies. Students will also learn about the types of crime that are commonly committed and the procedures, evidence collection techniques, and technological advances that law enforcement personnel use to investigate them. Students will learn how the development of computers and the Internet has changed the way many crimes are committed. They will also learn how investigators address the resulting increased globalization of criminal activity.

- **A Tradition of Safe Communities:** This unit focuses on the history of law enforcement in the United States and the differences between the responsibilities of local, country, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.
- **Local and State Law Enforcement:** This unit explores the background requirements needed for a career in local, county, and state law enforcement and the training options available for various positions. It also investigates the daily responsibilities of local, county, and state law enforcement officers and their role in disaster situations.
- **Federal Law Enforcement:** This unit describes the history and scope of the authority of federal law enforcement agencies. It also examines the role of various federal agencies and the similarities and differences between civilian and military investigative agencies.
- **Crime and Criminals:** This unit explores the distinction between crimes against an individual, crimes against property, and crimes against a community. It also investigates the relationship between constitutionally guaranteed freedoms and the government's need to protect the community.
- **21st Century Policing:** In this unit, students learn about the technological advances that have revolutionized how law enforcement agents enforce laws, investigate crimes, and protect the public. It also explores the educational requirements for a career in law enforcement and the additional training required to work in specialized areas.

For the topics and assignments in this course, it will be helpful for the student to have a general understanding of the structure of the federal government and the relationship between local, county, state, and federal governments. He or she should have the ability to communicate thoughts in written and oral form and be able to use factual data to defend an opinion. It will also be useful for the student to be familiar with conducting online research and be able to evaluate the credibility of online sources. If a student is not comfortable assessing the credibility of online sources, information on this topic can be found on a variety of educational websites, including:

- [Evaluating Online Sources](#)
- [Criteria to Evaluate the Credibility of Online Sources](#)

Unit 1: A Tradition of Safe Communities	
Law Enforcement Field Services	Assignments
	1. Course Overview
	2. A Nation of Laws
	3. Project: Gideon v. Wainwright, a Case Study
	4. Law Enforcement as a Civic Duty
	5. Project: The Citizen Police Academy Curriculum Guide
	6. Policing in the United States
	7. Quiz: A Short History of Policing
	8. Municipal Ordinances and County Codes
	9. Project: There Ought to be a Law (or Ordinance)
	10. State Law
	11. Federal Law
	12. Project: Prohibited Wildlife: Deterring Purpose
	13. Quiz: Three Levels of Law
	14. Special Project*
	15. Test
	16. Course Project Part 1: Evaluate the Response to a Previous Disaster*
	17. Glossary and Credits

Unit 2: Local and State Law Enforcement	
Law Enforcement Field Services	Assignments
	1. Municipal Police Departments
	2. Project: Planning a Career with Local Law Enforcement
	3. County Sheriff's Offices
	4. Highway Patrols, State Police, and Other Agencies
	5. Project: Comparing Campuses
	6. Quiz: Qualifications and Training
	7. Communications and Information Services
	8. Project: Teaching Police Officers to Observe, Speak, Listen, and Report
	9. Emergency Response
	10. Project: A Personal Emergency Preparedness Plan
	11. Criminal Investigations
	12. Quiz: Practices and Policies
	13. Special Project*
	14. Test
	15. Course Project Part 2: Local and State Disaster Response*
	16. Glossary and Credits

Unit 3: Federal Law Enforcement	
Law Enforcement Field Services	Assignments
	1. U.S. Departments and Agencies
	2. Project: Federal Law Enforcement Timeline
	3. Federal Bureau of Investigation
	4. U.S. Department of Homeland Security
	5. Project: Careers with the Department of Homeland Security
	6. Quiz: Agencies and Responsibilities
	7. Uniform Code of Military Justice
	8. Project: A Court-Martial Case Study: Major Nidal Hasan
	9. Military Investigative Agencies
	10. Civilian Careers in Military Justice and Military Law Enforcement
	11. Project: Design a Recruiting Brochure
	12. Quiz: Military Law Enforcement
	13. Special Project*
	14. Test
	15. Course Project Part 3: Federal Disaster Response*
	16. Glossary and Credits

Unit 4: Crime and Criminals	
Law Enforcement Field Services	Assignments
	1. Crimes Against the Individual
	2. Project: Create a Community Crime Prevention Plan
	3. Crimes Against Property
	4. Crimes Against Communities
	5. Project: Create a Family Emergency Plan
	6. Quiz: Reducing Criminal Activity
	7. The Bill of Rights
	8. Project: Landmark Supreme Court Decisions
	9. Conflict Management and Professionalism
	10. Project: Design a Training Guide
	11. Balancing the Rights of the Community and the Rights of the Individual
	12. Quiz: Innocent Until Convicted
	13. Special Project*
	14. Test
	15. Course Project Part 4: Rights of Individuals Versus Public Safety*
	16. Glossary and Credits

Unit 6: Course Project, Review, and Exam	
Assignments	
1. Course Project Part 6: Public Service Announcement*	2. Review
	3. Exam

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